



**End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture**



## | EU internal action

### Overview and challenges

Various crises – the COVID-19 pandemic, the Russian war against Ukraine and the triple planetary crises of climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution – have increased pressures on global food systems and placed food security at the top of the political agenda.

The EU is largely self-sufficient for key agricultural products. It is a main wheat and barley exporter and is able to cover a high share of its consumption for other staple crops such as maize or sugar. The EU is also self-sufficient for most animal products, including dairy and meat; the notable exception is seafood. Agricultural production trends have been favourable over the past 5 years. Labour productivity in the EU's agricultural sector has improved and public investments in agricultural R&D have increased. In addition, the area under organic farming has grown steadily.

Agricultural production in the EU does have some adverse impacts, most notably water use stress, rising nitrate concentrations in EU groundwater bodies, and the continued decline of common farmland birds and pollinators. The EU land area at risk of severe soil erosion by water has decreased slightly, as have the ammonia emissions from agriculture.

In the EU, 36.2 million people cannot afford a quality meal every other day. At the same time, it is estimated that around 10 % of food made available to EU consumers (retail, food

services and households) may be wasted. Reducing food losses and food waste has the potential to reduce the resources we use to produce the food that we eat and to address some food security challenges. Food accounts for around 45 % of the environmental impacts of EU consumers. More than 80 % of agricultural emissions are attributable to the livestock sector.

In the current EU food environment, most people are exposed and predisposed to unsustainable food choices and unhealthy eating patterns; these are closely related to an increased risk of non-communicable diseases. In 2019, 16.5 % of the population aged 18 or over suffered from obesity, a 1.1 percentage point increase since 2014. Recent surveys show that one in three children aged 6-9 and 52 % of the adult population in the EU are overweight or obese. Up to 70 % of national health budgets were spent on the treatment of diseases linked to obesity. Indeed, obesity alone was responsible for reducing life expectancy by up to 4 years, reducing GDP growth by up to 4.5 percentage points, and consuming up to 7 % of health budgets.

### Key initiatives

The EU has a wide range of policies in place that address or touch on the various aspects of SDG 2. This section provides an overview of some of the most recent and relevant initiatives.

The [EU's common agricultural policy](#) provides income support, market measures and rural development measures to safeguard farmers' income and to increase agricultural productivity



## 2030 targets and trends at EU level

### Target and policy reference

**At least 25 % of the EU's agricultural land should be under organic farming by 2030**

Set in the Farm to Fork and biodiversity strategies

**The use of pesticides and the use of more hazardous pesticides should be reduced by 50 % by 2030**

Set in the Farm to Fork and biodiversity strategies

**Reduce nutrient losses by at least 50 % by 2030, while ensuring that there is no deterioration in soil fertility**

Set in the Farm to Fork and biodiversity strategies

**Reduce the sale of antimicrobials for farmed animals and in aquaculture by at least 50 % by 2030**

Set in the Farm to Fork strategy

**Ensure that at least 10 % of agricultural area is under high-biodiversity landscape features**

Set in the biodiversity strategy and the Nature Restoration Law

### Trends

The area under organic farming increased by 55.6 % between 2012 and 2020 and constituted 9.1 % of the EU's agricultural land. However, greater progress will be required to meet the 2030 target.

In both cases, the target is a 50 % reduction by 2030 compared with the baseline period of 2015-2017. The most recent data show that the use and risk of chemical pesticides declined by 14 % from 2015-2017 to 2020 while the use of more hazardous pesticides declined by 26 % over the same period.

The gross nitrogen balance was 46 kg per hectare of utilised agricultural area and gross phosphorus balance 1 kg per hectare of utilised agricultural area (EU average 2012-14). The EU average share of groundwater monitoring stations with nitrates concentrations above 50 mg/L was 14.1 % in 2016-2019, slightly up from 13.2 % in the period 2012-15.

By 2021, Member States had already achieved around one third of the overall Farm to Fork reduction target.

Support provided by the EU common agricultural policy is allocated to around 2.86 million hectares for maintaining or preserving landscape features, which include habitats supporting the lifecycle of pollinators.

More details on indicators and trends for SDG 2 can be found in the statistical and analytical annex and in Eurostat's monitoring report on progress towards the SDGs.

in a sustainable way while protecting rural landscapes and the environment.

The [EU farm to fork strategy](#) for a fair, healthy and environmentally friendly food system, adopted in May 2020, aims at: i) ensuring that the food chain, covering food production, transport, distribution, marketing and consumption, has a neutral or positive environmental impact; ii) ensuring food security, nutrition and public health, including sustainable seafood production through sustainable [aquaculture](#) and fisheries; and iii) preserving the affordability of food while generating fairer economic returns in the supply chain, so that ultimately the most sustainable food also becomes the most affordable, fostering the competitiveness of the EU supply sector, promoting fair trade, and creating new business opportunities, while ensuring integrity of the single market and occupational health and safety.

The [biodiversity strategy](#) for 2030 aims to bring back at least 10 % of agricultural area under high-diversity landscape features

in order to provide space for wild animals, plants, pollinators and natural pest regulators.

An [EU contingency plan for food security in times of crisis](#) was published in November 2021. The plan aims to ensure a sufficient and varied supply of safe, nutritious, affordable and sustainable food to citizens at all times.

The March 2022 [Communication on safeguarding food security and reinforcing the resilience of food systems](#) presented a range of short-term and medium-term actions to increase global food security and to support farmers and consumers in the EU in light of rising food prices and input costs, such as energy and fertilisers.

The May 2022 [Solidarity Lanes Communication](#) set out an action plan to establish Solidarity Lanes to ensure Ukraine can export grain, but also import the goods it needs, from humanitarian aid to animal feed and fertilisers.

In June 2022, the Commission proposed a **Regulation for the sustainable use of plant protection products**. This seeks to support the Farm to Fork strategy and will establish a legal basis for the calculation and publication of progress towards both pesticide reduction targets in the Farm to Fork strategy.

The November 2022 **Communication on ensuring availability and affordability of fertilisers** presented a wide range of actions and guidance on how to tackle the challenges that EU farmers and industry, as well as partner countries, are currently facing.

In January 2023, the Commission published a staff working document that analyses the **main drivers of food security**.

## Selected enablers

The **European Agricultural Guarantee Fund** has a budget allocation of EUR 291.1 billion. Up to EUR 270 billion will be provided for income support schemes, with the remainder committed to supporting agricultural markets.

For the **European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development**, the total allocation amounts to EUR 95.5 billion. This includes EUR 8.1 billion from the NextGenerationEU recovery instrument to help address the challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic.

The **EU4Health programme** is the key financial tool for protecting public health and fighting major public health threats. Under this programme, the EU will invest EUR 5.3 billion in actions with a view to complementing policies in EU countries and achieving 10 specific objectives, including health promotion and disease prevention.

The **Fund for European aid to the most deprived (FEAD)** supports actions by EU countries in providing food, clothing and other essential goods to the poorest in society. It also covers non-material social inclusion measures. In April 2020, new amendments to the FEAD Regulation entered into force, introducing specific measures for addressing the COVID-19 crisis.

The **Recovery and Resilience Facility** also supports measures to promote sustainable agriculture. For instance, Italy's recovery and resilience plan includes a measure to support a variety of investments in digitalisation, transport and innovation for the agri-food sector to reduce the costs of food production and promote precision farming and traceability. This action also aims to improve the sector's energy efficiency by increasing the use of electric vehicles and renewable energy.

The project 'Enabling politically sensitive climate change impact assessments for the 21st century (POLIMPACT)' is financed by a European Research Council grant under **Horizon Europe 2021**. Using cutting-edge methods, including dynamic statistical simulations, machine learning, and expert

elicitation, the project will develop a new portfolio of empirically grounded and rigorously validated scenario projections on governance, conflict, and economic development. This will, for the first time, enable accounting for political sources of vulnerability in climate change impact assessments. If successful, POLIMPACT will initiate a major revision in climate change impact modelling, radically improving the quality and real-world relevance of climate change impact assessments for key social risks over the 21st century.

The objective of the BrightSpace project, funded under **Horizon Europe 2022**, is to design effective and sustainable strategies for assessing and addressing the challenges of EU agriculture to navigate within a safe and just operating space, including planetary boundaries. BrightSpace will provide a set of analytical instruments to experiment, analyse, and coordinate the effects of innovative governance structures and policies related to agriculture to navigate within a safe and just operating space. The project is expected to run from the end of 2022 to the end of 2027 and features 14 different partners from all over the EU.

Another example is the project 'Implementation and embedding a reform programme for the better regulation of food in Ireland' supported by the **Technical Support Instrument** under the call for 2021. The Irish agri-food sector has been negatively affected both by Brexit, due to the high trade intensity with the UK, and by the coronavirus crisis. The objective of the project is to restructure food control systems in Ireland to strengthen the food safety, authenticity and competitiveness of its agri-food sector.

## Stakeholder engagement

The EU delivers on SDG 2 in a collaborative approach. Some examples are as follows.

- ▶ The **EU Platform on Food Losses and Food Waste** is a multi-stakeholder platform bringing together international organisations, Member States and actors in the food value chain. It aims to accelerate the EU's progress towards SDG target 12.3, by defining measures needed to prevent food waste, sharing best practice and evaluating progress made over time. The Platform has a sub-group dedicated to facilitating **food donation**.
- ▶ **The Advisory Group on Sustainability of Food Systems** will provide the Commission with stakeholder views on the sustainability of food systems.
- ▶ **The EU Code of Conduct on Responsible Food Business and Marketing Practices** sets out the actions that actors 'between the farm and the fork', such as food processors, food service operators and retailers, can voluntarily commit to undertake to tangibly improve and communicate their sustainability performance.
- ▶ **EIT Food** is a Knowledge and Innovation Community with a unique combination of public engagement,



education, innovation and support to new business models allows the partnership to tackle the challenges of healthier diets, circular food systems and ensuring food security and safety.

- ▶ Relevant stakeholders in the food supply chain are part of the [European food security crisis preparedness and response mechanism](#).
- ▶ In 2022, the [EU organic awards](#) took place for the first time.

## Multilevel approach

SDG delivery implies ambitious action at all levels. Good practices in implementing SDG 2 include the following.

- ▶ At national level, **France** has launched its national food programme (*Programme national pour l'alimentation* (PNA) for the years 2019 to 2023. The PNA aims at improving the nutritious quality and diversification of food distributed within the country, and at tackling food insecurity and food waste. This is achieved through a yearly call for projects to support local initiatives and associations, giving awards to outstanding initiatives, and a national communication campaign to promote the PNA.
- ▶ **Czechia** facilitates food donation and tackles food waste with the help of food banks. Food business operators may donate food on a voluntary basis. However, there is a legal obligation for food stores bigger than 400 m<sup>2</sup> to donate to charity organisations any safe food that cannot be sold. The Ministry of Agriculture is providing

financial support to food banks in the form of subsidies. Thanks to these measures, more than 21 000 tonnes of food were saved in 2019 and donated to 100 000 beneficiaries. In 2020, Czech food banks registered a 60 % increase in the number of people applying for food aid as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic and in 2021 they helped more than 200 000 beneficiaries. In Czechia, there are currently 15 food banks and they have collected food to a value of over CZK 425 million (over EUR 17 million).

- ▶ In **Sweden**, the Mistra Food Futures programme will create a science-based platform to enable transformation of the Swedish food system. It considers sustainability in all its three dimensions: environmental, economic and social.
- ▶ With the support of the EU, the city of **Maribor** in **Slovenia** has developed a project to deal with its internal waste while meeting the city's needs. Maribor uses biological waste, waste from green trimmings and excavation materials from construction to produce innovative urban soil with a tailor-made pilot production plant. The new urban soil is then made available for citizens to use for urban agricultural activities, increasing their food self-sufficiency and minimising the city's environmental footprint.



**Earth Observation data** provided by the Copernicus Land Monitoring Service (CLMS) helps national institutions in monitoring crop conditions, providing early warnings on failing crops and predicting crop yields.

© European Union, Copernicus Sentinel-2 imagery

## EU external action

### Global trends

In recent years, the absolute number of people going hungry and suffering from food insecurity and malnutrition has been gradually rising. According to the latest State of Food Security and Nutrition report, as many as 828 million people worldwide were suffering from hunger in 2021 and almost 3.1 billion people could not afford a healthy diet in 2020. The COVID-19 pandemic pushed as many as 150 million more people into hunger, and the impacts of the war in Ukraine on food and fertiliser prices have significantly worsened the situation.

Conflicts, climate change and environmental degradation, and economic shocks have been eroding the resilience of food systems around the world. According to the Global Network Against Food Crises, an initiative founded by the EU, the UN Food and Agriculture Organization and the World Food Programme, a total of 205 million people were in food crisis, emergency or famine in 2022. This makes 2022 the fourth consecutive year of rising levels of acute food insecurity.

### Internal/external coherence including policy coherence for development

A global systemic transformation is necessary to make food and agricultural systems sustainable and resilient. The EU is working actively with its international partners to develop pathways for the global food system transformation, including through better data and evidence-based policymaking. The EU also substantially contributed to the success of the UN Food Systems and the Tokyo Nutrition for Growth (N4G) summits.

The DeSIRA initiative on the development of smart innovation through research in agriculture aims at contributing to a climate-relevant, productive and sustainable transformation of agriculture and food systems in partner countries. The EU pledged EUR 140 million to support CGIAR, the largest international network on agricultural research for development, in furthering **food systems research** to tackle hunger, preserve natural resources and improve livelihoods.

Furthermore, the EU Space Programme is providing innovative solutions to make agriculture more productive and sustainable. For example, **Earth observation data** provided by the Copernicus Land Monitoring Service helps national bodies in partner countries to monitor crop conditions, providing early warnings on failing crops and predicting crop yields. This enables a considerable improvement in how to use fertilisers, fuel and pesticides resulting in healthier food and a reduced environmental impact.

The EU is pursuing the **transition towards more sustainable food systems** consistent with actions in other key areas such as trade. With the launch of the Farm to Fork strategy for a fair, healthy and environmentally friendly food system, the EU seeks to reduce the environmental and climate footprint of its food system and strengthen its resilience, and to ensure food security in the face of climate change and biodiversity loss. As the world's largest food importer, and in line with the EU trade policy review, the EU is also using its free trade agreements to stimulate and incentivise more sustainable practices by its trade partners. One example is the inclusion of a chapter on sustainable food systems in the free trade agreement (FTA) agreed with New Zealand and Chile and proposed in ongoing FTA negotiations

with Australia and Indonesia. The EU will strive to promote international standards in relevant international bodies. It will encourage the production of agri-food products complying with high safety and sustainability standards, and will support small-scale farmers in meeting these standards and in accessing markets.

Furthermore, the recognition and protection of **geographical indications** are key aspects of trade agreements concluded by the EU with partner countries. Such recognition gives consumers a guarantee of authenticity and quality linked to its origin, reputation and know-how developed to produce genuine products.

Throughout the reforms of the common agricultural policy (CAP), the EU focused on providing income support to farmers and ensuring targeted measures aimed at environmental protection whilst minimising the risk of creating distortions in global agricultural markets. The CAP contributes to the EU's international commitments by:

- ▶ focusing on an enhanced environmental and climate delivery, helping to secure resource efficiency and fight the consequences of climate change in the EU and globally;
- ▶ aiming to better use the potential of knowledge, innovation and technologies with a view to a more sustainable farming sector and to provide opportunities for rural economies;
- ▶ maintaining the very favourable terms of trade in agricultural products for partner countries, particularly for least developed countries; and
- ▶ encouraging non-EU countries, both through bilateral and multilateral initiatives, to add value to agri-food production, for example by adopting and developing systems for the protection of geographical indications or organic production.

As concerns environmental impacts, the EU is highly dependent on natural resources embodied in goods and services consumed within the EU. This is illustrated by the land footprint, an estimated amount of land needed to produce one unit of a given final product consumed in a country, regardless of where in the world this land was used. With regard to imported agricultural products, the EU's global farmland footprint, combining cropland used to cultivate crops and grassland used to produce meat and dairy products, represented around 4% of farmland worldwide in 2019. In addition, the EU's food demand is responsible for 5% of the EU's total CO<sub>2</sub> consumption-based footprint and the EU imports about 70% of its seafood consumption. These spillover effects take place both within and outside the EU, and therefore require high levels of policy consistency between internal and external actions (an issue described below in other areas, such as SDG 14). Measures such as the new Regulation

on deforestation-free supply chains for a range of agricultural commodities and derived products mainly linked to deforestation and forest degradation aim at reducing the footprint of EU consumption linked to deforestation driven by land conversion for agricultural use.

## EU and Member States external financial support for SDG implementation and results

In 2021, EU institutions reported to the OECD commitments for EUR 1.1 billion in projects contributing to SDG 2. The main share of the EU contribution to SDG 2 is accounted for by projects that target SDG 2 as the main SDG. These projects also contribute to other interlinked SDGs such as SDG 1, SDG 5, SDG 8 and SDG 13. Other SDGs also contribute to SDG 2 as a significant objective. The main contributors are SDG 1, SDG 13 and SDG 14. When taking into account also other official flows, private funds mobilized through public intervention and support to international public goods, the Total Official Support to Sustainable Development (TOSSD) of the EU to SDG 2 amounted to EUR 3.6 billion in 2021.

In terms of selected results of the assistance <sup>(5)</sup>, EU assistance to food-insecure people reached 28 million people, while nearly 19 million women of reproductive age, adolescent girls and children were reached by EU-funded nutrition-related interventions. In addition, over 21 million smallholder farmers benefited from EU interventions aimed at increasing their sustainable production, access to markets, and/or land security.

Collectively, the EU and those Member States that reported on SDGs to the OECD in 2021 contributed EUR 5.4 billion to SDG 2. EU and Member State funding to SDG 2 in 2021 predominantly focused on projects in Africa (42%) and Asia (32%). The collective response as Team Europe to global food insecurity exacerbated by the war of aggression against Ukraine is supported by an envelope of around EUR 18 billion from the EU and its Member States for the period 2021-2024 which contributes to SDG 2.

## Main policy orientations and initiatives for external engagement

The deteriorating situation on SDG 2 requires both longer-term and immediate life-saving responses. In terms of longer-term assistance, the EU focuses on actions targeting sustainable agriculture and seafood production, resilience of food systems, research and innovation, and nutrition. With regard to immediate action, the EU is a main provider of humanitarian food assistance. The EU applies a nexus approach to support synergies between the short- and long-term responses.

(5) Selected results from EU-funded interventions managed by NEAR (European Neighbourhood Instrument) and INTPA. Further information on scope and methodology in Chapter 6 of the Report on the Implementation of the European Union's External Action Instruments in 2021 (SWD(2022) 353).

To accelerate progress in cooperation with Africa, the EU **launched two major initiatives**. One is on **sustainable agri-value chains**, which aims to boost public and private investments in African agri-value chains. The second is on **resilient food systems**, which supports African food systems to become more resilient to unfavourable trends, shocks and crises.

The fight against acute hunger and acute malnutrition is also at the centre of the EU's humanitarian interventions. Food assistance, where possible through cash transfers, addresses the most vulnerable. As for the immediate and underlying causes of malnutrition, these are addressed through nutrition interventions targeting the specific needs of vulnerable groups. A collective Team Europe commitment amounting to EUR 4.3 billion for 2021-2024 was made at the Nutrition for Growth Summit in 2021, of which the EU pledged EUR 2.5 billion, to address all forms of malnutrition in humanitarian and development settings.

In the current context of the Russian war against Ukraine and the ensuing increases in food and energy prices, the Commission took action to urgently support the most vulnerable groups in countries and regions affected by food price increases in north Africa, the Middle East, Asia and sub-Saharan Africa by increased commitments in humanitarian aid, short-term tailor-made support and actions facilitating trade and supporting food systems, while working through the multilateral system to tackle global challenges.

## Examples of EU actions (with a focus on Global Gateway and Team Europe initiatives)

In relation to SDG 2, inspired by the EU Farm to Fork strategy for a fair, healthy and environmentally friendly food system, in the framework of the European Green Deal, the EU and Member States are joining forces to support **Uzbekistan's** agri-food sector and rural development through a Team Europe Initiative supporting private sector growth, job creation, inclusion, and climate change mitigation and adaptation aiming for **inclusive and green growth**. The initiative supports the roll-out of the Global Gateway strategy.

In **Rwanda**, under the Team Europe Initiative **Sustainable and Inclusive Agricultural Transformation**, the EU and Member States are supporting the shift towards market-oriented high-value cropping systems geared towards feeding the cities. This initiative, in support of the Global Gateway Africa-Europe investment package, also aims to contribute to food and nutrition security by supporting the agricultural transition to more climate-resilient and inclusive food systems.

The Team Europe Initiative **Climate-Smart Agriculture-Based Resilience Building** supports building a more resilient agriculture sector in **Zimbabwe**, combining smart agricultural practices with improvements on territorial planning

and access to renewable energy at community level. Through climate-smart and environmentally conscious agro-ecological principles, the initiative aims to contribute to enhanced food security, economic and environmental resilience, and new export possibilities, all in support of the Global Gateway.

**The EU supports nutrition and food security in Honduras** as a response to the country's worsening inequality, poverty and food insecurity problems following the COVID-19 pandemic. Over 60% of the funds target food security and resilience in the most vulnerable regions, supporting food assistance, agricultural production, access to credit and markets and improved water infrastructure. Overall, the EU helped 39 vulnerable municipalities to develop food security and nutrition development plans, benefiting more than 700 000 inhabitants.

In **Benin**, EU budget support prompted a substantive **reform of the agricultural sector** and helped double the value of agricultural exports between 2014 and 2020 even despite the COVID-19 pandemic.

Since 2017, the EU has provided budget support to **Georgia's strategy for agriculture and rural development** contributing to a strengthened policy framework for rural development, improved agriculture, diversified rural economic opportunities, and an enhanced environment for a more effective impact on poverty alleviation.

EU **humanitarian funding for nutrition**, which aims at providing life-saving interventions to the most vulnerable populations, has targeted severely malnourished children such as in **Sudan**, as well as children under 5 years of age and pregnant and lactating women in many countries including **Syria**. Moreover, the EU supports WFP initiatives such as a voucher programme for fresh food with high nutritional values in Syria or emergency food distribution and cash in **South Sudan**. To help address the food and nutrition crisis in the **Sahel and Lake Chad regions of Africa**, which affects more than 38 million people, the EU has deployed a combination of humanitarian and development funding (as of April 2022, EUR 654 million committed for food security and resilience in the region over the period 2021-2024) implemented under a humanitarian-development-peace approach.

In a regional approach for **the Horn of Africa (Ethiopia, Somalia, South Sudan)**, the EU supports UNICEF in a three-year partnership aimed at fighting **children's malnutrition** through improved access to efficient and integrated management of severe acute malnutrition.

In **Central America**, actions to address food security and nutrition needs, and the humanitarian response, have been concentrated in the Dry Corridor countries (Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua, and El Salvador) where the EU has provided food assistance as well as direct cash transfers, vouchers and in-kind assistance, while helping to build resilience.



In **Venezuela and Colombia**, the EU supports the WFP to address the food and nutrition consequences of the Venezuelan crisis. Actions tackle education needs, food insecurity and socio-economic vulnerabilities of affected populations, with a focus on children, and vulnerable indigenous and migrant populations.

Actions by the EU and its Member States are mutually reinforcing and coordinated to ensure complementarity and impact in support of the SDGs. In addition to acting together with the EU through joint programming and Team Europe Initiatives, Member States carry out their own projects in support of the 2030 Agenda, including SDG 2, such as the following initiatives for illustrative purposes.

Apart from being a major funder of CGIAR, **Sweden** supports agricultural development projects targeting SDG 2 with strong interlinkages to other SDGs. Its **Beog-Puuto project** (Farms of the future) aims at restoring eroded abandoned farmland, increasing productivity in family farms, and strengthening resilience of 50 000 vulnerable households in dry areas in northern

and eastern **Burkina Faso**. The **GROW** project in **Liberia** focuses on improving the quality of cocoa through training in good agricultural practices, setting up traceability systems, investment in organic certification, branding and marketing, partner coaching, and linking partners with international premium market buyers.

**Germany's** support to food security, agriculture and rural development ranges from action through global programmes to initiatives such as the establishment of **Green Innovation Centres** and **Centres of Excellence in 15 African partner countries**. **Centres of Excellence on climate change and sustainable land management** have been established in Southern and West Africa. The **Sustainable Agricultural Supply Chain Initiative** brings together more than 70 stakeholders from the private sector, civil society and politics, with the aim of achieving more sustainability in global agricultural supply chains, notably in relation to resource efficiency and preventing deforestation, creating jobs and improving the incomes and living conditions of smallholders.



## Looking ahead

The Commission will continue its work on strengthening food security and building sustainable and resilient food systems. For example, going forward, the Commission will table proposals on the following.

- ▶ A **general legislative framework for sustainable food systems**, which will aim to accelerate and facilitate the transition to sustainability. It will mainstream sustainability in food-related policies and across the entire value chain, from primary producers to consumers. In addition, the framework will help facilitate favourable food environments.
- ▶ Setting EU-level **targets as part of the EU's commitment to reduce food waste**.
- ▶ Revising **EU marketing standards for agricultural and seafood products** in order to update these standards and encourage the supply of more sustainable products to consumers.
- ▶ A new **soil health law** as announced in the EU soil strategy for 2030.

The Commission will also consider new areas of action, such as legislation for plants produced by certain new genomic techniques.

On the external side, the EU will continue to take determined actions to accelerate the implementation of SDG 2 globally. This includes promoting sustainability in the key multilateral organisations, such as the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), to support partner countries to ensure a sustainable future for the global food system<sup>(6)</sup>. Its action is undertaken through the roll-out of a range of multiannual indicative programmes with partner countries where ending hunger, achieving food security and improved nutrition, and promoting sustainable agriculture, is a shared priority. A tangible contribution to SDG 2 (and other interlinked SDGs) will be the deployment of the Global Gateway strategy at regional and national level, including the following initiatives presented during the sixth EU-Africa Summit as part of the Global Gateway Africa-Europe Investment Package.

- ▶ **Sustainable Agri-Value Chains**: these aim to boost public and private investments in African agri-value chains, of which 95 have been identified so far in 23 sectors.
- ▶ **Resilient Food Systems**: these support African food systems in becoming more resistant towards unfavourable trends, shocks and crises.

In addition, while working towards the transition to sustainable food systems, the EU will continue to focus on short-term humanitarian assistance to the most vulnerable.

<sup>(6)</sup> Notably the ongoing FAO work on Guidelines for sustainable aquaculture and the sustainable management of fisheries in regional organisations (see SDG 14 as well).