

**FOOD SYSTEMS
SUMMIT 2021**



DIALOGUES



INTERPORC Dialogue on UN Food Systems Summit

THE LIVESTOCK-MEAT CHAIN AND ITS COMPLIANCE WITH THE SDG: FUTURE CHALLENGES

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MONOGRAPH



ABSTRACT

The **UN Food Systems Summit** convened in 2021 under the leadership of UN Secretary-General António Guterres, is setting the stage for the transformation of global food systems to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by 2030. Through the **Food Systems Summit Dialogues**, it is intended to attract a large diversity of stakeholders and sectors – including governments, youth, food producers, Indigenous Peoples, civil society, researchers, private sector, and the UN system –to lay ideas and solutions towards sustainable, resilient inclusive and fair food systems for all.

In order to contribute to this transformation, INTERPORC has convened the Independent Dialogue “**The Livestock-Meat Chain and its Compliance with the SDG: Future Challenges**”, where the Spanish pork and the livestock-meat sector have highlighted, with participants of other sectors, the importance of the livestock-meat chain, the challenges that will face in meeting the SDGs as well as adapting and evolving to the food systems of tomorrow.

INTERPORC’s Independent Dialogue had a great diversity of participants with very diverse profiles: 125 people spread over 8 rooms where the following topics of interest have been discussed:

- **Sustainability and Animal Welfare**
- **Sustainable Nutrition and Diets in Human Food**
- **Economic-Social Impact of Livestock Activity in the Territories**
- **Communication**

Thanks to the discussion and participation in these topics and the interventions of high-level speakers, the main conclusions drawn have been the following:

- **Importance of the livestock-meat food system**
- **Special responsibility of the European Union in supporting its sustainable food systems**
- **The concept or criterion of “integral sustainability” is a factor of competitiveness and differentiation**
- **Importance of livestock-meat production as a basic instrument for the sustainability of rural areas**
- **Top priority of animal welfare**
- **Efficiency of food production systems**
- **Sustainable food systems have as their basic mission to contribute to the eradication of hunger and malnutrition throughout the world**
- **Importance of a healthy and balanced diet and nutrition**
- **Determinants of a truly sustainable food system**
- **Global food chains and food sovereignty**
- **Socio-economic impact of livestock-meat production**
- **Communication, information and crisis of “reputation” of livestock-meat production**

In short, the following monograph reflects the importance of the Food Systems Summit and shows in detail the content of INTERPORC’s Independent Dialogue, including the high-level presentations and the discussions on each of the Debate rooms, as well as the conclusions reached on the Dialogue. Thus, the aim of this Dialogue is that the voice of the livestock-meat sector and its contribution to more sustainable Food Systems is present at the UN Food Systems Summit.



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1. GREETING FROM THE PRESIDENT OF INTERPORC

The livestock-meat sector as a whole, and the pork sector in particular, have been working for years on an increasingly sustainable production model, being aware that the future of the activity calls for practices that are increasingly respectful with the environment. To meet this demand, international organizations are looking for formulas that help to achieve more sustainable food systems.

With this objective, the United Nations has convened in September 2021, in New York, the 'Food Systems Summit', after a 'Pre-Summit' in Rome in July and many months of national and international meetings to collect the vision and contributions of governments, administrations, organizations and companies related to food systems or civil society agents.

The ultimate objective of this Summit is to set the foundations for the transformation of food systems, to make them more sustainable, resilient, inclusive and equitable, and to evolve towards healthy and sustainable diets.

Therefore, it is a question of strategic interest for the livestock-meat sector, as one of the main agents of the food system. And as a consequence, from the Spanish Inter-professional Agri-Food Organization for White Pork (INTERPORC) we could not miss the opportunity that the UN gave us to bring our voice where the international agreements that will mark the future of our nations are gestated.

Hence, on May 19th, we organized one of these Independent Dialogues, in which 125 relevant people from different fields related to food systems participated. Its conclusions have already been sent to the UN, and in these lines, we describe them in detail.

The livestock-meat sector cannot be left out of the Sustainable Development Goals, as it is part of the solution and our experience must be heard at the next UN Food Systems Summit. That was the challenge of our Dialogue and we ended it with the feeling of having done a great job defending our sector and the future of the world's food systems.

We want to continue producing and supplying billions of people with healthy, quality food at an affordable price, and to do so while protecting the planet and caring for our animals.

This is an exciting challenge, and we are going to continue working, striving and, ultimately, demonstrating that we are a sector committed to the world that surrounds us, contributing from our scope advances to meet the 17 Sustainable Development Goals.

We are a fundamental and irreplaceable pillar of whole the world food system and we are essential to guarantee environmental, social and economic sustainability and that must always be taken into account in order to build a more sustainable world.

Manuel García
President of INTERPORC

2. LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR OF INTERPORC

From the Spanish Inter-professional Agri-Food Organization for White Pork (INTERPORC), as representatives of the most important livestock sector in our country, it is a priority in our work to give visibility to our production model which is the most sustainable in the world. The Independent Dialogue that we organized this year in May has been the tool that the United Nations (UN) has given us to participate and ensure that this and some other of our messages reach the Food Systems Summit and will be taken into account in the final debate.

The role of livestock-meat production is fundamental and irreplaceable for the global world food system, and it is essential to guarantee sustainability, understanding this term in its broadest and most complete sense, from a comprehensive approach that includes environmental, social and economic sustainability.

In the environmental field, our farms have been making great efforts for many years, not only because they are subjected to demanding conditions, but also because Spanish farmers are very aware of what it means to take care of the territory where they carry out their activity, which is why they opt for best available techniques to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and contribute to saving water and energy in all processes, both in primary and industrial production.

Regarding the social aspect, it should be noted that we are a sector with a long tradition, with a clear vocation of permanence and a huge desire for improvement, and this is not possible without having a sustainable model over time and a strongly one linked to society from which it comes. We are a socially sustainable sector because we give a future to our rural areas, since by our very nature we are linked to the territory.

And finally, we are economically sustainable. The pork sector has managed to grow steadily. Our investments are focused on improvements that favor growth on which to continue reinvesting. In this way, our progression - both in business volume and in exports - has been gradual and constant.

In short, the environmental, social and economic benefit of livestock-meat activity is vital for rural areas when managing a large amount of territory; structuring the territory by fixing the population in small nuclei; and generating wealth that allows to pay for basic infrastructures. Therefore, it would be meaningless or unjustified to allow any approach to reducing or substituting, in whole or in part, the livestock-meat production.

On the other hand, but not less important, we must bear in mind that a diet is only healthy if it is a balanced one and includes real animal protein. Livestock-meat production provides proteins at an affordable price and of high nutritional value, confirming the relationship between longer life expectancy and consumption of animal protein. There are numerous scientific evidences that support the need for nutrients in meat for an adequate nutrition and a proper development and health. In fact, foods of animal origin are a very rich source, unique in some cases, of several essential micronutrients and bioactive compounds, and their restriction can lead to health problems without regular and constant supplementation.

Of course, we cannot deny the undoubted importance and necessity of producing sustainable food from an environmental point of view, an unwavering purpose, and a basic requirement of all economic activity and of any political and social approach. In turn, it is necessary to recognize that the livestock-meat sector

has carried out a significant increase in its efficiency in production models, continuously improving its contribution to sustainability.

All of this should be taken into account at the next Food Systems Summit, where, through INTERPORC's Independent Dialogue, the voice of the Spanish livestock-meat sector will be heard.

Alberto Herranz
Director of INTERPORC

3. INTRODUCTION

3.1 Food Systems Summit

• What is the 'Food Systems Summit'?¹

The Secretary-General of the United Nations, António Guterres, convened a Summit on Food Systems in September 2021 as part of the Decade of Action to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by 2030. The Summit aims to implement new and bold measures to advance the achievement of the 17 SDGs, each of which depends, to some degree, on healthier, more sustainable and equitable food systems.

The Summit aims to make the world aware that we must all work together to transform the way we produce, consume and conceive food. We are talking about a Summit that affects us all, regardless of our place of origin, which tries to offer solutions that we must all adopt to help us in transforming the world's food systems.

Guided by the Five Action Tracks, the Summit will bring together key players from the worlds of science, business, politics, health care and academia, as well as farmers, indigenous people, youth organizations, consumer groups, environmental activists and other key stakeholders.

Before, during and after the Summit, these key players will come together to bring about tangible, positive changes to the world's food systems.

• Why Food Systems?

As the organization of the Summit explains, "food system" refers to the constellation of activities related to the production, processing, transportation and consumption of food. Food systems affect all aspects of human existence. The health of our food systems has a profound impact on the health of our bodies, as well as the health of our environment, our economies, and our cultures. When they work well, food systems have the power to unite us as families, communities and nations.

But there are too many food systems in the world that are fragile, vulnerable to collapse and have not been examined, a situation that millions of people around the world have experienced first-hand during the COVID-19 pandemic. When our food systems fail, the resulting disorder threatens our education, health, and economy, as well as human rights, peace, and security. As in so many cases, those who were already poor or marginalized are the most vulnerable.

The good news is that we know what we have to do to correct the course. Scientists agree that transforming our food systems is one of the most powerful tools to change it and move towards achieving the 17 Sustainable Development Goals. Rebuilding the world's food systems will also allow us to respond to the call of the Secretary-General of the United Nations to "build back better" from COVID-19. We are all part of the food system, and that is why we must come together to achieve the transformation that the world needs.

• What are the objectives of the Summit?

- Generate important measures and measurable progress in achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. To this end, a call for action has been made at all levels of the food system, including national and local governments, businesses and citizens.

¹<https://www.un.org/en/food-systems-summit>

- Raise awareness and drive public debate about how reforming our food systems can help us all to achieve the SDGs by implementing reforms that are good for people and the planet.
- Develop principles to guide governments and other stakeholders who wish to leverage their food systems to support the SDGs.
- Creation of a system that allows the exchange of experiences, lessons and knowledge obtained from the Summit.

The principles of the Summit

The Food Systems Summit, which seeks alternatives to improve the food chain from farm to fork and comply with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), is based on 7 principles of commitment:

1. **Act urgently:** the UN calls for action at all levels, with the utmost urgency and in a sustained and coherent manner, to achieve the various Sustainable Development Goals by 2030.
2. **Take on Summit commitments:** ask participants to commit to putting what they preach into practice on both a personal and professional level in order to contribute to the vision, goals and final results of the Food Systems Summit.
3. **Be respectful:** depending on their respective capacities and circumstances, participants should promote food production and consumption policies and practices aimed at protecting and improving people's health and well-being, promoting resilient livelihoods and communities, and promoting good stewardship of natural resources, while respecting local cultures and contexts.
4. **Recognize complexity:** it is important to recognize that food systems are complex, closely connected to each other, and have significant impacts on human and animal health, land, water, climate, biosecurity, the economy, and the other systems and that, therefore, to transform them a systemic approach must be adopted.
5. **Take an inclusive multi-stakeholder approach:** Governments and communities are invited to incorporate diverse perspectives, such as indigenous knowledge, local cultures and scientific evidence, so that stakeholders can understand and evaluate potential trade-offs and develop policies that have a positive impact on various public goods within these different systems.
6. **Complement the work of others:** Recognize that food systems issues are being addressed in other global governance processes, and seek to ensure that the Food Systems Summit aligns and amplifies and accelerates those processes where possible, avoiding unnecessary duplication, while fostering new and bold innovative ideas and approaches that produce a systemic transformation in line with the principles and objectives of the Summit.
7. **Promote trust:** ensure that the Summit and the commitments made at it promote trust and stimulate the will to participate; for this, preference will be given to governance, decision-making, planning, participation and execution modalities based on observation, transparency and accessibility. Member States, private companies and individual actors are responsible for the commitments they have assumed, using the mechanisms established to respect the principle of accountability.

3.2. The importance of the Dialogues

• What is a dialogue?

The Food Systems Summit Dialogues are an unbeatable opportunity to bring the voices and reflections of people from around the world to the United Nations Summit. The Dialogues bring together a wide range of stakeholders - even those whose views are rarely heard - and provide a key occasion for participants to discuss, collaborate and take action for a better future.

The ideas, solutions, alliances, and action plans born from the Dialogues are essential for the development of the Summit. In this way, the UN offers the possibility of having a voice to everyone and building a better future for food systems, one that is more prosperous, secure, and fair for all.

3 types of Dialogue are established according to the United Nations (UN) criteria:

- ✓ The **Member State Dialogues** are organized by national governments. Each member state of the UN can appoint a Convenor of the National Dialogues, who will be in charge of organizing them. In the case of Spain, the Convenor is Samuel Juárez Casado.
- ✓ The **Global Dialogues** are in line with global events on important issues such as climate, environment, health, economy and employment, humanitarian aid and water, and are convened by the Special Envoy for the Food Systems Summit, Dr. Agnes Kalibata.
- ✓ The **Independent Dialogues** are organized by individuals or institutions independent of the national authorities, but with the opportunity to formally connect with the Summit process through an official mechanism for commenting. They offer opportunities for all citizens to participate directly in proposing pathways to sustainable food systems, exploring new ways of working together and encouraging collaborative action. The Dialogue of INTERPORC is included here.

All three types of Dialogues provide an opportunity for everyone to participate meaningfully at the Summit. They aim to respect a healthy diversity of viewpoints, encourage shared exploration, and reveal promising new forms of collaboration.

• Why do we organize a Dialogue?

The Spanish pork sector is firmly committed to achieving the SDGs, and the production of sustainable, resilient and equitable food systems. In this context, INTERPORC has found it necessary to respond to the call of the UN Secretary General and organize an independent Dialogue to contribute to the Summit and to ensure that the voice of the Spanish pork sector, and of the livestock and meat sector as a whole, is heard.

Therefore, the Independent Dialogue of INTERPORC seeks to establish a broad vision of the challenges faced by the livestock-meat chain at a global level in order to continue adapting to new food systems; all this to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG), through a sustainable and resilient diet. In today's globalized world, the way in which food is produced is constantly evolving, as does the way in which it is consumed.

For this reason, there are many factors that we must bear in mind when adapting to the new demands that are emerging. In the first place, changes must be addressed to advance in a more sustainable production that contributes to the fight against climate change through measures that reduce emissions and the

carbon footprint, and the application of technologies that reduce the impact on the environment. In any case, to achieve this it is also necessary to start from the real situation of the sector and take into account that production models, such as the European one, have made great strides in aspects such as sustainability, animal welfare or biosecurity and have set themselves ambitious challenges to achieve a neutral climate impact in the coming decades.

The independent Dialogue of INTERPORC seeks to reflect on the most effective way to implement those policies already in place and introduce new ones that facilitate the achievement of the objectives. On the other hand, we find ourselves in a complex food system made up of a great variety of elements that we must take into account -social, economic, environmental, consumer demands- while the livestock-meat sector fulfills its service to society to offer a supply of quality, safe and affordable proteins for all citizens, also offering transparent information.

In this sense, the improvements made in matters such as innovation, food safety, traceability or labeling and how to strengthen them by relying on new technologies are also analyzed. Likewise, it is necessary to take into account the impact of livestock-meat systems in rural areas both in social, economic, structuring of the territory and employment aspects, as well as in the fight against depopulation and the contribution to the management of natural spaces.



4. INDEPENDENT DIALOGUE OF INTERPORC

4.1 Dialogue's Organization

On May 19th, 2021, the Spanish Inter-professional Agri-Food Organization for White Pork (INTERPORC) organizes an Independent Dialogue on the UN Food Systems entitled “The livestock-meat chain and its compliance with the SDG: future challenges”.

The Dialogue, following the UN criteria, is made up of the following actors:

- **Convenor:** responsible for planning, organizing and carrying out the Dialogue. The convenor is INTERPORC.
- **Curator:** presides over the event, and he is the “master of ceremonies” of the Dialogue. In the case of INTERPORC’s Dialogue, the Curator is Alberto Herranz, Director of INTERPORC.
- **Facilitators:** they are the moderators of each discussion room. Their mission is to support the analysis and exchanges of each discussion group, raise questions and ensure that all participants have the opportunity to contribute in a meaningful way and that their points of view are heard by others. The facilitator can rely on a rapporteur or note taker who helps the facilitators to take notes of the interventions of the participants.
- **Participants:** their mission is to participate and give their opinion and point of view on the topics discussed, and how, in their opinion, should food systems be in 2030.

In order to organize the Dialogue as effectively as possible, and also comply with all the requirements established by the UN, the INTERPORC team attended several preparatory sessions organized by the UN itself.

Therefore, following the indications of the UN, the Dialogue is structured first in a plenary session and then the participants are divided into group rooms of approximately 10 people, moderated by a facilitator. Subsequently, the conclusions of the discussion rooms are shared in a new plenary session, and the curator draws the general conclusions of the Dialogue. The INTERPORC Dialogue discussed the following topics (2 rooms for each topic):

Sustainability and Animal Welfare: room 1 and 2

It seeks to discuss how to introduce improvements in the coming decades to move towards a more sustainable production, which contributes to the fight against climate change by reducing the impact on the environment and, at the same time, with the utmost respect for the welfare of animals from birth to slaughter.

Nutrition and Sustainable Diets in Human Food: room 3 and 4

The idea is to discuss how to implement more sustainable diets both from the point of view of food production and the way we eat in a healthy way or the real sustainability capacity of certain diets or food cultures, and the role that meat and meat products should play in such diets.

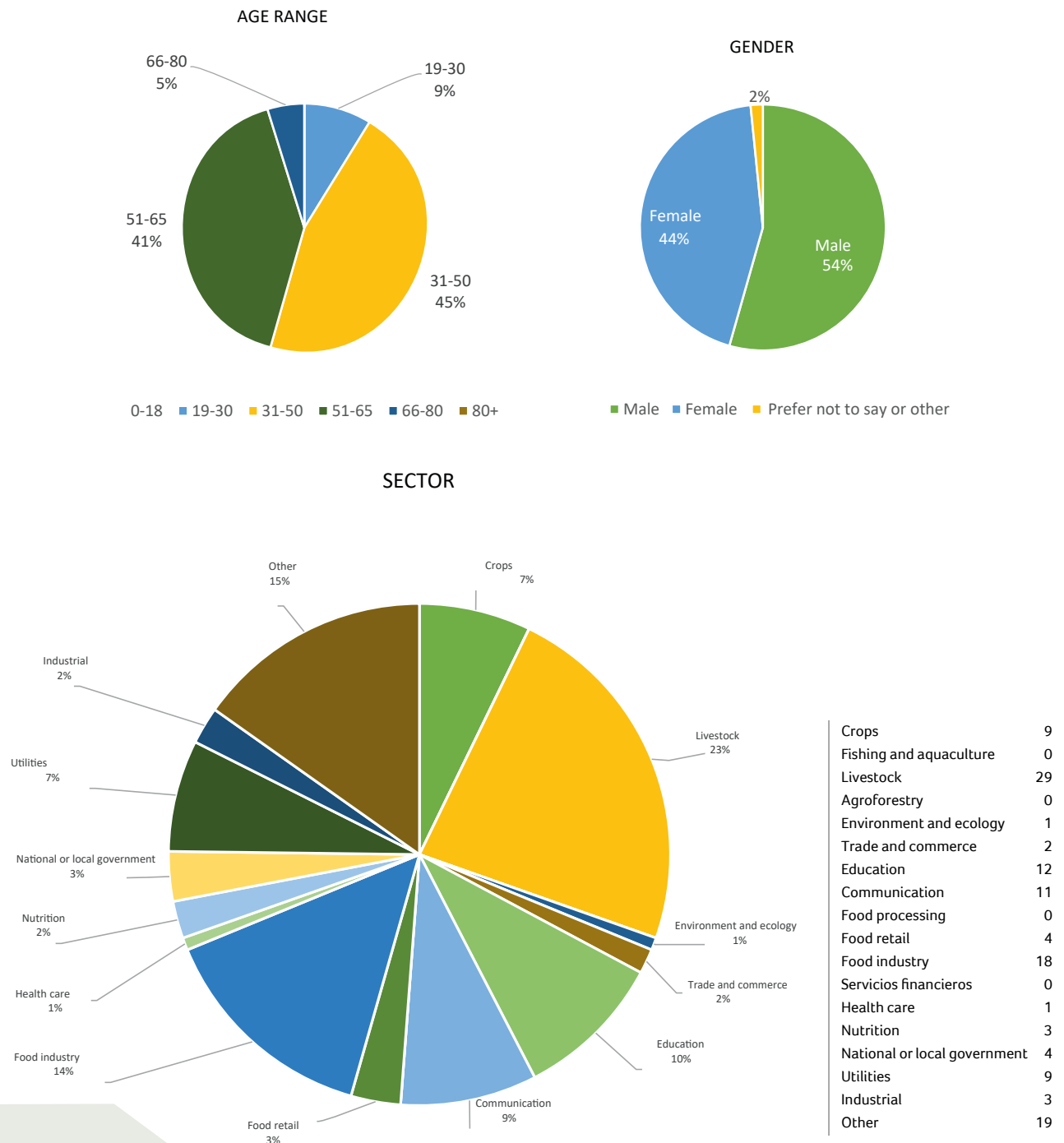
Economic-social Impact of Livestock Activity in the Territories: Room 5 and 6

The objective is to discuss the future of the powerful socio-economic network configured by the current livestock-meat food system and to comment on the value it brings, especially for the development of rural areas.

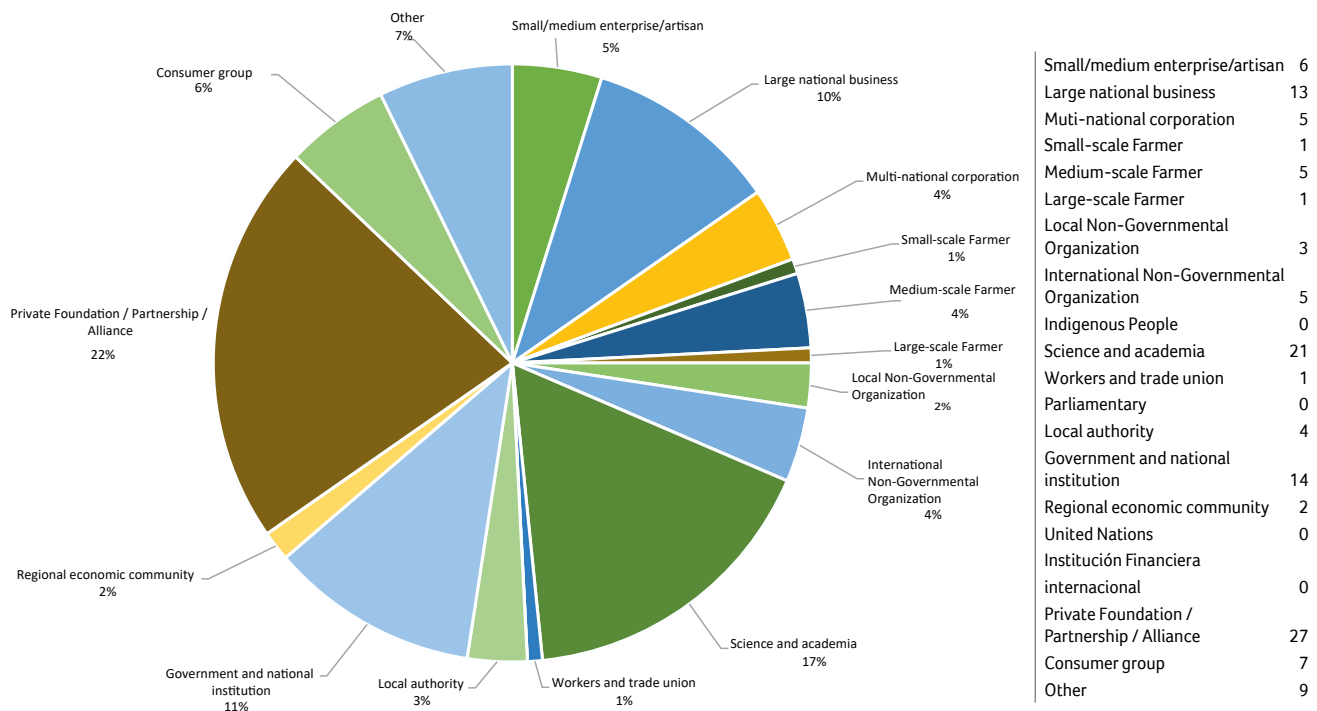
Communication: room 7 and 8

Finally, a fundamental aspect to take into account is the “information”, because without reliable, well-founded and sufficient information, communication would be unviable or ineffective. The European Commission itself proposes to decisively promote information systems and the massive “use / generation of data” as essential instruments for the sustainability of food systems. Therefore, it is interesting that the participants show opinions about the current situation and future evolution of information systems in livestock-meat production.

For a greater diversity of opinions, the INTERPORC dialogue has a very diverse profile of participants: farmers, SMEs and large companies, veterinarians, scientists, universities, national and regional administrations, consumer associations, animal rights organizations, NGOs ..., which adds up value to the Dialogue. In total, 125 people participate, which are distributed among the 8 rooms.



STAKEHOLDER GROUP



The dialogue lasts approximately 3h 30 minutes and the discussions in rooms, meanwhile, 75 minutes, which gives enough time for the participants to give their opinions sincerely, frankly, with determination and forcefully, but always respecting opposing opinions.

In this way, to guarantee that the presentations and subsequent debates are carried out in a climate of trust and full freedom of thought and expression, the meetings are held as indicated by the UN, under the Chatham House Rule, so that participants can use the information received but not reveal the identity or affiliation of the speakers or any other participant.

In the first instance, to introduce the content of the day, Alberto Herranz, Director of INTERPORC and curator or “master of ceremonies” of the Dialogue, is in charge of carrying the weight of its development. To do this, he makes an intervention in which he begins by transmitting to the audience the importance of their presence, as well as a series of instructions that they must bear in mind before starting in order to get the most out of the meeting.

He explains how the day works: times, participants, speakers, division into groups ... This intervention is of great importance, since it is intended for everyone present to know at all times what they should do and what is expected from them. He is also in charge of introducing each of the facilitators along with their discussion rooms so that all attendees can get to know each other.

Secondly, he is in charge of introducing the presentations of INTERPORC’s President, of the high-level speakers and the facilitators so that they present their conclusions once the discussion rooms are over. And finally, once all the facilitators present the conclusions of their rooms to the attendees, the curator is in charge of presenting Samuel Juárez to close the day.

Also, high-level presentations can be introduced in the Dialogues. The INTERPORC Dialogue had the honor of having, in the opening plenary session, the interventions of Manuel García, President of INTERPORC; Juan

Prieto, Counsellor of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food and Permanent Representative of Spain to the FAO; Javier Sierra, Counsellor of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food of the Permanent Mission of Spain to the United Nations Office and International Organizations in Geneva; and in the closing, by Samuel Juárez, Special Advisor at the General Secretariat for Agriculture and Food of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food and Convenor of the National Dialogues in Spain of the National Dialogues for the UN Food Systems Summit.



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**THE LIVESTOCK-MEAT CHAIN
AND ITS COMPLIANCE WITH THE
SDG: FUTURE CHALLENGES**



Dialogue program

May 19th, 2021

<p>10:00 a.m. – 10:10 a.m.</p>	<p>Opening Ceremony by Alberto Herranz, Director of INTERPORC and Curator of the Dialogue, and Manuel García, President of INTERPORC</p>
<p>10:10 a.m. – 10:35 a.m.</p>	<p>Opening speeches -Mr. Juan Prieto Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food of the Embassy of Spain in Italy and Permanent Representative of Spain to the FAO</p>
<p>10:35 a.m. – 10:50 a.m.</p>	<p>-Mr. Javier Sierra Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food in the Permanent Mission of Spain to the United Nations and other international organizations</p>
<p>10:50 a.m. – 11:10 a.m.</p>	<p>Presentation of the Food Systems Summit and the theme and operation for the Dialogue</p>
<p>11:10 a.m. – 12:25 a.m. (75min)</p>	<p>Group discussions</p>
<p>12:25 a.m. – 13:00 a.m.</p>	<p>Facilitator's summary</p>
<p>13:00 a.m. – 13:20 a.m.</p>	<p>Final report by the Curator</p>
<p>13:20 a.m. – 13:30 a.m.</p>	<p>Closing: Mr. Samuel Juárez Convenor in Spain of the National Dialogues of the UN Food Systems Summit</p>

May 19th, 2021
THE LIVESTOCK-MEAT CHAIN AND
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4.2. High-Level Presentations

The interventions of the high-level speakers contribute to contextualize the importance and objectives of the Summit. His interventions are included below.

• **Presentation by Manuel García** President of INTERPORC

First of all, I want to thank you all for taking time from your busy schedule to be here and contribute your part in an event of such magnitude as this that we are organizing today.

It is a pleasure to be able to gather all of you here in this Independent Dialogue for the Food Systems Summit, which we are proud to convene and which we have called “**The livestock-meat chain and its compliance with the SDG: future challenges**”.

To begin, I am going to speak to you about the Summit:

The Food Systems Summit is organized by the UN and **will be held in New York in September this year**. Specifically, according to the UN, the main objective is to set the foundations for the transformation of food systems, to make them more sustainable, resilient, inclusive and equitable, and to evolve towards healthy and sustainable diets.

That is, it focuses on how to reform the entire food chain from farm to fork to meet the Sustainable Development Goals.

The Summit is based on five action tracks:

1. The first one is to ensure healthy and nutritious food for all; we must ensure that everyone has equal access to good nutrition.
2. Second, we must adopt sustainable consumption patterns; it is essential to find mechanisms that guarantee **everyone's access to a diet produced in a sustainable way**, and that also has positive effects in terms of health and nutrition.
3. Third, we must boost nature-positive production of food, **training all producers** to do a job focused on preserving the environment.
4. Fourth, we must promote equitable livelihoods for people involved in food systems and **assist them** in their production so that they have a **satisfactory quality of life**.
5. And finally, it is important to build resilience to vulnerabilities, shocks and stress, taking into account factors as important as climate change, health crises such as COVID-19, but also conflicts or even wars.

With this Dialogue we want to give a voice to experts in different fields related to the livestock-meat industry, but also to people outside the sector, to listen to your opinions and generate a constructive debate about the current operation of livestock-meat production and the role of meat and meat products in a healthy and sustainable diet.

Each and every one of you is here because we believe that you have a lot to say and contribute. That is why I strongly encourage you not to keep quiet about anything and participate in the most active and sincere way possible in the debate.

We must highlight the importance of this Dialogue and the opinions because the conclusions of this Dialogue will be sent to the UN itself so that they are taken into account both at the Pre-Summit in Rome and at the September Summit in New York.

At that Summit, **a final Declaration by the UN Secretary General, António Guterres**, is scheduled, who has given great importance to food systems within the framework of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, which, as you know, is supported by the 17 Sustainable Development Goals.

This important Declaration will undoubtedly have an impact on how global food systems are transformed in the coming decades, and that is why your participation and your voice being heard is important.

• **Presentation by Javier Sierra**

Counsellor of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food of the Permanent Mission of Spain to the United Nations Office and International Organizations in Geneva

One of the main challenges that humanity must respond to in the 21st century is to respond in an effective, sustainable and healthy way to the increasing demand for food by a growing population. It is currently estimated that the world population is about seven billion people, and it is expected that by the year 2050, we will be almost ten billion people.

Obviously, population growth will not be uniform across countries due to socioeconomic factors. It is estimated that the highest growth will be experienced in Africa, which will more than double its population, and in Asia, whose population will grow by almost 20%. Asia and Africa are estimated to concentrate about 60-70% of the world's population by 2050. In contrast, the European population is expected to decrease by 4%. Nine countries could account for half the population growth by 2050: India, Nigeria, Pakistan, Congo, Ethiopia, Tanzania, the United States, Indonesia and Uganda.

China represents a perfect example of what the emergence of a country with strong imbalances can mean for world food demand. In the last three decades, until 2009, China has grown economically at double-digit figures per year, which has caused the fastest transformation that a country has undergone in recent history. China has lifted more than half a billion people out of poverty and urbanized a population of about 260 million at a rate of about 300 000 people per week (equivalent to urbanizing a population the size of the city of La Coruña per week). Since 2010 China has been more urban than rural and by 2030, an estimated 70% of its population will live in cities. Cities, which, in the case of China, mean, in most cases, large cities (15 cities will have more than 25 million people).

Despite this economic growth, China has a strong food imbalance since it has 20% of the world's population but it only has 9% of the planet's cultivable land and a third of the world's water per capita. China has become the world's leading food importer, in order to supply a new food demand with more purchasing power. Approximately 60% of the soy exported by Brazil is destined for China to be incorporated into its animal farms, in addition to being the world's leading importer of pork, regardless of the shock suffered in its productions due to the African Swine Fever.

As we can see, the agri-food trade is critical in order to respond to the growing demand for food. The latest report of the World Trade Organization, from 2019, mentions that almost 10% of all merchandise trade was represented by agri-food products. Moreover, more than a third of them were integrated into global supply chains, that is, they cross the border between countries at least twice. Developing and emerging countries already account for a third of the world's trade and the EU is no longer the world's leading food importer, after the exit of the United Kingdom, but it maintains its position as the world's leading exporter followed by the USA. Our country, Spain, holds leading positions in the world's trade of agri-food products.

We have commented at the beginning that food systems must be healthy to respond to the greatest concern that citizens have regarding healthy food. Current figures tell us that there is more overweight and obese population, about two billion in the world, than people suffering from hunger and malnutrition, about 800 million people today. One piece of data points to the growing interest of citizens in the link between health and food, in the US, in 2016, for the first time the consumption of water in volume exceeded the consumption of soft drinks, that is, sugary drinks.

From a sustainability perspective, global food systems can be responsible for up to 30% of greenhouse gas emissions, taking into account the entire system, that is, agricultural production systems as a whole, national and international distribution and trade, the energy consumed from all these processes including the one used to cook and prepare food and food loss and waste. In addition, food systems are responsible for 60-70% of the global biodiversity loss, mainly due to the conversion of forest areas into agricultural or livestock areas and consume approximately 70% of the available water.

The question facing the challenge we talked about at the beginning of the presentation is clear, how can we face a growing demand for food, if it is estimated that the population in 2050 will demand 75% more meat? It will certainly not be in the same way that we have produced food in the world. Experts already say that it will be necessary to improve distribution and access to food, probably change diets and also reduce water consumption and the carbon footprint of our production systems. And above all, to produce more with less resources, less losses and less waste.

We need to achieve more sustainable production systems to meet these challenges. The EU is leading the world in this transformation. The “Green Deal” has set the goal for the EU to be climate neutral by 2050, just like the US. China will be climate neutral by 2060. The “From Farm to Fork Strategy” has set very ambitious environmental goals. It will be necessary to reduce soil nutrients loss by at least 50%, reduce fertilizers by at least 20%, and antimicrobial sales by another 50%. In terms of organic farming, we must ensure that at least 25% of the European agricultural land is produced under organic farming conditions. Only the application of the best scientific and technological knowledge will allow us to produce more with fewer resources and global impact.

Along with this political impulse, science and innovation are trying to generate a wider supply of food available for the population. It seeks to generate new sources of protein, either of plant origin or of new animal species such as insects, or even from new sources such as those produced from stem cells of animal origin in bioreactors. Another important source of innovation will come from 3D printers and advances in technologies covered under the name “Food as software”. Without a doubt, in the future, classic food production systems will coexist with other more innovative production systems derived from these technological advances. New challenges and risks will appear, and solutions will be sought from scientific knowledge. Albert Einstein declared that “A new type of thinking is essential if mankind is to survive and move toward higher levels”. Quoting the world summit of Nobel Prizes that took place last April, the current challenges represent an urgent call to action for humanity.

Certainly, we are going to move towards more sustainable, healthy and equitable food systems. Our common future depends in large part on them and without a doubt, our Spanish meat sector will know how to adapt to the future while maintaining avant-garde positions in global competitiveness.

• Presentation by Juan Prieto

Special Advisor at the General Secretariat for Agriculture and Food of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food and Convenor of the National Dialogues in Spain of the National Dialogues for the UN Food Systems Summit.

INITIAL SUMMARY

- The International UN Food Systems Summit will be held in New York in September 2021 and will be preceded by the Pre-Summit in Rome in July 2021.
- Its main objective is to set the foundations for the transformation of the food systems of the future, which must be more resilient and triply sustainable in a balanced manner, from an environmental, social and economic point of view.
- It is an inclusive and integrating effort of all the interlocutors involved in agri-food, fishing and aquaculture production, from the Public Administration to the processing industry and distribution, to consumption, international trade compatible with proximity markets or efforts to fight food loss and waste, among others.
- The COVID-19 pandemic has aggravated a situation in negative evolution since 2015 in the fight against world hunger. Thus, the international community has to redouble its efforts, despite having shown great efficiency in maintaining the international agri-food trade channels during the pandemic, which has in good measure avoided unpredictable economic, political and social consequences of all kinds.
- The transformation of the different food systems must be universal and applied to the social and territorial reality in each case. The EU is already working on this through the recent approval of its new Common Agri-Food Policy, as well as through its From Farm to Fork Strategy and its Biodiversity Strategy within the framework of the Green Deal for the design of a food system that is fair, healthy and respectful with the environment.

INTRODUCTION

On September 25th, 2015, world leaders adopted a set of global goals to eradicate poverty, protect the planet, and ensure prosperity for all within 15 years as part of a new sustainable development agenda, the so-called 2030 Agenda. Each of its 17 objectives has specific goals that must be achieved in the next 9 years, that is, in 2030. It is a common, multisectoral and interrelated goal, in which governments, the private sector and the civil society participate, and which has led to notable institutional and administrative development in many countries, such as Spain, which has a State Secretariat for the 2030 Agenda attached to the Ministry of Social Rights and 2030 Agenda.

In this context of the framework of the Decade of Action to achieve the [Sustainable Development Goals](#), the General Secretariat of the United Nations Organization celebrates in the year 2021 the [Food Systems Summit](#), which will take place in New York within the United Nations General Assembly during the month of September 2021, and which will have a Pre-Summit between July 26th and 28th, 2021, to be held in the city of Rome, the UN's food hub as the headquarters of the Organization of United Nations for Food and Agriculture (FAO), the World Food Program (WFP) and the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD). In this way, the center of the world public agenda is occupied and its points of debate are promoted from a transversal approach that goes from the global to the local, analyzing within the Summit different integral solutions for a transformation of the different food systems in search of greater sustainability, resilience and inclusiveness of all of them.

With the celebration of this 2021 Food Systems Summit, a leverage effect is also sought in the achievement of the 2030 Agenda, trying to respond to its current and future challenges, such as the climate crisis, the eradication of poverty and hunger, to guarantee food security or to slow down the increase in inequality, and to which since last year the crisis caused by the COVID-19 pandemic has been strongly added, which has caused a greater impact and global vulnerability.

The Summit will be made up of the so-called Action Tracks, which, grouped into five blocks, hold independent workshops that together guide the work to be carried out around the world, establishing the main objectives to be achieved, such as guaranteeing access to healthy and nutritious food, establishing sustainable forms of consumption and production, promoting just and equitable livelihoods or the resilience of food-producing communities. On the other hand, the Summit will bring together key personalities with the capacity to influence to achieve positive and adaptable changes without leaving anyone behind and raising public awareness about our way of conceiving, producing and consuming food. This also seeks to create **spaces for international and national dialogue** that allow the construction of solutions, thanks to the active participation so far of the 92 convening member states², civil society, international organizations, scientific experts, NGOs and the private sector.

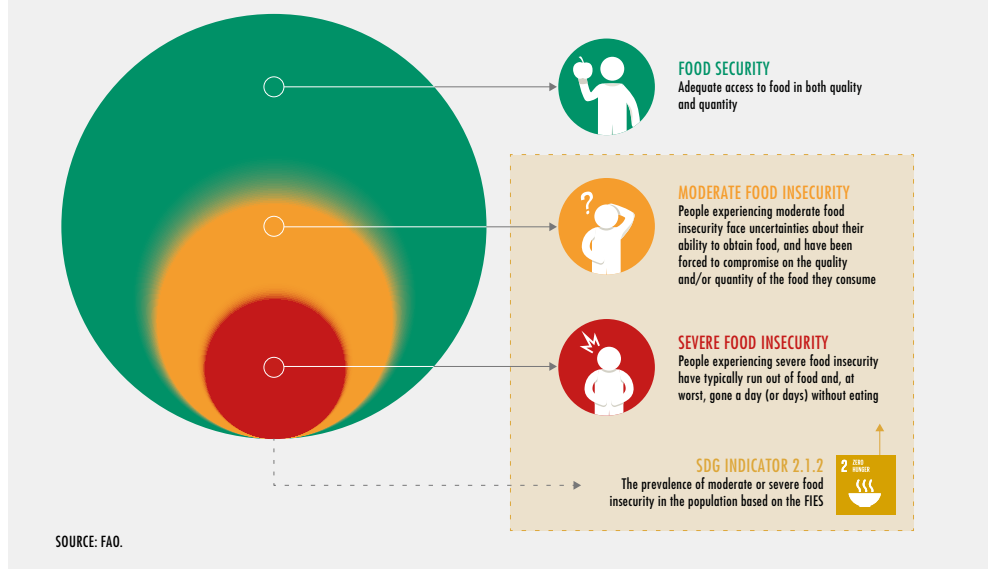
A NECESSARY TRANSFORMATION TOWARDS SUSTAINABLE AND RESILIENT MODELS

Currently, the most accepted definition of food systems refers to the set of activities related to the **production, processing, transport and consumption of food**. Therefore, they have a direct effect on the entire social and economic fabric of the countries, both at the international, national or regional level, which is evident within a globalized society such as the current one, in which interlocutors from very distant latitudes enjoy intense commercial and productive relationships that fortunately have managed to remain solid and operational during the COVID-19 pandemic, thus avoiding to a large extent on a global scale that a global health crisis turns into an equally global food crisis with unpredictable consequences in all orders, from the strictly nutritional to the economic or political and social. Faced with this planetary interconnection of different food systems, **their health is crucial**, as evidenced by the fact that the fragility of weaker food supply chains has put a large number of people in **a situation of vulnerability** at risk, as we have been able to verify after the COVID-19 pandemic, which has unfortunately led to an increase of more than 130 million people in the world who have joined the lists of hunger and malnutrition.

According to the latest edition (2020) of the report on [The State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World](#), which uses the Food Insecurity Experience Scale (FIES), used as an approximate global reference in [SDG 2.1.2](#), to measure this, 9.7% of the world's population was exposed to serious levels of food insecurity in 2019. To this we must add some 2 billion people who did not have regular and constant access to nutritious and sufficient food. In this way, a change in trend with respect to the years preceding 2015 is observed, with a notable improvement in the variables analyzed on a global scale in the fight against hunger and malnutrition. Since then, a reversal has been observed in the gradual decline in the number of food insecure people in the world, aggravated as we have seen by the COVID-19 pandemic.

²The number has increased since the Dialogue. An updated list available here: <https://summitdialogues.org/overview/member-state-food-systems-summit-dialogues/convenors/>

FIGURE 6
EXPLANATION OF FOOD-INSECURITY SEVERITY LEVELS MEASURED BY THE FIES
IN SDG INDICATOR 2.1.2



Source: [The State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World 2020](#)

In view of the aforementioned circumstances, and as the Summit’s own objectives indicate, a comprehensive transformation of the different food systems towards healthier, more sustainable, equitable and resilient models is essential to fight against all forms of hunger and malnutrition. And in this same sense, the Food Safety Committee also establishes that action must be taken on all areas of food systems, from food supply chains, to food environments and consumer behavior. The opinion of the Committee on World Food Security is especially significant as it is a governing body of the United Nations that reviews and monitors food security and nutrition policies. It is the main international and intergovernmental platform inclusive of all the parties involved and competent in guaranteeing food and nutritional security on a global scale, through the coordination of efforts between governments, the private sector, academia and civil society, and whose annual reports are presented to the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC).

Today more than ever, the implementation of sustainable food systems capable of providing adequate nutrition to all without compromising the economic, social and environmental needs of future generations is unavoidable. For this, it is also essential to ensure the construction of resilient food systems in the face of extreme meteorological phenomena, largely a consequence of climate change, and that affect the livelihoods of a large part of the population. According to the latest FAO estimates, if current consumption patterns persist, by 2025, two-thirds of the world’s population will live in countries with water scarcity, and by 2050, only 10% of our soils will be productive. This in a time frame in which the world population will grow by approximately one third compared to the current one, also substantially increasing the demand for food, and particularly for proteins of high biological value.

In this sense, the achievement of resilient food systems requires the effort in scientific and technological innovation and development to be applied in the agri-food, fishing and aquaculture field in the immediate and medium term and must certainly be intense and generalized, in order to constantly cover rapidly growing foods needs on an affordable way for the consumer and profitable for the producer.

INCLUSIVITY AND EMPOWERMENT AS A CROSS-CUTTING APPROACH

The Food Systems Summit seeks to guarantee an inclusive and equitable space for dialogue, which effectively takes into account all the essential sectors of our food systems, commonly forgotten despite

social awareness and widespread recognition among the population towards the agri-food and fishing sector thanks to the efficient and constant maintenance of its activity during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Taking into account that more than 2 billion people depend on the world's 500 million small farms for their livelihoods, the Summit seeks to promote the empowerment mechanisms of these small-scale farmers, which may be compatible with the simultaneous maintenance of other larger-scale production models that must also respect the principles of triple environmental, social and economic sustainability. In any case, through this protection of small family farming, the Summit urges to protect their right to land, regulate their access to markets and favor integration mechanisms in the decision-making processes of all interlocutors.

Along with the above, the assumption of an inclusive gender perspective is essential to promote fair systems. Women are responsible for half of the world's food production, despite owning less than 2% of the land. For this reason, the Summit urges to guarantee empowerment mechanisms through the full participation of women in rural development and their access to financing and employment opportunities, something especially important considering that the maintenance of rural areas alive and active it is directly subject to the maintenance of the female population in them, as women are the ultimate guarantors of the mere survival of the territories.

Likewise, the protection of young people constitutes another base of the social sustainability of the different food systems, since generational change in agri-food and fishing or aquaculture production must be ensured, guaranteeing good working, salary and training conditions for the new generations, thus avoiding the abandonment of the agri-food, fishing or aquaculture activity and subsequently of the rural areas.

Likewise, indigenous people, the preservation of their ways of life, ecosystems, knowledge and productive systems is a fundamental element in the transformation towards more resilient and sustainable food systems. Representing around 5% of the world's population, they make up 15% of the world's poor people, but are guardians of 80% of global biodiversity. For this reason, the Summit on Food Systems, in collaboration with IFAD, works to ensure the effective participation of these people in the [Independent Dialogues](#), promoting research on their modes of production and consumption, protecting their knowledge about the natural environment and fostering their greater visibility, participation and inclusivity.

AN INCLUSIVE AND COMPLETE STRUCTURE

In the context of the Food Systems Summit and Pre-Summit, a global collective action strategy has been implemented, in which various structures and work teams have been involved with key agents for agri-food, fisheries and aquaculture production, and the formulation policies that include the public and private sectors in the common goal of food security. The Summit thus has:

- **The UN Special Envoy:** The former Minister of Agriculture of Rwanda, Dr. Agnes KALIBATA, as the head, in charge of dissemination and cooperation with the main leaders and under the direct command of the UN Deputy Secretary General, Amina MOHAMED.
- **An Advisory Committee:** with country representatives from each of the FAO regional groups, UN agencies and sectors that make up food systems, providing strategic guidance.
- **A Scientific Committee** - chaired by Professor Von Braun - as an independent technical body with professionals from the Academia of recognized prestige.
- **A Group of Champions:** world leaders using their networks and influence in favor of the Summit.
- **A UN Task Force** - chaired by Inger Andersen - responsible for ensuring the strategic and coordinated collaboration of the United Nations system, led by UNEP.

Regarding to work systems, the so-called Summit Dialogues have been implemented, which represent the essential tool for the involvement of the parties in the process of discussion, improvement and decision-making, counting for the execution of their functions on a Convenor of the National Dialogues, which in the

case of Spain falls to the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food. These Dialogues are in turn classified into three types:

1. **The National Dialogues**, organized by the Member States that allow attendees and regulatory agents of the Summit to understand and evaluate the national priorities of the States.
2. **The Global Dialogues**, in line with global events on issues such as climate, environment, health, economy and employment, humanitarian aid and water.
3. **The Independent Dialogues**, organized by individuals, together with associations or interest groups that seek to formalize the integration and inclusion of the parties in the discussion.

In addition to these work platforms, as a support mechanism for the Member States, the National Permanent Representations in Rome have created the Group of Friends of the Summit, of which Spain is a member and which contributes significantly to promoting the holding of the Food Systems Summit.

THE FIVE ACTION TRACKS OF THE SUMMIT AS MECHANISMS OF CHANGE

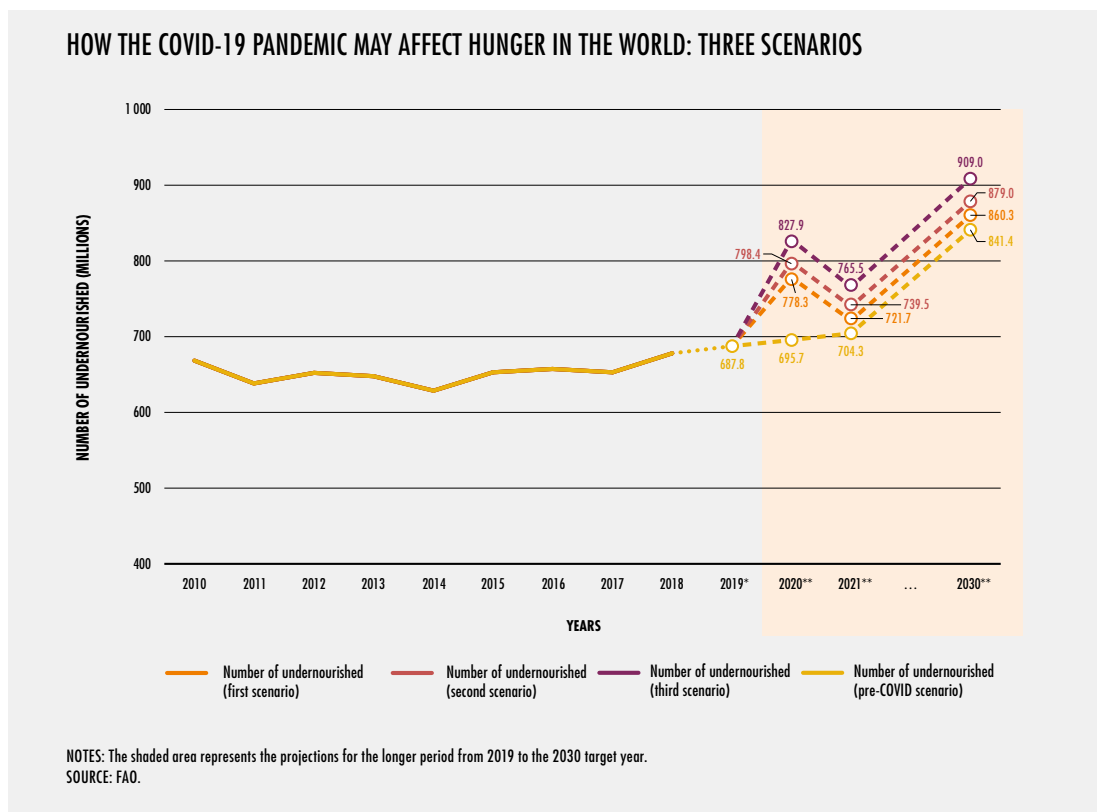
The Food Systems Summit has five strategic points as frameworks for action, with the member states having selected from those five action tracks in which ones they will focus their efforts. In the case of Spain, these are action tracks 3 and 4, coordinated respectively by the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, European Union and Cooperation.

- **Action Track 1 - Ensure access to safe and nutritious food for all.** This first Action Track examines how to end hunger and all forms of malnutrition and reduce the incidence of non-communicable diseases, making it possible for all people to be fed and healthy.
- **Action Track 2 – Shift to sustainable consumption patterns.** It presents consumption proposals that are more respectful of the principle of triple and balanced sustainability, such as the promotion of adequate school feeding models and various cross-cutting proposals, such as the framework of national food systems.
- **Action Track 3 – Boost nature-positive production.** It examines the optimization of the use of environmental resources in food systems, thus reducing the loss of biodiversity, pollution, water use, soil degradation or greenhouse gas emissions, among other issues. In addition, this Action Track places particular emphasis on understanding the constraints and opportunities of small farmers and small-scale enterprises and family farming.
- **Action Track 4 - Advance equitable livelihoods.** It contributes to the elimination of poverty by promoting full and productive employment and decent work for all agents in the value chain. This Action Track seeks to improve resilience through social protection and inclusion mechanisms.
- **Action Track 5 - Build resilience to vulnerabilities, shocks and stress.** It helps to ensure the functionality of food systems in areas prone to conflict or natural disasters. This Action Track also seeks to ensure that all people in a food system are empowered in the face of instability.

HUNGER, MALNUTRITION AND THE IMPACT OF THE PANDEMIC AS INEVITABLE CHALLENGES

The social, demographic, economic, productive and commercial trends experienced by the world as a whole since the end of the Second World War have brought the greatest integral change and in the shortest period of time for mankind in all its history. Proof of this are elements such as the explosion of urbanization to the current figure of approximately 55% of the world population residing in urban areas and the growing emergence of megacities, especially in the developing world; population growth to figures that will exceed 9 billion people in 2050; the increase in international and intranational social inequalities in many developing and even middle-income countries; changes in global consumption patterns, etc. All these changes, tangible in the daily life of any citizen of the planet, set out unavoidable challenges, testing our ability to provide adequate, sufficient, safe, constant and affordable diets to the entire world population.

However, the world is not currently on track to achieve the goal of Zero Hunger by 2030, from which it has even moved away after the change in trend mentioned since 2015. The latest FAO data indicates that there are 690 million of undernourished people in the world. This represents an increase of about 10 million people between 2019 and 2020, and about 60 million in the last five years. It is also estimated that, if the current behavior is maintained and without taking into account the aforementioned negative impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, the number of people affected by hunger would exceed 840 million by 2030, that is, the 9.7% of the population.



Source: [The State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World 2020](#)

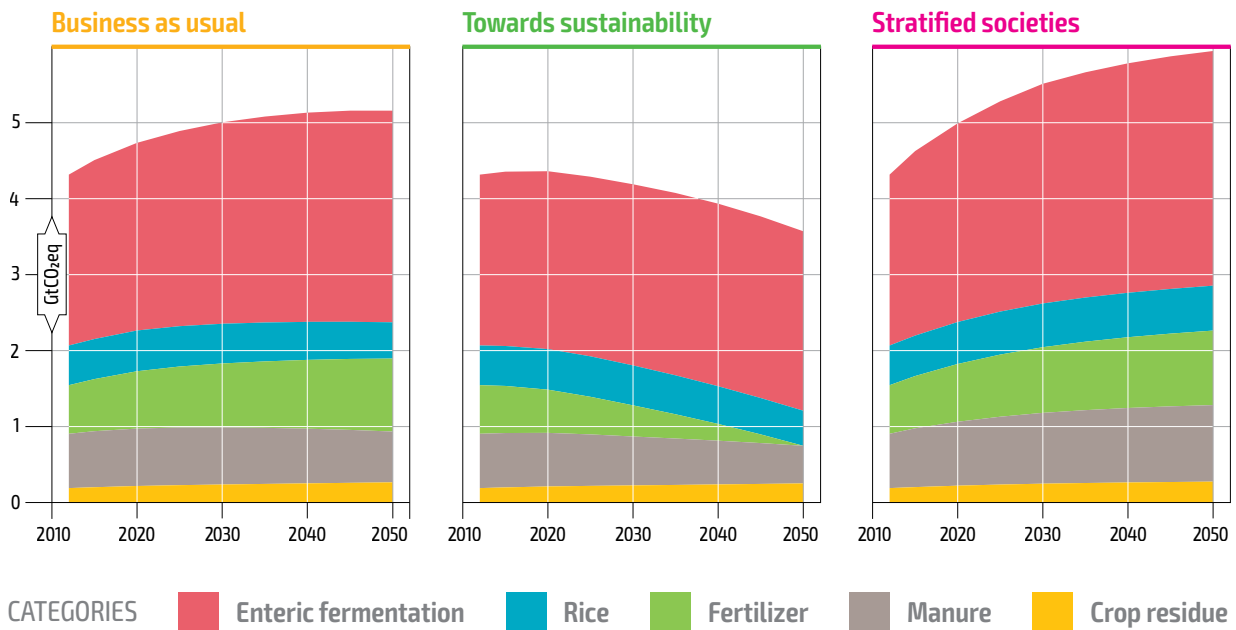
In this context, the COVID-19 pandemic will worsen the global outlook for food security and nutrition, through the emergence of new focal points of food insecurity in previously unaffected countries and segments of the population. In addition, with regard to economic growth, it is estimated that losses will account for between 4.9% and 10% of world GDP growth according to FAO (5.2% according to the World Bank and 7.6% according to OECD). Consequently, the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic will add up to 132 million people to the world's undernourished population. The expected recovery between 2021 and 2022 is estimated to reduce the number of hungry people, but it will continue to exceed what was expected in the absence of the pandemic.

CLIMATE CHANGE, INCREASING PRODUCTION NEEDS AND FOOD WASTE AS IMMINENT CHALLENGES.

Neither the scientific community nor the civil society doubts the impact of different food systems on the environment, which in turn constitutes their own production base. In order to adequately feed an exponentially growing population and meet equally increased needs, current food systems account for up to 80% of the loss of biodiversity and 80% of global deforestation, and account for 70% of the total use of fresh water. Thus, our food models are environmentally unsustainable in the long term, which will make them hopelessly unsustainable from an economic or social point of view and justifies the current effort in transforming food systems towards greater sustainability and resilience compatible with their ability to cover the world food demands. According to the FAO Report [The Future of Food and Agriculture: Alternative Pathways to 2050](#), maintaining current patterns of food conception, production and consumption would lead to a significant increase in greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions produced by the activities of the primary

sector, although it is also true that, unlike the rest of the productive sectors, the agri-food industry is the only one capable of compensating for these emissions practically to neutrality by absorbing them. To date, food systems account for more than a third of global greenhouse gas emissions, and if we do not achieve this comprehensive transformation of food systems, the world is in danger of missing the goal of limiting the Earth global warming at 1.5 ° C as established in the Paris Agreement. Therefore, the agricultural sectors have significant potential to contribute to the overall GHG reduction that the world has to apply in its different food systems.

Figure 4.17 Projected agricultural greenhouse gas emissions for different scenarios

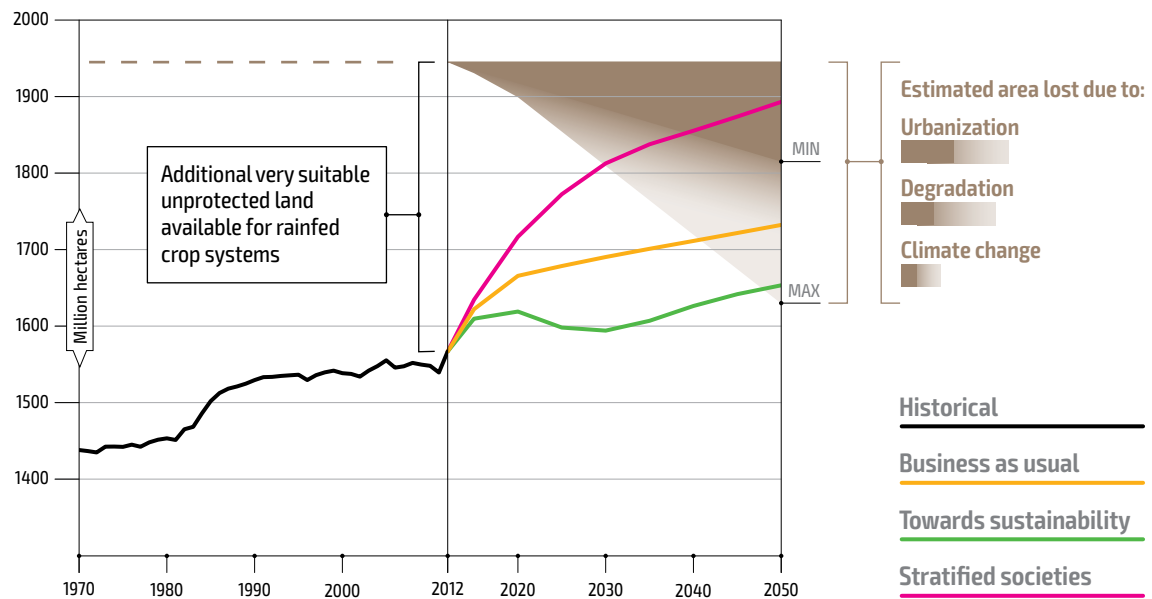


Source: [The Future of Food and Agriculture: Alternative Pathways to 2050](#)

Regarding demographic evolution, in 2050 we will have a population of almost 10 billion people, with about 70% of the urban population compared to the current 55%. Given that food production takes place in rural areas, according to [FAO's Work on Climate Change](#), if current consumption and production patterns are maintained, 49% more food should be produced by 2050. In addition, this will be accompanied by a significant increase in prices, with almost a 25% increase in the grains sector, staple food in most diets, which will increase the risk of impoverishment of societies, population groups and most vulnerable countries.

Finally, considering a scenario in which the production and food consumption model remain identical to those applied to date, it is projected that the harvested areas will increase globally by around 238 million hectares - that is, 18% - between 2012 and 2050. Thus, although the world has enough food for everyone, we will find it increasingly difficult to produce it, estimating a significant loss of land due to massive urbanization and the effects of climate change.

Figure 4.13 Global arable land requirements by scenario and estimated loss of agricultural areas to urbanization, degradation and climate change



Source: [The Future of Food and Agriculture: Alternative Pathways to 2050](#)

In this scenario, progress towards reducing food loss and waste is essential. It is estimated that 35% of all food produced is wasted, with great room for improvement in this regard. About 14% of food, worth USD 400 billion, is lost just after harvest and before reaching retail distributors, contributing by 8% of GHG emissions. Therefore, it is the responsibility of States and of the International Community itself as a whole, to make a coordinated effort to build solid normative and policy frameworks in order to support effective, sustainable and resilient food supply chains.

THE FOOD SYSTEMS SUMMIT AS A FUNDAMENTAL PIECE IN A SIGNIFICANT TRANSFORMATION AT THE GLOBAL, REGIONAL AND NATIONAL LEVELS

The expected results of the Food Systems Summit are ambitious. Through this initiative, the United Nations pursues significant action and measurable progress towards the 2030 Agenda, developing principles that guide governments, the private sector and civil society towards more environmentally, socially and economically sustainable and more resilient food systems models. The Food Systems Summit also allows opening and influencing the international debate and trying to make all food systems sustainable on a triple and balanced manner. Finally, it seeks to provide a monitoring and review system to ensure that the results of the Summit continue to promote new actions and progress, sharing experiences and knowledge.

In short, the Summit must be situated within the current context in all its dimensions. Food systems require significant transformation to meet current and future challenges. Only the adoption of a global perspective adapted locally will contribute to the necessary change. In this sense, in our immediate surroundings the work carried out at the European level towards the transformation of systems is remarkable. The Common Agricultural Policy, the From Farm to Fork Strategy and the Biodiversity Strategy within the framework of the Green Deal contribute efficiently to the design of a fair, healthy and environmentally friendly food system within the framework of the European Union. Finally, the concrete example of Spain is also worthy of mention. The Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food (MAPA) and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, European Union and Cooperation (MAUEC) are leading this interministerial effort of the country, coordinated with the rest of the competent departments and with the Permanent Representation of Spain at FAO, combining their efforts to face in a holistic way the great challenges facing us in the coming years.

4.3. Dialogue Debates

After the high-level presentations, the attendees are divided into groups and discussions begin in small groups in rooms. Here we offer a summary of what is discussed in the different rooms.

• SUSTAINABILITY AND ANIMAL WELFARE

ROOM 1.

Facilitator: Miguel Ángel Higuera

Note-taker: Mariano Herrero

The dialogue table is made up of a heterogeneous group of professionals with high participation thanks to the topics discussed. It begins with the debate and contributions in the field of animal welfare where the great scientific technical knowledge in the matter predominates notably, as well as an active debate among all the participants on the positive evolution in the field of animal welfare that has taken place in the European Union and the future frameworks to be developed.

The knowledge and participation by the experts is reflected, not only in a constructive debate on the actions in the care and handling of the animals but also they are approached from different perspectives: from the scientific point of view to debate and analyze the aspects related to the animal, from the technical point of view to link animal welfare with livestock production and from the social point of view to assess and analyze the relationship between citizens, consumers and the effect of animal welfare on the process of purchasing products of animal origin.

The debate takes place in an agile way combining developed suggestions with others of greater precision, especially to reaffirm comments made. One of the aspects discussed is the relationship of animal welfare and the global market where it is necessary to provide an added value to productions with greater animal welfare, and in this case to value in a more positive way, at the world market level, the differential effort that is being made from the European Union for having higher animal welfare requirements than the rest of the countries.

After an interesting debate on all aspects related to animal welfare, we proceed to reach a consensus on the conclusions of the worktable. Thanks to the participatory and dynamic environment, conclusions on which the whole group agrees can be quickly obtained and prioritized.

The group's conclusions are:

- 1.- Europe is a global animal welfare powerhouse. This positive differentiation that we have both in animal welfare and for example in health security, is an example for the rest of the world. However, it should be noted that this animal welfare can represent an extra cost that can negatively affect competitiveness. The extra costs for the implementation of animal welfare that the farmer bears must be rewarded by the consumer to make the production sustainable.
- 2.- Technical and scientific support in the evolution, development and implementation of animal welfare in all phases of the animal's life is essential to achieve an optimal physical and mental state of the animal in relation to the conditions in which it lives and dies (as the OIE definition states).
- 3.- The role of the veterinarian is key both from the point of view of transmitting the knowledge generated by scientists and for promoting, convincing, helping and working with the farmer to implement animal welfare. It is important that animal welfare is linked to production to avoid the bankruptcy of the farmer.
- 4.- There is a communication defect between the farm and the fork and this disconnection is materialized in the lack of information on how the animals are produced and treated. To solve this, apart from communication and education at all training levels, animal welfare seals are a great tool to show consumers

the improvements in animal welfare and how animals are treated. Animal welfare standards such as INTERPORC (IAWS) must be strengthened to achieve full implementation in the sector not only at large farmers level but also in medium and small producers. Animal welfare quality standards or seals have to be harmonized and homogeneous, at least between the different EU Member States, which have the most demanding production model in the world.

5.- There is a growing pressure from the consumers (informed or not) that materializes throughout the chain and it is necessary to respond to it. The answer has to be based on science, scientific knowledge of the animal: physiological behavior and mental state and in addition, the answer must also be driven by showing and teaching what real welfare is at the farm level.

6.- It is necessary to integrate within the sustainability of global food systems, the concept of animal welfare and define harmonized minimum standards.

Unfortunately, and due to the intensity of participation in animal welfare matters, there is no time available to address environmental aspects. As the participants remarked, this topic can generate another interesting and profuse debate and for which it is necessary to have a time equivalent to a day due to the great nuances and aspects of the environment and livestock. Even so, the feeling of the group is satisfactory, thanks to the comprehensive participation of the experts and the consistency of the conclusions drawn. It is explained that also thanks to the possibility of participating openly in this debate, they feel part of the initiative, generally conveying their gratitude and satisfaction for being able to participate in a plural debate of great importance.

ROOM 2.

Facilitator: Manuel Lainez

Note-taker: Daniel Hernández

Introduction

The debate begins with the presentation of the participants. Among them, people of different sexes, ages, areas of origin, organizations, and professions. All of them related to the Spanish food system, including producers, food industry, consumers, academia, professional service providers and administrations, both in the field of public health, animal health and the environment.

The facilitator proposes to start talking about sustainability, and in the case of having more time, to address animal welfare. In this way it is complemented by what was debated in another room dedicated to the same topics.

To organize participation, it is suggested to start the contributions from the most global to the most local, trying to take into consideration the general objective pursued by the dialogues: feeding the citizens of the world in the coming decades. However, comments come spontaneously.

The vision of the sustainability concept

The debate begins by talking about sustainability, immediately emerging the statement that sustainable is what is “sustained over time.” This statement is based on the need to give continuity to the food production activity, to guarantee the supply of food destined for a growing world population. Achieving this supply requires that producers receive a fair income, that working conditions make the activity of food production attractive to new generations and, at the same time, that the availability of natural resources is guaranteed over time. Therefore, sustainability is a balance between economic, environmental, and social aspects.

In this context, it is noted that food production causes an impact on the environment, consuming natural resources. In fact, all human activities have an impact on the environment. Likewise, a reference is made to the impact that energy generation and transportation are causing. However, it must be borne in mind that food is necessary for the survival of humanity. For this reason, we have to move towards a system in which we make sustainable use of the resources we use to obtain food.

The increase in population necessarily implies an increase in the demand for protein by all consumers. On the other hand, in 2050, only 10% of the land will be usable. To meet the needs, it is necessary to improve the efficiency of production processes, although comments related to the need to intensify the use of natural resources arose. For this reason, it is suggested to introduce elements to monitor the sustainability of food production systems, agreeing to use indicators. These indicators must be applied to the entire economic system, and in all countries, regardless of the effort required of each one based on their level of development.

Greenhouse gases and food production

The need to address climate change and its relationship with food production is raised, concluding that the fight against greenhouse gases is a global battle that affects all economies equally. For this reason, thresholds of demand must be established throughout the world. Food systems must try to reduce their emissions throughout the chain and improve the sustainability of their processes in order to contribute to the mitigation of climate change.

The participants propose to recognize the need for the food system, at a global level, to make a significant effort to reduce its contribution to greenhouse gases, which was estimated at a third of the total, although revising the figure according to the FAO data (2017), it would be around a quarter. In that same speech,

reference is made to the importance of taking into account that efforts to achieve the objective must come from the entire chain; sustainability is a task for all the agents that intervene throughout the entire chain. The presence of a number of participants related to livestock farming leads the debate from food production systems to livestock production systems, and specifically to the evolution that we have experienced in recent years, and how this evolution can be projected into the future. These are some ideas that have emerged in this area: the most efficient production systems are those that are maintained over time. The pork production in Spain is given as an example. At the time of Spain's entry into the European Union, more than 35 years ago, analysts considered that the ruminant sector, especially sheep, had a promising future. On the other hand, in the opinion of those same experts, the Spanish pork sector would be displaced by the great powers of the moment. However, after time we see that the situation is precisely the opposite: the livestock sectors that have grown and expanded are those that have achieved greater efficiency in their production processes, while the rest have been declining.

- In the future we will advance along the same path. The production process must be efficient, with less consumption of resources and less environmental impact. The production models that progress in both lines will be the ones that will be imposed and consolidated. Specifically, in livestock, it will be monogastric that will gain more space in the supply of this protein. The reason given is based on the fact that its meat production processes are more efficient than in other sectors. This efficiency will be a determining factor in future evolution.
- Consumer perception will also be essential: the system will be sustainable if the consumer perceives that production models are based on a set of ethical principles in which sustainability and animal welfare are key.
- Animal welfare is an important part of food production systems in the future: improving welfare will affect the efficiency of the process and therefore its sustainability.

A comment is made in this context on the importance of food systems to promote the health and full development of food consumers in the world. In this aim, meat has played an essential role and must continue to contribute to it.

The environmental policies of the European Union

Policies developed in the European Union have a great impact on European food systems. Environmental requirements in the European Union are much higher than in other territories around the globe. This implies a continuous pressure on producers, from whom controls that imply a cost are required, which are not required outside the borders. The different tools available to use in different markets are discussed, as well as the withdrawal of many products within the borders of the EU, compared to the possibility of using them outside. Reference is also made to the need to assess and mitigate environmental impacts on our production systems.

The European Green Deal is a very ambitious proposal that will put the EU at the forefront of the fight against climate change. The food system, and especially the producers, will be affected by the lines defined in the "Farm to Fork Strategy". The attendees do not criticize the general objectives of these policies, although they do express complaints in relation to the treatment of meat in the documents, especially when it is compared with other foods, and specifically those of plant origin.

They demand public support and financial aid for the development and implementation of new technologies that facilitate the achievement of the proposed objectives. Without this support from the administrations, it will not be possible to advance on the path of sustainability in food production with the dynamism and ambition proposed by the European Commission, and the need for the European Union to establish the general framework of sustainability in the legal field. The current production model has a water footprint, a carbon footprint, and other impacts. To reduce these impacts, we must create a new economic and legal framework that, in our case, must come from Europe.

The role of technology

The role of technology is considered as a tool to facilitate sustainability in food production. It seems clear that technological development, its application in production systems and awareness of the entire value chain of food production can be the tool to make climate neutrality possible in 2050, as reflected in the objectives of the European Green Deal. This section outlines three areas in which it is necessary to develop technologies: the reduction of greenhouse gases, the reuse and efficient use of water, and the development of the circular economy. The discussion on these issues focuses on pork production.

The reduction of greenhouse gases is one of the objectives in which the entire value chain of pork production must be involved. The work of each one of the links counts when reaching the objective. Reference is made to three main elements through which progress can be made towards climate neutrality in pork production: animal feed, the use of alternative raw materials and energy efficiency.

The comments related to animal feeding refer to the efficiency in the use of resources by animals with improved genetic characteristics for this purpose. It is used as an example of the advances that have been observed in recent years in this field and the possibility of continuing in that line. The possibilities opened by the use of alternative raw materials to those currently used in livestock production are also discussed.

The development of the circular economy in livestock production will also have many possibilities in the coming years. Reference is made to the use of manure and the search for alternatives for the use of by-products of animal origin in general, and carcasses in particular. Regarding manure, a remark is made about the opportunity that arises with the promotion of the use of organic fertilizers to replace those of inorganic origin. The need to use in their entirety, as an organic amendment, all the compounds present in the waste from pig farms, with special attention to nitrogen and phosphorus, is clear. About by-products and carcasses, a reference is made to the search for technologies to reuse those resources that are currently being lost.

In the line of circular economy, specific mention is made of the possibility of using by-products as raw material for animal feed in general, and for swine, in particular. In rural areas, in the agricultural production process, many by-products are generated that can be put in value by livestock. These are resources that are not used for human consumption, so they are not competitive with human beings. It is an option that must be valued, and technologies developed for that particular objective.

Technology and gender in livestock farms

A consideration is made in which gender and technology are related. The introduction of technologies in food production, especially in livestock farms, is promoting the incorporation of women in these tasks. In recent years, the presence of women in livestock farms has increased, both in ownership and management and in daily work, as a result of the mechanization of certain activities.

Technology is also contributing to the awareness of producers on the need to improve efficiency and sustainability in production processes. With this awareness, and knowing that farmers are specialists in their work and are committed to the continuous improvement of the system, it will be possible to advance towards the achievement of the objectives of the food system.

The comprehensive approach to sustainability and the rural environment

There is a clear need to promote a comprehensive approach to sustainability, simultaneously considering environmental, economic, and social aspects, especially in rural areas.

Several examples are presented of the importance of livestock activity in maintaining the population in rural territories, especially in those most threatened by depopulation, in the development of economic activity

in rural areas, the preservation of ecosystems and the maintenance of biodiversity. The examples come from the personal experiences, in their own municipalities of residence, of some of the participants in the room. The case of a town is exposed in which the only economic activities of the municipality were food production (agriculture and livestock) and tourism, insisting that the services provided to tourism can only be maintained, in low season, due to the demand associated to primary activity and, especially, to livestock. There are also some examples of the work of cleaning and clearing the forest by extensive livestock, which contributes to the prevention of fires, which are a very important source of greenhouse gas emissions, which are too often forgotten.

The conclusion is clear: “The agricultural and livestock sector settles population. That is why we are a very important sector from the economic and social point of view in most of the Spanish territory”. In addition, the population that remains or settles in this rural environment is increasingly technical. In terms of intensive livestock farming, this technology allows a more humane and inclusive work, in which women represent an increasingly important percentage in livestock facilities. And, in addition, it is essential for rural life. The environmental responsibility required from each of the sectors must be proportional to the importance they have in preserving the environment.

In this context, it is insisted on requesting the recognition of the agricultural and livestock sector as protector and keeper of the rural environment. For this reason, the activity must be protected to guarantee the conservation of people, territories, landscapes and ecosystems. This is the foundation of our sustainable, inclusive, balanced and resilient food system.

The livestock-meat food system plays an important role as protector and keeper of the rural environment and should be recognized as such.

Information to the consumer

After putting on the discussion table the weight of food production systems, especially livestock production and meat production, and its social and environmental importance in rural areas, in addition to the need to protect it, the position of consumers is discussed.

The different opinions expressed in the room agree that society is not knowledgeable about food production activities, and much less about livestock production systems. Until a few decades ago there was a closer connection between urban and rural areas, through family ties, tourism, or visits. However, in recent years there is a gap that has widened over time. People who live in urban centers, and even some in rural municipalities, are unaware of the activities and jobs that are carried out on the farms, as well as the behavior of the people.

Several comments arise related to the need for some content to be included within the general educational system so that all children and young people learn something about food production systems, both of plant and animal origin.

The need for the productive sectors themselves to make known what is done on agricultural and livestock farms, how food is produced and how that food reaches the table of consumers is also recognized. In this aspect, the sector is asked to show consumers, and society, the effort that is being carried out in matters such as sustainability, animal management, and associated animal welfare. There seems to be an important consensus on the idea that we do not make enough communication to publicize our production model.

A special reference is made to the European model of animal production, based on the pillars of quality and food safety, animal welfare, reduction of impacts and productive efficiency. A participant considers that this will be the model that will survive in the future because it responds to the demand. The need to communicate to the consumer and society the virtues of this model, in addition to the usefulness of our meat production systems, both in terms of food and rural development, arises again.

Animal Welfare

Although the issue is not directly addressed, different comments are made in this area, which we summarize below:

- Producers consider that the sensitization of the producer sector in relation to animal welfare is essential in the productive systems.
- Specific mention is made of the effort made by pig farms to certify their production process in terms of animal welfare.
- Various scientific opinions are provided regarding animal welfare: the positive and constant evolution that is being observed, the technologies, etc.
- Comments are made related to the perspective that people often have on animal welfare. We think of it from our own experience, but we do not realize that the experience of animals is not the same as ours. We have many ways, direct and indirect, of evaluating animal welfare. Many times, the technical indexes show us how animals are in terms of health or welfare. This is an issue that should be taken into consideration.
- The European model of animal production is emphasized. In addition, special mention is made that products of animal origin from third countries that are marketed in the EU should comply in the same way with the demanding European production standards in terms of animal welfare, so that a fair and unitary and respectful market is established putting in value the efforts of the European producers.

Other ideas that have come up in the room

- The need to raise awareness and educate society on food waste, as a strategy to improve the efficiency of food systems is discussed.
- Participants talk about meat and its importance in the global food system. Specifically, reference was made to the following aspects:
 - Meat has been part of the diet of a good part of humanity, which has made us develop and evolve to be what we are today. For this reason, the livestock-meat production is a fundamental and irreplaceable pillar of the global set of the World Food System.
 - Fresh pork meat is a complete product that, without any transformation, reaches the consumer's table. It is a food produced efficiently and in sustainable conditions and made available to the consumers around the world. Its nutritional value and its contribution to a balanced diet make it indispensable in the future configuration of global food systems.
 - Consumers in developing countries are increasing their demand for protein of animal origin, as their income levels increase. This trend will continue regardless of what we think in developed countries. In Europe in general, and in Spain in particular, we have a meat production system, based on food safety and animal welfare, which is becoming more sustainable and efficient every day, with the capacity to continue supplying meat to the consumers that demand it.

Ending

Different opinions and visions of sustainability are discussed in the room, with politeness and cordiality. All attendees participate several times, and all opinions are heard without entering into discussions that lead to potential confrontations.

Participants thank INTERPORC for organizing the Dialogue.

Summary conclusions:

1. Sustainability implies maintaining an activity over time.
2. All human activities generate impacts on the environment, such as transportation. Tackling climate change is a global challenge, to which food systems must contribute. Food systems must try to reduce their emissions throughout the chain and improve the sustainability of their processes to contribute to climate change mitigation.
3. The livestock-meat activity is necessary for the whole of society which demands products of animal origin.
4. The European Union is the area whose regulations include the highest environmental requirements. Those requirements and demands must be accompanied by support measures and financial aid for the implementation of new technologies, which allow for a very significant reduction in GHG emissions: the efficiency technologies of raw materials, the improvement of water consumption and the use of products that are generated on farms as a tool for soil fertilization. The development of new technologies will still allow us to continue advancing in this line.
5. The “Sustainability of Agrifood Systems” must be analyzed and valued under a Comprehensive Approach (environmental, social and economic). Examples are given of the importance of livestock activity in maintaining the population, in the development of the economic activity in rural areas, the preservation of ecosystems and the maintenance of biodiversity. In line with the development of technology, this condition facilitates the inclusion of women in the livestock sector, having a relevant importance nowadays.
6. The need to communicate to the consumer the way and conditions of production is highlighted, so that the consumer knows the effort that the sector is making in sustainability and in animal welfare. To achieve this goal, it is necessary to educate consumers globally in the activities carried out by sector on food waste.
7. We have a vision of the European consumer, and from a global food perspective, it is necessary to consider the orientations and demands at a global level that want to access all types of food, including meat. The livestock-meat sector is advancing in the field of climate neutrality with investments in the energy field, in the field of food efficiency, using products as fertilizers and developing precision livestock farming.

• NUTRITION AND SUSTAINABLE DIETS IN HUMAN FOOD

Room 3.

Facilitator: Daniel de Miguel

Note-taker: Ángela Liarte

Starting from the following preliminary idea:

A healthy diet should include a sufficient amount of protein, which can be of both plant and animal origin. Each type has different benefits, and both can be part of a balanced diet. Recently, the consumption of animal matter has been called into question due to various reasons, but at the same time there are many trends that are in favor of a balanced diet in both animal and vegetable protein.

Is a balanced diet possible without meat?

What are the benefits of meat in the diet? What is the recommended consumption of meat within a balanced diet?

There is significant misinformation through the SM. Is there a lack of objective, balanced and science-based messages?

How do we convey to the consumer the importance of a balanced diet that contains all types of nutrients?

You cannot do without meat. There are studies that prove that meat is essential in human development, 10% of muscle mass would be lost without meat. The consumption of meat is very important to maintain an adequate human development.

It is not possible to exclude meat from your diet, obviously it is important to eat a balanced diet. This aspect must be defended.

If meat is replaced by alternative proteins, we could be promoting the production of other proteins in other parts of the world to the detriment of our country.

From a nutritional point of view, the essential amino acids provided by meat are essential for development. Regarding sustainability, in a world in which livestock were eliminated, what environmental impact would the change to an exclusively vegetable production have?

We must talk about territories, it is true and real that we must reduce meat consumption in developed countries, but in other poorer territories, it would not be advisable to reduce meat consumption.

Food waste in the entire food chain is a concern, we have to work hard on it.

Young people should focus their nutrition on a responsible consumption, adapted to the needs of humans, making a balanced diet. You cannot turn a deaf ear to those who think otherwise.

It is necessary to convey that the meat is produced ensuring food safety, and it is necessary to ensure that the meat sector reports sufficiently on this, so that the population is well informed.

There is a lot of misinformation, and social media are key in spreading that misinformation.

It is necessary to create a tool that provides reliable and scientific information to consumers. Why are agriculture and livestock different from other sectors? Why does the European Parliament debate whether

a food product is approved or not? Why is science not trusted? Science is not debatable, society must trust and give authority to science.

Public institutions must reinforce the opinion of science, the opinion of science is what has to be valid. One has to believe in science.

There are other issues that are not debated when supported by scientific issues; however, these are debated in our sector.

In many cases, however, we see that science can be bought.

There is no article linking meat consumption to cancer. The article itself refers to many other things, ways of life, etc. Therefore, communication does not work well.

Why are vegans against meat consumers?

The ideal diet consists of consuming everything one needs, in a varied and balanced way.

Society makes decisions about whether or not to consume meat, not only because of a nutritional issue, but because it is influenced by many other factors, such as animal welfare, sustainability, which in the end generate a lot of confusion.

Various sources believe that if the objectives of the Green Deal are followed, more imbalances may be generated in other areas of the planet.

Meat and meat products are basic ingredients of the Mediterranean Diet, one of the most recommended in the world, and thanks to it, Spain has positioned itself as the healthiest country in the world according to the Bloomberg Index, the one with the longest life expectancy according to the University of Washington and The Lancet, and with a rate well below the average in cancer incidence according to the OECD.

The meat sector has the opportunity. The term “substitution” for meat must be replaced by “reduction” in consumption.

The intensive system must be favored. An efficient intensive animal nutrition system will achieve better access to food for more population. It would be convenient to use the term “breeding” instead of “production”.

The opinion of young people is fundamental, they must be convinced that the consumption of meat is necessary for their development, due to its positive nutritional properties (source of proteins of high biological value, it provides essential minerals such as iron, potassium, phosphorus and zinc, vitamins of B group) and many cuts are low in fat.

It is essential to continue with the work farms digitalization, to make the raising of animals more efficient, the efficient use of resources ... what is known as “precision livestock farming”, to make the sector more attractive to young people. Many vegan and anti-meat companies and groups try to denigrate livestock. The terms of the sector and their legal meat names (hamburgers, steaks ...) should not be used for other sectors that are not meat. It is in the hands of the sector to achieve it...

Access to food at affordable prices by different population groups is a factor that must be taken into account

...

Do the foods that make up the diets change with the economic development? How will food demands evolve globally in the coming decades?

What should be the global concerns to respond to these changes?

Producers must guarantee the sustainability of their farms, which is why it is necessary to offer appealing products for the consumer.

It does not go against other disadvantaged countries.

It must be conveyed that all the products are of quality and healthy. Premium products too, we agree, but these are specific market demands, an alternative option.

What can be the contribution of the Spanish meat sector, and pork in particular?

During the pandemic, it has been shown that in a difficult situation the sector has been able to maintain the level of production and ensure supply throughout the entire value chain, to continue feeding the entire Spanish society. A clear example of “resilience”.

In Spain we are very well prepared for any type of demand, and we have already become the largest exporter of pork to China, with the modernization that this entails.

The meat sector, and in particular the pork sector, must report with transparency and truthfulness and not allow any given youtuber to have an incorrect opinion and influence.

In relation to the composition of a balanced diet, one of the participants states that there are certain diseases or pathologies that do need animal protein, since she, for example, is very allergic to a multitude of vegetables. Therefore, the balanced diet must consider animal and vegetable protein, both are compatible.

Sustainability is not just the environment; it is all factors.

No food should be demonized. A chorizo has meat and fat. But there are sausages with little fat and less salt, the sector must continue working on that and know how to transmit it to the consumer and society in general. Interesting initiatives are being carried out from the meat industry to produce healthier products, with less fat, less salt and less sugar...

Local production versus global food systems? Can both coexist?

Local products consume less energy, and they also arrive fresh, but production in other more distant places should not be neglected, because they can be more sustainable than those produced in proximity. Work is needed in both issues as they are not contrary between them, but compatible concepts.

Summary conclusions:

It turns out to be an enriching, calm and close debate, with participants of different roles and knowledges, which allow them to make interesting contributions in many subjects. As a result, the following useful conclusions are drawn:

1. The importance of world food systems as instruments to fight hunger and severe malnutrition in the world is highlighted, and therefore, it is considered that it would be meaningless or unjustified to replace food systems in whole or partially, such as the livestock-meat one, which has a very wide global presence and a maximal and proven capacity as a supplier of abundant foods with high nutritional and safe potential.

2. Regarding the nutritional point of view, the participants emphasize that foods of animal origin are a very rich source, unique in some cases, of several (essential) micronutrients and bioactive compounds and their restriction without a regular and constant supplementation. can lead to health problems. There is no sense in trying to substitute proteins of animal origin for alternative proteins such as artificial synthetic ones that are obtained in the laboratory.
3. Meat and meat derivatives fit into a balanced diet alongside other foods and cannot be eliminated due to their nutritional properties, based on responsible consumption.
4. The Mediterranean Diet is valued as a guarantee of balanced food and nutrition, based on the combination and rational consumption of vegetables, animals, natural and local foods.
5. The opinion of science must count. There is numerous scientific evidence that support the need of meat nutrients for an adequate nutrition and proper development and health.
6. It is essential to connect especially with the young public to transmit truthfully and transparently information about the livestock-meat chain, so they can make decisions consequently, with sufficient knowledge.
7. The growing concern about food waste is manifested and shared, requiring a global education of the consumer in this regard.
8. The adaptation and resilience of the agri-food and livestock sector throughout the entire chain during the difficult moments of the COVID-19 pandemic is highlighted, ensuring the maintenance of the supply chain.

Room 4.

Facilitator: Miguel Huerta

Note-taker: Ana Luisa Rubio

A very interesting debate takes place, as a result of the knowledge of the participants.

Summary conclusions:

1. Participants agree that the diet changes with economic development. But always for the better. It is necessary to avoid the overconsumption of certain foods, such as products of animal origin, as a sign of social status.
2. There is a concern about messages without scientific basis, and fake news, which distort diets and discourage the consumption of meat. And in the face of this, education and training are needed urgently. And adequate information and less fake news.
3. Importance of livestock, on which 1.3 billion people live and 600 million of the poorest households have livestock breeding as a mean of economic development and food.
4. Meat and animal products are valued. We are omnivores, and the importance of meat in child development and in the quality of food is highlighted. Talking about a varied and balanced diet, and not about specific foods, is the important matter. Nothing is left over; no food must disappear (although we have a fiber deficit).
5. Less fight (about whether to limit foods, whether they are good or bad) and debate more. Confrontation does not help to find solutions.
6. Attention to the effects of the pandemic, which has brought a major economic crisis, with the risk of prioritizing cheap food over a balanced diet.
7. Attention is drawn on the effects of the pandemic, which has brought a major economic crisis, with the risk of prioritizing cheap food over a balanced diet.
8. Debate on the WHO report, regretting how unclear (somehow “rude”) it is, and how it is used to combat the consumption of meat.
9. NutriScore. Discrepancies. Concern for its impact on diet, although its role in helping consumers to choose products from the same range is defended. The scientific endorsement of certain NutriScore criteria should be strengthened.

• ECONOMIC-SOCIAL IMPACT OF LIVESTOCK ACTIVITY IN THE TERRITORIES

ROOM 5

Facilitator: Cristina Marí

Note-taker: Xinting Yao

The room is made up of farmers, university professors, representatives of agricultural organizations, European meat organizations, and of the public administration (regional and national), who debate in an open and participatory manner.

The session begins by indicating to all members that all opinions have the same value, regardless of who pronounces them, and the application of the Chatham House Rule is recalled, by which no statement is personally attributable. The five principles of the Summit, according to which the session takes place, are also recalled: promote trust, be respectful; act urgently, recognize complexity, complement the work of others, and take an inclusive multi-stakeholder approach.

The debate revolves around how livestock activity impacts rural areas.

First, as an initial consideration thought, the attendees indicate that sustainability is a very broad concept. No society is sustainable if its lands or its villages are abandoned, if employment is not generated in rural areas and if the territory is not managed properly. And neither is it sustainable without food sovereignty. In other words, without farmers and breeders there is no sustainable model.

The agri-food sector in general and the livestock-meat sector in particular is an engine of wealth and employment in rural areas, where it mainly carries out its activity. The fight against depopulation would not be possible without agricultural and livestock activities, which also manage most of the territory and offer a future to hundreds of thousands of families in small rural areas.

The participants agree that the pork sector generates wealth and settles the population to rural areas. The example of Castilla y León is cited, the largest Autonomous Community in Spain, with 2.5 million inhabitants and a very high rurality index (a very big territory and a small population), in which livestock is essential to maintain its villages. In addition, since the pork sector exports a large part of its production, it must hold very high production standards to export.

It is also commented that the use of the term “empty Spain” or “emptied Spain” is not respectful of the population of these areas, so the terms “depopulated Spain” or “sparsely populated” are preferable and would be more appropriate.

The pork sector has great positive potentialities: it settles population, and livestock suits very well unpopulated areas. Animals have to eat every day, therefore, livestock does not relocate. However, it also faces social contestation, due to problems such as soil and water contamination. These criticisms often come from an urban perspective, from ignorance of the reality of the sector and the advances that are being made, or from erroneous beliefs such as that animals are not well treated, or from the existence of “macro-farms”, which in Spain are prohibited by law since 2000. The sector faces several challenges: environmental ones, changes in consumption patterns (vegans, laboratory meat). For this reason, it is essential to work in communication, to convey to society the firm commitment of the pork sector to sustainability and the environment.

Any human activity generates positive and negative impacts, and the pork sector is no exception. In the case of livestock activity, in addition to the obvious positive impacts, work must continue to minimize the negative ones (manure, odors, GHG emissions, etc.). Huge strides have already been made on this. The next regulations (Royal Decree for Land Management, Farm to Fork Strategy ...) will set the standards. Several of

the challenges to come are in health, planning, or territory integration. There are also large imbalances in Spain in areas with a high concentration of farms, and others where concentration is low. The pork sector is well prepared to face these challenges, and the regulations that will come, and achieve a neutral climate impact in 2050.

The rural world and the urban world are separated, although because of COVID-19 it has been noted that several people from the cities want to go to the countryside. However, it must be borne in mind that there should not be an urbanization of towns, the countryside must continue to carry out activities typical of the countryside, such as agriculture and livestock. The countryside cannot live from the people of the city, who continue doing the same activities that they did in the city but working remotely.

Another problem that is pointed out is the shortage of qualified labor in the sector and generational replacement. We need to get young people to stay in the countryside

Farmers are subject to increasingly restrictive regulations, which make it difficult to set up farms and for the sector to grow. Often, much more restrictive demands are applied to the sector than to other productive sectors.

It must be conveyed to public opinion that the livestock-meat sector takes wonderful care of animals and produces a high-quality product. The sector is very competitive, and it does an impeccable job. It is prepared to assume what the new regulations establish and be increasingly sustainable.

Spain is a country with a clear agricultural and livestock vocation, and with growth potential (unlike other countries).

Livestock contributes to the management of the territory and livestock areas.

The pork sector has more than 86,000 farms and 3,000 pork meat industries, which implies stability in the economy and employment for thousands of towns throughout the Spanish geography in which a good part of the more than 450,000 jobs generated by the Spanish pork sector are concentrated -direct, indirect, and induced jobs.

The pork sector is an economic engine of emptied Spain. More than 43% of our 80,000 farms are located in municipalities with fewer than 5,000 inhabitants and it is in these towns that we generate wealth and employment.

3.5 out of every 10 direct jobs generated by the pork sector are in the least inhabited localities, and it is in those towns where it creates infrastructure and where it makes investments worth more than 1.2 billion euros.

The pork sector generates a gross added value of more than 21 billion euros and contributes to creating wealth and employment in thousands of towns in rural areas, where most of the activity is concentrated. In Spain there are more than 3,000 meat industries: 70.8% of these companies, and 72% of their derived employment, are located in areas considered rural.

To quantify the contributions of the livestock sector at the European level, one of the participants indicates that, in 2017, the value of livestock products in the EU-28 was 170 billion euros. And this represents 40% of the total agricultural activity.

In general terms, livestock directly employs 6 million people on 5.7 million farms. In addition, the livestock activity supports the work of 30 million people in 10.5 million businesses and related activities (technicians, veterinarians, feed suppliers, analysis laboratories, transporters, machinery, etc.)

Agriculture, including the livestock sector, is essential for the economic development of the European Union. Livestock is an economic activity that can be affected by several factors in a very complex and unexpected way, where the reaction time does not correspond to the urgency of the contingencies, since the life cycles of the animals cannot be altered.

Animal diseases, droughts, crop pests, wars, public health emergencies, changes in demand for animal products, volatility in feed or currency prices and various other factors can cause an imbalance in animal production and its transformation in the industry.

The economics of animal products does not escape the law of supply and demand, but when an unexpected problem appears and demand falls, farmers need an escape route for their products or their animals. Cattle cannot wait for the storm to subside. Livestock needs to be fed while the animals are not producing and, furthermore, they lose their value.

Outside of the European Union, the demand for animal protein is increasing in some countries, but there are additional challenges in areas like the northern part of Africa: the need to build a herd and the lack of cold capacity. These countries need to import live animals for breeding and slaughter. The demand in these countries also has a seasonal factor according to religious traditions. In addition, the practices used by the countries allow them to maintain their economies, for example, the slaughter of animals in third countries allows them to give value to the so-called 5th quarter (offal).

This demand can be the sustenance of a European livestock sector that constantly lives in a fragile economic equilibrium.

There is a contradiction between the need to feed 60-70% more population in 2050 according to the FAO, and the Green Deal and the Farm to Fork Strategy (F2F) which establish that it is necessary to reduce the livestock population.

The pork sector faces great challenges, but it is aware of this and wants to be part of the solution. Scientific knowledge must also be applied in communication with false sources that seek to discredit the sector. Truthful information and applying a critical spirit are needed.

Livestock allows rural development in low populated Spain, helps control fires, contributes to the creation of the Spain brand (with products under Designation of Origin or Traditional Specialties), is essential in rural development, and contributes to the genetic wealth with the maintenance of indigenous breeds.

To face the challenges, it is necessary to take advantage of new technologies: application of manure and efficiency of resources to reduce pollution. Work in the sector must be attractive for young people, among other things, ensuring good salaries and good manner for employees.

There is no doubt that the pork sector creates wealth in the rural world and fixes the population (much of the employment it creates is among young people and women).

It produces a noble, natural and bio-assimilable protein, and has the ability to create more wealth.

Room 6.

Facilitator: Antonio Jové

Note-taker: Lola Beltrán

These are the four main conclusions of the room:

1. The livestock-meat sector chain itself is the one that must strive to reduce the distance between rural and urban world. For the first time in its history, the urban population is larger than the rural one. Most of today's citizens are born in cities and have not had contact with the rural environment, its dynamics and ways of behaving. Therefore, today it is essential to effectively communicate what we do and what we contribute to today's predominantly urban society. We must communicate in a simple and transparent way the good agricultural-livestock practices that have been responsible for the guaranteed food supply during this global pandemic. The principle of food sovereignty so criticized by large economic groups now acquires its true strategic importance. Can anyone imagine a country that in the middle of a pandemic had to depend exclusively on foreign trade to feed its citizens?
2. Our great challenge is to reach the consumer and society in an understandable and reasonable way. Consequently, we need a greater professionalization of the entire sector and at all levels. We must learn new ways of communicating to connect with all stakeholders. It is necessary to have qualified communication and marketing professionals, seek a balance between rational information and emotional communication, as well as support ourselves in levers such as advances in sustainability or animal welfare, without forgetting the positive and essential impact that livestock-meat production has for the local communities.
3. We must intensify communication towards society to reinforce the image of the livestock-meat sector in the face of public opinion, to which we need to convey the work we carry out in matters such as caring for the environment, animal welfare or innovation, among other aspects that concern citizens. But we also need the support of the administration when it comes to telling our reality, with a regulatory framework that defends what we do when it is legal and beneficial for society. The aforementioned administration should provide us with defense tools against interest groups that, through disinformation, seek to discredit us with a merely economic purpose.
4. The new information technologies open up immense opportunities for the livestock-meat sector to disseminate its real work and all that it contributes to society; but at the same time, these new channels facilitate the rapid spread of fake news, false myths or interested disinformation, procedures that must be fought against using adequate information and communication tools that allow generating and keeping updated a correct and complete knowledge of the livestock-meat sector and its products. It is not enough for us to do our work in an excellent way, we must learn to communicate it to society as a whole and of course defend it within legality and transparency.

- **Communication**

Room 7.

Facilitator: Lucho Galán

Note-taker: Rose Mary Acedo

The debate begins with the presentation of the participants, being people of different sexes, ages, geographical areas - within Spain - as well as profiles and professional experiences. Thus, both experts in the field of communication and managers and professionals of agri-food companies, NGOs, consumer associations or experts in international markets participate in the debate, with the aim of addressing the future of food systems communication from different points of view.

The facilitator explains to the participants the aim set for the Room's debate, which is to contribute with ideas to improve communication around food systems with a medium and long term view - both in two or three years and in the next decades-. He asks for ideas that allow the livestock-meat sector in particular and the agri-food sector in general, to be more effective when it comes to addressing each of its interest groups and society to make them aware of their contributions.

The facilitator states that to encourage the free expression of ideas, the discussion is held under the Chatham House Rule, so that the participants can use the information received without revealing the identity or affiliation of the speakers or any other participant.

It is highlighted the good disposition of all the participants who participate in a very active way and contribute with interesting ideas throughout the conversation.

Start of the debate

The current situation of the agricultural and livestock sector is exposed in the communication theme at the beginning of the debate. It is pointed out that exercising its activity mainly in rural areas has represented a geographical barrier in its relationship with national opinion leaders and with the media that influence public opinion, which are concentrated in large population centers.

To this we must add that each generation is somewhat less linked to the countryside, with the added ignorance that this entails of the agricultural and livestock reality.

Historically, this physical barrier has been linked by a cultural and psychological barrier since the sector has dedicated itself to working in an appropriate way but has not made sufficient efforts to maintain a continuous and fluid relationship with the media.

This gap of ignorance has been leveraged by environmental groups or animalists, predominantly urban in nature, very critical of agricultural and livestock activity or directly opposed to livestock, who try to impose a partial and biased vision of food production, in which the progress made, especially within the EU and the most advanced countries, towards sustainable production respectful of animal welfare, is not recognized.

For this reason, the participants agree that it is very important for the sector itself to be able to offer truthful and verified information on everything that affects the livestock-meat chain and that contributes to making its reality known to society and establishing a constant dialogue with citizens.

Communication towards society and different interest groups

The debate addresses the communication process of the agricultural and livestock sectors in different areas. Thus, we begin by talking about communication towards society in general, and aspects are analyzed

such as whether the sector makes the necessary efforts to make the reality of the sector well known; what are the barriers that we must overcome in order to better communicate with society in general and with young people in particular; how to fight fake news or biased information about the sector; if it is possible to bring the reality of livestock activity closer to the population and put an end to this disconnection between rural-city mentalities; how the participants consider that urban society perceives the agricultural and livestock sector; if new information technologies can help the sector to communicate more efficiently; the opportunities and threats of communication in social networks and in the digital sphere; or the main improvements in communication for 2030.

Regarding communication about meat products, it is agreed that there is misinformation and few impartial, balanced and science-based messages. At that point, the importance of transmitting to the consumer the importance of a balanced diet that contains all types of nutrients is highlighted, it is recognized that the vast majority of the scientific community is favorable to the consumption of meat within a balanced diet and it is asked to focus meat on the debate with verified scientific evidence, and not to be based on more or less interested opinions.

The debate concludes by addressing the importance of communicating with the sector itself, in order to involve the different agents, companies and workers in dissemination tasks towards society and exposing the opportunities and threats for communication about the agricultural and livestock sectors in the next decade.

Summary conclusions:

The main conclusions reached are the following:

Work must be done to reduce the distance between the rural and urban world. We are witnessing an important generational change and many sectors of the population do not know well how to work in the agricultural and livestock sector. For this reason, it is essential today to effectively communicate what we do and what we contribute to society from an environmental, social and economic point of view.

The great challenge is to reach the consumer and society, and in order to do this we need greater professionalization because the sector has changed, but also communication and the way to connect with the public of interest have changed. Having qualified communication and marketing professionals, seeking a balance between rational information and emotional communication, or relying on levers such as advances in sustainability or animal welfare and with the positive impact on local communities are some necessary measures for the future.

Communication with society must be intensified to reinforce the image of the livestock-meat sector before public opinion, to which the work carried out in matters such as caring for the environment, animal welfare or innovation must be truthfully transmitted among other aspects that concern citizens. But we also need the support of the administration when it comes to telling our reality, with a regulatory framework that defends what we do when it is legal and beneficial for society.

The new information technologies open up immense opportunities for the livestock-meat sector to disseminate its real work and everything it contributes to society; but at the same time, these new channels facilitate the rapid spread of fake news, false myths or interested disinformation, procedures that must be fought against using adequate information and communication tools that allow generating and keeping updated a correct and complete knowledge of the livestock- meat sector and their products.

Room 8.**Facilitator: María Sánchez****Note-taker: Laura Alegre**

The main conclusions of the room are:

1. Work on transparency, messages, humanize the sector, transmitting the work it does, adapting to our interlocutor, the consumer does not necessarily need to know everything the sector does and how it does it so we need to explain it to them.
2. Use the scientific field, new technologies and the media to convey verified information. And train from schools to reduce the gap between the country and the city.
3. Act proactively working on those aspects that add value to the chain, employment, health, biodiversity, and not act only defensively. For this, the sector must know the channels and the rules of communication to capture the attention of consumers.
4. Natural does not necessarily mean perfect, working on messages and channels to counteract the growing “infantilization” of society.
5. Use the same standard to measure the sector that is used for other productive sectors, when transmitting messages.

4.4. Conclusions of the Dialogue

From the different debates held in this Dialogue organized by INTERPORC, and as a summary of the conclusions obtained in those debates, the following are highlighted:

1. Importance of the livestock-meat food system

The livestock-meat activity is an essential and inseparable part of food systems, both in developing and developed countries. Economic and social progress lead to a greater demand for food of animal origin. Our task and responsibility are to satisfy this demand efficiently and sustainably, ensuring that these foods are part of the diet and nutrition of all people in all territories of the world. Between 2020 and 2050, global food production must be increased by between 75% and 100% to supply a population that will have reached around 10 billion inhabitants. It is an extraordinarily important challenge facing the world food systems and especially the livestock-meat system whose fundamental mission will be to provide animal origin proteins of quality. In the specific case of meat, in the 2050 horizon, according to experts, demand will increase between 75% and 80%, which highlights the fundamental role of the livestock-meat system in providing animal origin protein.

2. Special responsibility of the European Union in supporting its sustainable food systems

The European Union already has very demanding regulations on environmental matters, as well as projects and initiatives to promote sustainable food systems. And in the future, these demands and initiatives will be intensified with a view to accelerating the achievement of the aims of the “European Green Deal” and the “Farm to Fork Strategy”. But greater requirements and demands must be accompanied by financial and fiscal measures that help the promotion of these sustainable food systems.

In addition to this leadership position in the fight against climate change, the European Union also has a serious responsibility to defend and support its traditional and powerful food systems, especially the livestock-meat system, on which it has relied to reach its current high levels of healthy nutrition, its current levels of wealth and prosperity, its high life expectancy and the well-being of its citizens; therefore the European Union must remain vigilant and watchful in the face of initiatives that under the makeup of “environmental sustainability” may be seeking other objectives aimed at food control in a market such as the European one with high purchasing power and which would entail very serious nutritional, economic, social and environmental consequences throughout Europe.

3. The concept or criterion of “integral sustainability” is a factor of competitiveness and differentiation

“Sustainability” understood in terms of its contribution to the survival of the planet, is an unwavering purpose and a basic requirement of any economic activity and any political and social approach; and it implies preservation over time and all kinds of circumstances. Therefore, sustainable food systems are required to make a decisive contribution to the fight against climate change.

Consumers are already getting used to perceive or better value those products that are respectful with the environment, asking for healthy and quality food at the same time; but this implies growing economic and social costs for all the links in the different food chains; therefore, environmental requirements must be made compatible with the “socio-economic sustainability” requirements, both for own productions and for those from third countries. The reality is that in order to achieve climate-neutral food systems in 2050, it will be essential that classic food systems (including the livestock-meat system) coexist with disruptive food production systems through innovation and technological development.

4. Importance of livestock-meat production as a basic instrument for the sustainability of rural areas

The livestock-meat production is not only a fundamental and irreplaceable base of the world food system, but also fulfills an important and essential function as a protector and keeper of the rural environment

and of the many models of biodiversity and natural and cultural heritages that exist in this environment, and especially as a brake on the depopulation of rural areas. 58% of European farms keep animals; and in Spain there are 436,000 cattle farms, of which 86,000 are pig farms. It is therefore an irreplaceable and extraordinarily widespread activity, implanted throughout the world that must be protected and encouraged. The livestock production keeps population in rural areas and also contributes to the absorption of CO₂, the increase in biodiversity, the circular economy and the recycling of waste and by-products. Therefore, the agri-food sector could be considered as the only economic sector which has not “escaped from the countryside”, remaining in it despite the enormous difficulties it has endured.

5. Top priority of animal welfare

The pork production model implemented in Spain and, in general, in the European Union as a whole, is the most advanced and demanding in the world, since European regulations require feeding and handling conditions specifically designed to guarantee optimal welfare and treatment of animals, both on farms and in transport, as well as in slaughter. Certifications such as the “Welfare Commitment Certified” seal from INTERPORC, implemented in certain European pork producing countries such as Spain, are of special relevance in this regard.

But it is evident that the maximization of animal welfare requirements entails additional costs that must be known, accepted and paid by consumers. For this reason, it is essential that they have adequate and sufficient knowledge and information on the work carried out by professionals in the field and livestock production, as well as their contribution to the sustainability of the rural environment and its environmental surroundings. It is important to make visible the progress of numerous farms in animal welfare and environmental efficiency, showing that in many cases intensive production is synonymous of integral sustainability.

6. Efficiency of food production systems

In all sustainable food systems, the achievement of maximum efficiency in production systems should be sought. For instance, the livestock-meat sector has carried out a significant increase in its efficiency in production models and its continued contribution to sustainability and animal welfare, recycling raw materials and their products, saving fertilizers and, above all, ensuring a low generation level of food waste, reducing the water and energy footprint, etc. Looking to the future, this is the way forward and to be strengthened, although this will require a powerful legal framework from the EU and its financial support. Only in this way, it will be possible to guarantee that by the 2050 horizon, food production will be climate neutral, the water footprint will have been reduced to the maximum and the full implementation of renewable energies will have been achieved. Many food systems such as the livestock-meat sector are already moving decisively towards these aims, but they need this fiscal and financial support as a “final and definitive push”.

7. Sustainable food systems have as their basic mission to contribute to the eradication of hunger and malnutrition throughout the world

According to a recent FAO report in 2020, 10% of the world’s population suffered from severe hunger and malnutrition, far from the SDGs set by the UN. The livestock-meat food system is a powerful instrument in the fight against hunger and malnutrition. Products of animal origin, and especially meat, are essential to feed human beings, from a very early age, and thereby meet their needs for physical and intellectual development. For this reason, the most reputable scientific societies at the international level advocate for a diet in which all foods and all the nutrients that they contribute to the human body have a balanced presence. And in almost all cases it is recognized that the excessive restriction in the consumption of meat or animal origin proteins can lead to serious health problems.

8. Importance of a healthy and balanced diet and nutrition

At present, there is a situation of obvious nutritional imbalance, so that 800 million malnourished people coexist with 2 billion people who are overweight or obese. Sustainable food systems must contribute to

avoiding this serious imbalance, for which they will have to provide food that allows a balanced nutrition model in all types of country and according to their development conditions. The livestock-meat production must be a decisive instrument for achieving this balanced nutrition, by providing economic and high nutritional value proteins, confirming the relationship between longer life expectancy and greater animal protein consumption. In any case, it is essential to support and promote a rational, comprehensive and responsible consumption, supported by optimal food safety.

It is evident that the “diet or nutrition model” is directly related to the economic development degree of a country or a group of consumers; and this logically can lead to serious imbalances in consumption, either by excess or by default. Therefore, it lacks rigor to refer to “more or less healthy foods” because the correct thing would be to refer to “more or less healthy or balanced diets”, in which there would be no room for the excesses or defects of any type of food or nutrient. Therefore, the definition of the degree of a nutritional balance of a diet is not debatable or negotiable, and can only be scientifically established by nutrition professionals and technicians. Neither can nutrition be the subject of speculation from different areas of investment or power, so that initiatives such as NUTRISCORE can generate significant misgivings and uncertainties among operators of numerous agri-food chains.

The huge volumes of “Food Waste” that are generated mainly in developed countries are not only an expression of the inefficiency of many food systems, but also highlight the “environmental unsustainability” of these, as well as the nutritional ineffectiveness of the food systems consumption. It is important to inform and convince the youngest consumers about the importance of a balanced and sustainable diet in the configuration of which a “zero food waste” is convincingly sought; and this will go through a powerful information and communication activity that dismantles false myths, false news or false “food influences” from undocumented people. In this context, it is worth highlighting the importance of the Mediterranean Diet as a food system capable of making all these requirements compatible. And it is equally important and necessary to point out that in a balanced diet and in a sustainable and healthy nutrition model it would not make sense or viability to try to replace animal origin natural proteins for artificial synthetic proteins obtained in the laboratory.

9. Determinants of a truly sustainable food system

The importance and necessity of producing “Sustainable Food” from the environmental point of view is undoubted; but also, that such foods are HEALTHY, AFFORDABLE, EQUITABLE AND RESILIENT, in a way that contributes to the health of consumers, are affordable in price and equitably available to them and are also “resilient” in a way that supports crisis of all kinds. Achieving compatibility with all of this will require the application of advanced technologies and, therefore, having the capacity to perform the necessary investments.

10. Global food chains and food sovereignty

The globalization of food systems has resulted in the configuration of global food chains, so that food and raw materials cross different borders in one way or another. For instance, 10% of all international trade corresponds to food and food raw materials; and similar considerations should be made in relation to the globalization of the marketing and physical distribution systems, especially in view of the growing implantation of megacities that have required profound transformations of the world’s logistics systems. In this context, the extraordinary importance of avoiding dangerous breakdowns in food chains or the generation of dependencies in supplies and logistics is highlighted; and this is equivalent to maintaining and protecting a sufficient degree of sovereignty in basic food systems such as the livestock-meat system, in anticipation of the appearance of crises of all kinds.

Therefore, food systems must guarantee countries food sovereignty. The society is not sustainable if its lands or its villages are abandoned, that is, if employment and wealth are not generated in rural areas and if

the territory is not managed properly. Without established and active farmers and breeders in the territory, there is no sustainable food model. And of course, neither is it sustainable without “food sovereignty.” The concept of “FOOD SOVEREIGNTY” has acquired special relevance because of the very serious health and socioeconomic impact of COVID-19; the same as the concept of “sectoral resilience”.

11. Socio-economic impact of livestock-meat production

The agri-food sector, in general, constitutes one of the main supports of the economy of any country; and specifically, the livestock-meat food system is one of the most important and powerful engines for generating employment and wealth in any world area, having reached in many of them a very broad and deep-rooted economic and social implantation, especially in rural areas in which represents an important instrument in the fight against depopulation. It is estimated that at this time many hundreds of millions of families around the world trust their economic and social survival to meat and livestock production. Therefore, it is unthinkable a model of society in which livestock is eliminated, so those responsible for promoting the search for solutions to eradicate hunger and poverty in the world must take into account at all times that, if the attempts to reduce all or part of the livestock-meat production in the world are accomplished, we would be witnessing to a real economic, social and environmental catastrophe.

12. Communication, information and crisis of “reputation” of livestock-meat production

The livestock-meat production has been facing continuous reputational crises and deterioration of its image in the face of public opinion and consumers for years, as a result of disinformation and smear campaigns promoted and financed from various fields, which has generated confusion among consumers and favored anti-meat eating attitudes without any scientific basis. For this reason, it is absolutely necessary and urgent that the livestock-meat food system transmits to society the mission it fulfills, the work it does, its food contribution to the consumers health and nutrition, as well as its efforts and achievements in matters of environment and animal welfare. The lack of adequate and sufficient information and communication towards urban society has led to a lack of knowledge of the livestock activity and paved the ground to the dissemination of myths, fake news or interested misinformation. That is why it is essential to have powerful INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION MECHANISMS FROM THE LIVESTOCK-MEAT SYSTEM.

It is evident that the models and formats of information and communication have been totally transformed, having now powerful information systems and innovative vehicles and communication technologies; and consumers and their information needs and perception of food and its attributes and characteristics have also changed and evolved very significantly. For this reason, the livestock-meat food system needs to evolve and adapt its information and communication methodologies and tools so that better and closer links or communication and contact paths are established between the rural world and the urban world. Optimizing the professionalization of information and communication represents a requirement of utmost importance and urgency to support the real sustainability of food systems in general and of the livestock-meat system in particular.

13. Future projection of food systems

How should food systems look like in the 2030/2050 horizon? To meet the UN’s SDG goals, food systems must be able to provide, in sufficient quantities to supply the entire world population, SUSTAINABLE, HEALTHY, AFFORDABLE AND RESILIENT food; and they must guarantee and certify optimal animal welfare. In addition, they must be perfectly known and valued by consumers and society in general, who will understand and value the importance of having sufficient food sovereignty without prejudice to operating in a globalized economy.

How do we have to act to achieve these models of food systems? It will be necessary to incorporate innovations, technologies and strong improvements in food chains, for which there must be financial and

fiscal support from administrations, especially from the European Union; and powerful information and communication systems will be necessary. And of course, all food systems in the 2030/2050 horizon must have incorporated all the aims and requirements contemplated in the European Green Deal, the Farm to Fork Strategy, the Biodiversity Strategy and the circular economy (specially to eradicate the generation of food waste).

It is evident that both the aims and typologies of food systems available in the 2030/2050 horizon, as well as the way to access them, will be very different depending on whether they refer to developed countries (with highly evolved concerns and objectives) or in developing countries whose priority will be the availability of sufficient, healthy and affordable food. But in all cases the basic purpose will be the same: to end hunger and malnutrition in the world, as set by the UN as the main SDG.

Thus, in the different discussion rooms of the Dialogue, the role that the livestock-meat chain plays in achieving sustainable food systems is valued in a positive and constructive way. The idea is to convey through facts, data and statistics the important work that the sector plays in achieving the UN Sustainable Development Goals.

The information of the INTERPORC Dialogue and the published conclusions are available on the UN Dialogues website: <https://summitdialogues.org/dialogue/13544/>



Mr. Manuel García, President of INTERPORC



Mr. Alberto Herranz, Director of INTERPORC



Mr. Juan Prieto, Counsellor of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food and Permanent Representative of Spain to the FAO



Mr. Javier Sierra, Counsellor of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food of the Permanent Mission of Spain to the United Nations Office and International Organizations in Geneva



Mr. Samuel Juárez, Special Advisor at the General Secretariat for Agriculture and Food of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food and Convenor of the National Dialogues in Spain



Event image

4.5. Closing of the Dialogue

• Presentation by Samuel Juárez

Special Advisor at the General Secretariat for Agriculture and Food of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food and Convenor of the National Dialogues in Spain

First of all, I would like to congratulate INTERPORC for two reasons: for having organized this dialogue and for the result, of course. For the organization, because I believe that it is a call from the Secretary General of the United Nations for society to contribute to a cause that he has placed at the top of the international political agenda, and you have responded accordingly. I believe that it is important that institutions are supported and taken into account, and I believe that, therefore, you, the livestock-meat sector, which is a fundamental branch and a very important branch from all points of view in agricultural production in our country, have responded accordingly and as expected.

I also believe that it has been a very, complete and very rewarding day in every way, because we have had, first of all, a presentation by Javier Sierra, who has perfectly contextualized the debate around the transformation of the food systems in the world. And I would like from this speech to highlight an issue that I think is very important, which is a matter of global perspective. That is, the solutions that we are trying to find may be different, depending on the different geographical areas, countries, regions, etc., but the objectives must be global, and we must never lose this perspective when formulating policies.

In the presentation by Juan Prieto, who has also explained very well what the Summit is, why it is being held, how it is organized, what results are expected, I think that what we have to extract as the most important, in my opinion, is that this Summit is going to put the debate on the transformation of food systems at the top of the international political agenda and that is something that will develop between now and the next few years, in my point of view, on a more and more intense manner.

The conclusions could not be more enriching and more interesting, and for that, also, I insist, I want to congratulate INTERPORC and all participants. And, also, because I believe that we have all had a dialogue and a discussion that considers the three elements that are basic in a discussion of this type, a discussion on a question as complex as transforming the way we produce and how we consume to make it more sustainable, healthier, and therefore serve much better the social and economic objectives of our society. That it is a discussion based on facts, that takes into account the interests and also the values. And let me explain: the facts many times in debates of this type are not sufficiently taken into account, but the facts are data, and data can be validated, normally by scientists and technicians, and should not be debatable. Many times, opinions are given on issues that should be taken for granted because they are endorsed by those who have authority, and which I insist, are the technicians and scientists. Therefore, I believe that the facts must be accepted. And, secondly, the interests. I believe that the interests are perfectly legitimate, the interests of each person and each group that participates in a discussion, but for the discussion to be honest, they must be transparent, and here, I believe that this premise has been perfectly met. And it is desirable that always, in a procedure of this type, all those who intervene and all those who participate are transparent regarding their interests. And finally, you also have to take into account the values. Values are also important - ethical, religious, moral, etc. - they are important, but it must be borne in mind that they are always subjective: respectable, but subjective. And, therefore, the values must also be placed in this type of discussion in their proper terms, and obviously, each one has its own. And therefore, I think that a very useful and very constructive discussion has taken place here, because these three elements have been taken into account. I hope that in the future developments of these discussions that we will have, and I am sure we will have many in the coming months and years, these three elements will also be taken into account, because I believe they are the ones that will allow us to move forward. Thanks a lot.

5. ABOUT INTERPORC

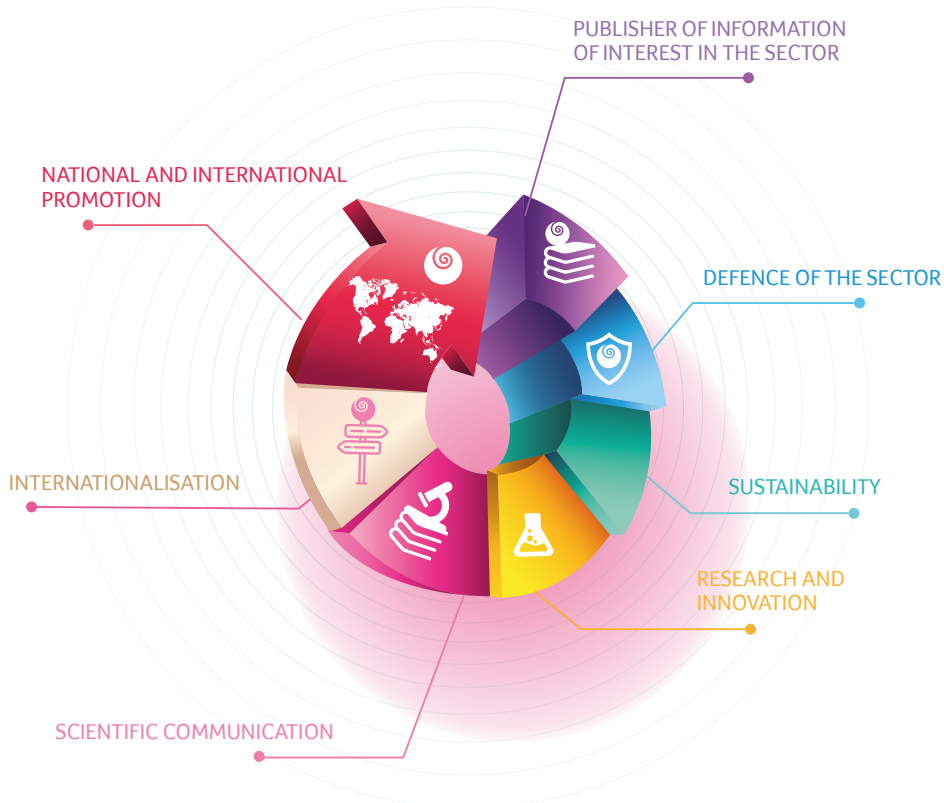


The Spanish Inter-professional Agri-Food Organization for White Pork (INTERPORC) is a non-profit entity representing all the activities in the white pork sector value chain: production, processing, and marketing. It is the most important Inter-professional organization of the meat sector given the volume of pork production in Spain.

GOALS

- Contribute to the economic development and cost effectiveness of the sector and support the internationalization process.
- Improve the perception of the meat and products prepared from white pork by imparting to consumers and health professionals information about its nutritional properties, its health advantages, and its high quality.
- Drive innovation and research applied to solving specific problems in the pork sector.
- Potentiate the image of the pork sector as an example of sustainable production.
- Share the concerns in the sector throughout the entire value chain.

MAIN ACTIVITIES



ASSOCIATIONS AND ORGANIZATIONS THAT ARE PART OF INTERPORC

PRODUCTION SECTOR



INDUSTRY SECTOR



6. ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

From INTERPORC we want to thank all those who have taken part in this Dialogue:

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To the Associations and Organizations of INTERPORC for their participation and involvement from the first moment.

And to each and every participant for sharing their vision to ensure that livestock continues to contribute to creating more sustainable, inclusive and resilient food systems.

Thank you all sincerely.

7. LINKS OF INTEREST

- Food Systems Summit Website: <https://www.un.org/en/food-systems-summit>
- Food Systems Summit Dialogues Website: <https://summitdialogues.org/>
- Link to INTERPORC Dialogue, published on the Dialogue's website: <https://summitdialogues.org/dialogue/13544/>
- INTERPORC: <https://interporc.com/>
- Animal Welfare Seal “Welfare Commitment Certified”: <https://www.bienestaranimalcertificado.com/animal-welfare-certified/>
- Transparentes, no invisibles (Transparent, not invisible): <https://transparentesnoinvisibles.es/>
- Let's Talk About Pork: <https://letstalkaboutepork.com/>
- European Livestock Voice: <https://meatthefacts.eu/>
- Livestock: On our plates or eating at our table? A new analysis of the feed/food debate: <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/abs/pii/S2211912416300013>
- Changes in the environmental impacts of pig production systems in Great Britain over the last 18 years: <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/abs/pii/S0308521X21000160>
- Livestock solutions for climate change: <https://summitdialogues.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/04/FAO-2020-ganaderia-como-mitigacion-del-cambio-climatico.pdf>
- Mitigation of greenhouse gas emissions in livestock production: <http://www.fao.org/3/i3288e/i3288e00.htm>



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