

**INTERSESSIONAL PANEL OF THE UNITED NATIONS COMMISSION
ON SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY FOR DEVELOPMENT (CSTD)**

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Contribution of Switzerland

to the CSTD 2016-17 priority theme on ‘The role of science, technology and innovation in
ensuring food security by 2030’

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We would like to stress that Switzerland considers the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development as an important framework to mainstream sustainability in all policies and practices, including in agriculture policy and farming. Related to food and agriculture, the SDGs call in particular, to achieve food security and better nutrition, to promote sustainable agriculture and to ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns by 2030.

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development calls for the right mix of policies and effective mechanisms to implement these policies. Capable and effective public and private institutions will be essential. But they will not be successful if acting alone.

Key to meet the targets set out in the 2030 Agenda will be strong partnerships. This means that we need to involve not only civil society, the private sector, academia and governments, but all stakeholders along the value chain.

We need to leverage international collaboration, networks and research, stimulate innovation, scale up current initiatives and design new solutions in an inclusive and participatory way. We think this requires pragmatic and practice-oriented approaches. We are convinced that promoting innovation, technology and science, but also education and extension are important driving forces in adapting to changing society needs.

The Swiss Federal Office for Agriculture FOAG is co-leading the 10YFP Sustainable Food Systems Programme, a multi-stakeholder initiative to accelerate the shift towards more sustainable food systems that deliver food security and nutrition for present and future generations. A major strength of the Programme is that it brings together existing initiatives and partnerships working in related areas, aiming to promote sustainability all along the food value chain.

As contact persons for the FOAG regarding this topic we may mention: Ms. Dominique Wolf dominique.wolf@blw.admin.ch and Mr. Patrick Mink patrick.mink@blw.admin.ch

In addition, we would also like to highlight the World Food System Center (WFSC) at the ETH Zurich, which promotes real-world solutions to tackle the challenges our food system faces, which require collaboration from global and local stakeholders across the entire food value chain. In order to do this, the WFSC supports multi- and transdisciplinary approaches to addressing these challenges through research, education, and outreach activities that contribute to sustainable food security. This includes also the future role of digital technologies and ICT in food systems.

Contact person for the WFSC: Mr. Michelle Grant (mgrant@ethz.ch), <http://www.worldfoodsystem.ethz.ch/people/executive-office/mgrant.html>