

Make no mistake. It's not money that makes us rich. It is the Earth's resources. Money is just a proxy for the Earth's resources. We have pictures of the Earth from space that clearly show us that the Earth's resources are finite. When we have used them, we will get no more. Sustainable development is a question both of ensuring the total human demand for the Earth's resources is maintained within the supply and of how we share those resources among what will soon be 9-10 billion people.

Agenda 2030 acknowledges that the Earth's resources are limited. The Agenda also brings all of the major challenges facing humanity into one framework: the SDGs. That they are in a single framework means it is NOT the individual boxes or goals that are in focus but, instead, the interactions between them!

For far too long, we believed and acted as if we can solve poverty and hunger challenges in isolation from the environmental challenges society faces but - precisely because it is environmental resources that are our true currency- these challenges are inextricably linked and cannot be dealt with in isolation.

Nowhere is this more apparent than when it comes to Goal #2 on hunger:

In the 2019 Global Sustainable Development Report we showed that

It will simply not be possible to provide nutritious food for the Earth's inhabitants in the middle of this century and achieve the SDGs associated with climate and biodiversity unless we at the same time reduce the environmental impact of the global food system.

Among other things, transformation of the global food system must include:

- A focus on empowering small-scale farmers in developing countries– and providing safety nets for these farmers who will increasingly be facing crop losses and failures due to climate change.
- Promotion of agroforestry and agroecology, where crops and trees are grown together and where agricultural practices mimic those of nature. By mimicking nature and growing several crops together, the need for pesticides and fertilizers can be reduced.
- Changes in global trade agreements will also be needed in order to give small scale farmers from developing countries equal access to the market.
- ALL countries have a responsibility when it comes to transforming the food system – and this requires new partnerships.

Of course, transforming our food system is a huge challenge but there is no alternative! Without the transformation, we will not be able to properly feed the global population or meet the climate and biodiversity goals of the SDGs. The food system we have today comes with enormous environmental costs and it cannot nutritionally feed the global population of today – let alone tomorrow. The good news is that we know what needs to be done and we have the technology to do it! The bad news is that time is short. So let's get going! There is no time to waste.