




A NEW VISION FOR AGRICULTURE

Meeting the rising demand for nutritious, affordable food as well as materials for fuel, clothing, housing and consumer products requires innovative, productive and sustainable food and agriculture systems.



Food and agriculture production systems provide people with nutrition and products they need to achieve a healthy, comfortable life. Food, clothing, shelter, fuel and consumer goods used every day are the result of complex agricultural production and supply systems.

Together we must commit to improving and transforming these food and agriculture systems to achieve a healthy population and a healthy planet. Improving agricultural sustainability requires multi-faceted, collaborative solutions involving consumers, producers, agribusinesses, transporters, processors, retailers and policymakers.



The 2018 GAP Report® describes a vision for a sustainable, healthy world where people thrive and the planet's resources are protected for generations to come.



PEOPLE will be able to easily access a variety of nutritious safe foods, including fruits, vegetables, protein and cereals. Their health improves through eating diverse diets along with fortified and biofortified foods and they have a greater understanding of how to achieve a healthy lifestyle. The products they purchase in stores or online will allow them to access science-based information on nutritional content as well as diverse production methods. Consumers will be able to trace products to learn more about the origin of key contents, ensure food safety and drive greater sustainable resource use.



RETAILERS of different types and scales offer consumers a variety of nutritious, safe affordable food. Technologies for traceability and supply management will reduce food waste and food-borne illness. Retailers will ensure unused foods are either used for feeding people or for clean energy or other productive use. Retailers and restaurants will provide customers with science-based information about nutrition and food content, contributing to healthy diets.



FOOD PROCESSORS AND PACKAGERS will incorporate nutritional concerns into the foods they produce by fortifying foods with essential micronutrients such as vitamin A, zinc and iron. They will use innovative packaging, including bioplastics and recycled content to reduce food loss while cutting the carbon-footprint and environmental impact of materials used. Processors and packagers will incorporate traceability technology for their products and enforce fair labor standards for their workers and those in their supply chains.

AGGREGATORS AND TRADERS

purchase agricultural products from farmers, ranchers, foresters and fishers and use efficient and renewable energy sources for cold chain transport. They store the raw products in energy-efficient warehouses before sending these products to processors. They enforce food safety standards and help move products from rural production zones closer to processing areas near urban markets and ensure food products are not spoiled or wasted during storage and transport.

Farmer cooperatives serve as aggregators and help smaller-scale farmers get a fair price for their crops and livestock as well as increase the quality of products. Cooperatives also help their farmer members access services such as training, improved seeds and fertilizers and lower prices for other inputs and machinery.

AGRICULTURAL SERVICE

PROVIDERS

are key components of a sustainable agri-food system. Government extension agents and private agricultural retail service providers share the latest advice and innovation technologies such as precision agriculture systems that boost productivity of crops, livestock, forests and fisheries and help reduce costs for growers while reducing the environmental impact of production. Veterinarians ensure animal well-being and health. Programs that certify professional qualifications are expanded to more agricultural retailers and are tailored for developing country markets. Advisory services ensure best practices on farms for stewardship of natural resources, sustainability and productivity. Service providers create software and data applications tailored for their farmer clients that help them grow more, use inputs precisely, waste less, and boost productivity while cutting costs.

FARMERS, RANCHERS, FORESTERS AND FISHERS

become successful agricultural producers, with stable incomes enabling them to create value for their families and communities. They are recognized as stewards of their soil, water and forest resources and provide nutritious and safe food for a growing and more discerning global population.

They seize opportunities to enhance their knowledge and business skills with education and support from government and the agri-food industry. They use modern technologies and science-based practices for crop and livestock production, aquaculture and forestry. They use new forms of media and technology to explain their business models to consumers and engage in conversation with their communities about the challenges and satisfying successes of producing safe, nutritious and affordable food.

FINANCIAL SERVICES AND RISK MANAGEMENT

PRODUCTS

help farmers and the agri-food system withstand external shocks such as weather and market challenges. New credit arrangements help all scales of growers and cooperatives obtain the finance needed to become successful entrepreneurs. Insurance products and commodity exchanges make agri-food industries less risky and are widely available for a broad range of crops and agricultural products.

GOVERNMENTS

and citizens establish agricultural policies and regulations to ensure human health and safety, protect the environment and animal welfare, and foster economic growth for consumer needs. Public policies and research, along with science-based regulatory systems advance innovations and shape the food and agriculture system, contributing to human health and the health of the planet.

SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE & FOOD SYSTEMS ARE

BUILT ON PRODUCTIVITY