


GLOBAL AGRICULTURAL SUSTAINABILITY IMPERATIVE

For our agricultural systems to be sustainable, they must meet the needs of present generations without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. This is **a systemic challenge**, encompassing environmental, economic, and social dimensions of sustainability. It is also **a global challenge**. The lives and livelihoods of everyone on the planet will be impacted by the choices we make, and we all have a role to play in achieving our sustainability goals. **The Global Agricultural Sustainability Imperative identifies key issues that must be addressed to achieve sustainable production of agricultural products that we eat, use, and enjoy.**

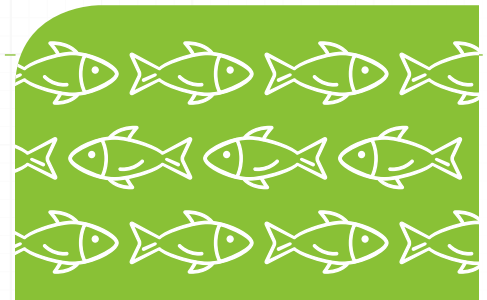
EAT



500+ million people depend on livestock for their livelihoods and 2/3 of livestock producers are women.⁹



At current milk yields, India would need to add **20 million** dairy cattle and buffalo over the next 10 years to meet rapidly rising domestic demand.¹⁰



Fish are a primary source of protein for more than 3 billion people and demand is rising.¹¹




China has already lost **350 million pigs** to African Swine Fever, nearly one-quarter of the global swine population.¹²




Fall armyworm has caused **\$3 billion (USD) in crop damage** in Africa and is rapidly spreading in Asia.¹³



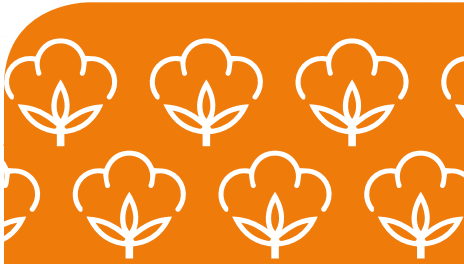
1/3 of food produced for human consumption – 1.3 billion tons – is lost or wasted annually.¹⁴



4.2 trillion gallons of irrigation water would be needed to produce the fruits and vegetables that Americans throw away every year.¹⁵



USE



Cotton production will increase by 16% during 2019-2028. Most of this increase will be generated by opening new land for production due to stagnant yields in high-producing countries.¹⁶



1/3 of the global population depends on forest products and services for income, employment, food, fuel, or medicine; 80% of annual forest loss is to make room for crop and grazing lands.¹⁷



Only **40%-60%** of the increased oilseed production (soy, rapeseed, sunflower, and groundnut) during the next 10 years will come from yield increases, as farmers put uncultivated land into production to meet demand.¹⁸

ENJOY



1.3 million hectares of land are used to produce cut flowers, ornamental plants, and bulbs. The global market for flowers and ornamental plants is projected to reach \$96 billion (USD) by 2021.¹⁹



In the U.S., dogs and cats consume as much dietary energy as 62 million Americans.²⁰ **Global demand for pet food is rising** as the population of domestic cats and dogs grows by 22% and 18% respectively (2018-2024).²¹



Recreational waterways can be contaminated by agricultural nutrient runoff. Nearly **800 coastal ecosystems** around the world are struggling with algae blooms, lack of oxygen, and other problems due to excess nutrients.²²

PRODUCTIVITY FOR SUSTAINABLE GROWTH

The Global Agricultural Sustainability Imperative does not lend itself to one-size-fits-all solutions, but there are proven strategies for meeting global demand in a sustainable way. The 2019 GAP Report demonstrates how agricultural producers, operating at all scales, use strategic combinations of technology, best practices and attention to ecosystem services to increase productivity and nurture sustainable growth.

