2021 IN SUMMARY

2021 presented major opportunities for putting food systems at the top of the global agenda – as well as major threats to inclusive decision-making. Like many other organizations, IPES-Food faced the challenge of navigating through the controversial process that culminated in September’s UN Food Systems Summit (UNFSS). COP26, in November, was another milestone moment for potentially transformative food system actions. These summits also came in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic, which continues to threaten global food security and make it increasingly challenging to convene, mobilize, and engage in debates.

Although these 2021 summits were ultimately missed opportunities for food systems reform, they helped to spark new collaborations, clarify the choices facing us, and forge readiness for the years ahead.

Over the course of the year, IPES-Food became increasingly visible in debates around the global governance of food systems, producing new types of outputs and engaging in new governance spaces.

But these summits also underlined the stranglehold of vested interests over global decision-making and the need for new strategies to counter them. In April, IPES-Food laid out a vision for how a highly collaborative civil society can reshape food systems over the coming quarter century, releasing its landmark ‘Long Food Movement’ report and engaging in dialogues with dozens of partners over the subsequent months. And in November, IPES-Food and partners launched the Glasgow Food & Climate Declaration at COP26, highlighting an alternative pathway for food systems reform and climate action, based on local action and change already happening on the ground.

THE YEAR IN HIGHLIGHTS

- IPES-Food’s July 2021 briefing note, ‘An IPCC for Food?’, was a central piece in the successful efforts of scientists and civil society to defend an inclusive science-policy interface for food systems in the face of attempts to use the UNFSS to fast-track scientific advice to policymakers via a new science panel.

- Panel members played a critical role in making agroecology one of the Summit's most visible solutions, getting 30+ governments to sign up to this reform pathway through an 'Agroecology Coalition', and ensuring that the coalition is independent from and able to live beyond the UNFSS process.
• IPES-Food & partners brought together 350+ organizations, and nearly 900 total signatories, around an ambitious ‘Call to action for food systems transformation’ rooted in the 13 principles of agroecology.

• The ‘Long Food Movement’ report, released in April 2021, mapped out a comprehensive vision of civil society-led food systems reform, sparked interest and endorsement from multiple civil society groups, and kicked off a series of dialogues with 20+ partners, including social movements, grassroots community organizations, funders' networks, French government officials, and a webinar bringing together members of the UK national security establishment and food security experts.

• IPES-Food was among the most vocal proponents of food systems reform as a climate solution, with the ‘Glasgow Food and Climate Declaration’ gaining the backing of 100+ sub-national authorities and featuring in several high-level COP26 discussions.

• Coalitions arising from IPES-Food’s regional work continued to defend ambitious food system policies in the EU and West Africa, with IPES-Food’s integrated food policy vision providing inspiration for the Nordic Council of Ministers, French deputies, Luxembourgish development officials, and a high-level UK policy audience.

• IPES-Food's work was cited in 530+ academic publications, and its leading role in channeling scientific advice to policymakers was recognized in articles for Nature and the Netherlands Environment Agency.

• Followers increased by an average of 61% across social media platforms relative to 2020. Coverage in top-tier media including Reuters (Int), LA Times (US), Le Monde (FR), Les Échos (FR), and the National Observer (CA).
ACTIVITIES, OUTPUTS & IMPACTS

In 2021, IPES-Food provided analysis and inputs into global debates in the following six areas:

1. DEFENDING INCLUSIVE GLOBAL GOVERNANCE OF FOOD SYSTEMS AT THE UN FOOD SYSTEMS SUMMIT AND BEYOND

Over 2021, IPES-Food provided thought leadership and critical insights on the UN Food Systems Summit (UNFSS) – from inside the process and ultimately from outside, following the decision of panel members to step down from Summit roles before July’s pre-Summit. Powerful statements published at key moments helped to bring to light issues around Summit governance and inclusiveness, to raise the profile of transformative solutions like agroecology (see point 2), to strengthen the hand of civil society groups mobilizing against the Summit, and to ward off what would have been one of the Summit’s damaging outcomes: the creation of a new science panel to fast-track scientific advice to policymakers, and the sidelining of existing inclusive mechanisms for bridging science and policy. IPES-Food has emerged from these experiences with renewed capacity and resolve to weigh into critical debates on the global governance of food systems over the coming years.

Activities, outputs, and impacts included:

- Publication of a briefing note (‘An IPCC for Food?’) and an open letter signed by 100+ independent scientists in the run-up to July pre-Summit helped prevent the creation of a new science panel to fast-track scientific advice to policymakers – and to reiterate the importance of an inclusive science-policy interface as embodied by the High Level Panel of Experts (HLPE) of the Committee on World Food Security (CFS). The briefing note was discussed on the FarmGate podcast, and cited in Nature journal and New Humanitarian.
• **Open letter** warning about Summit outcomes sent to the UN Secretary General by IPES-Food co-chair, O. De Schutter, the UN Special Rapporteur on the right to food, and the chairs of CFS and the HLPE.

• Shortcomings of Summit highlighted in op eds with IPES-Food members at key moments on the road to the Summit, including in IPS, Project Syndicate, and Reuters, as well as podcast interviews on the FFA Podcast, EurActiv podcast, African Climate Foundation podcast, and an IPES-hosted podcast conservation with HLPE Chair M. Cole.

• Widespread media coverage of IPES-Food's positioning on the Summit and reasons for leaving the process, including in New Humanitarian, Réussir (FR), SciDev, Quote Media, China Dialogue, Relief Web, Food Navigator, Grist, Scientific American, Democracy Now!, Equal Times, TMG Research, Food Tank, The Counter, a Growing Culture, and TBS News.

• IPES-Food's Summit positions & materials **widely taken up by civil society groups**, including in a compendium by US Right to Know campaign, a Summit wrap by Rosa Luxemburg Stiftung, and multiple social media posts.

• Research kick-started for a series of follow-up **briefing notes on the global governance of food systems**, covering issues like multi-stakeholderism and corporate capture; online seminar co-hosted on ‘Adopting Globally Coordinated Policy Guidance regarding Impacts of Covid-19 on Food Security and Nutrition’ in run-up to CFS47.
2. MAKING AGROECOLOGY A POLITICAL PRIORITY

"Addressing food systems challenges cannot be achieved by incremental improvements to the current industrial model."

The emergence of agroecology into the mainstream has made IPES-Food – as a long-time proponent of this model – a crucial interlocutor for civil society groups, governments, and businesses. In 2021, IPES-Food renewed its leadership on agroecology and redoubled efforts to secure commitments from governments to transform food systems based on agroecological principles. Most notably, IPES-Food worked with partners to develop and disseminate a ‘Call to action for food systems transformation’. With nearly 900 signatories, the Call brings governments and diverse organizations together around the 13 principles of agroecology – making it a powerful symbol of the growing consensus around the need to transform food systems. Activities, outputs, and impacts included:

- Starting at the Oxford Real Farming Conference in January 2021, a series of events & calls undertaken by IPES-Food, IFOAM, and Regeneration International to bring together the agroecology, organic & regenerative movements around core principles, and confront the risks of co-option and greenwashing.

- ‘Call to Action’ launched in July 2021 and signed by over 350 organizations and over 870 scientists & individuals, including WWF, Oxfam, IUCN, and ECOWAS.

- Inspired by the Call to Action & advocacy for agroecology by IPES-Food’s E. Frison in the context of the UNFSS: the emergence of an ambitious Agroecology Coalition with support from several governments; a letter sent to Summit leadership by 10 governments calling for agroecological transformation; and positive response to the Call to Action from the European Commission in correspondence with EU Environment Commissioner V. Sinkevičius.

- Governments encouraged to shift funds to agroecology through a presentation to the Global ODA Forum for Sustainable Agricultural Development, a dialogue with the French
Agriculture Ministry’s CGAAER Committee, and the authoring of a chapter on agroecology for the Belgian region of Wallonia’s climate platform (Plateforme wallonne pour le GIEC).

- **Top-tier media coverage** of IPES-Food members on the need for agroecological transformation, including in France’s *Le Monde* (relating to subsidy reform) and *Les Echos*, and Canada’s *National Observer*.

- Contributions to **strategic civil society discussion** around a paradigm shift to agroecology, including interventions by IPES-Food personnel at the *Oxford Real Farming Conference*, a CIDSE seminar on Agroecology: food system transformation from farm to plate, a ‘We Move’ event for youth activists & in a written compendium for *Welt Ohne Hunger*.

### 3. PUTTING FOOD ON THE AGENDA AT COP26: THE GLASGOW FOOD AND CLIMATE DECLARATION

Weighing into a climate COP for the first time in Glasgow (October 31–November 12), IPES-Food showcased the transformative actions occurring at the local level to make food a climate solution. Building on over a year of preparatory work, IPES-Food, Nourish Scotland, and partners presented the *Glasgow Food and Climate Declaration*, a commitment by 100+ subnational authorities to tackle the climate emergency through sustainable food policies. Following the Glasgow Declaration’s presentation at COP26, Honduras became its first national government signatory, paving the way for further federal-level endorsements over the coming year. IPES-Food also critiqued the weak pledges from Governments on food and agriculture, and their effective absence from the formal COP agenda. These steps laid
Honduras becomes the Glasgow Food & Climate Declaration’s first national signatory at COP26

the groundwork for further action in 2022 – with the Declaration remaining open for signature, and discussions already underway on how to put food and local solutions high on the climate agenda on the road to COP27. Activities, outputs, and impacts included:

- Over the course of 2021, IPES-Food built momentum around the Glasgow Declaration by hosting and participating in discussions at the Oxford Real Farming Conference, MUFPP 4th Africa Regional Forum & 7th Global Forum, EESC European Climate Pact Discussion, and the Global Landscapes Forum’s Climate Event Plenary.

- On the road to COP26, IPES-Food and its partners produced a 2-minute animated video and a series of 'food policy snapshots' or short case studies (also available in Spanish and French), and other digestible materials to explain why local action on food systems should be at the heart of our response to the climate crisis.

- The Declaration was unveiled at Glasgow City Chambers on November 6, in an event moderated by former UN Special Rapporteur on the right to food and City of Istanbul representative, Hilal Elver, and featuring Mayors and Deputy Mayors of the Declaration’s signatory cities, including from the Declaration’s host city, Glasgow, and the Government of Scotland.

- Through a number of events in the COP26 Blue Zone, Declaration partners and signatories highlighted what local authorities are doing to slash emissions and build just and sustainable food systems, including: a dialogue on multilevel action on food systems for a just transition co-hosted by IPES, Nourish Scotland, ICLEI, and the Scottish Government; and a dialogue on “Policy Coherence, Climate Finance Mobilization, and Collaborative Action for a Food Systems Transformation to Support Climate Goals” co-organized with Food System Economics Commission (FSEC), 100 Million Farmers, and the Cooperative Partnership for Climate-Smart Food and Forestry.

- The Glasgow Declaration was covered by various media outlets on the road to Glasgow and during COP26, including: Food Tank podcast, Farm Gate, Natural News Desk, Reuters, Food Tank, Forbes, Successful Farming, Canada’s National Observer, News.FR-24, and VoxEurop, as well as in COP roundups from ICLEI, IISD, and other partner organizations.
• Dozens of **signatory cities** showcased their food policies and reasons for signing the Glasgow Declaration on social media posts and in local media (see below).

• Responding to pledges from 45 governments to take action on sustainable food systems, a **statement** from IPES-Food **critiqued the failure of governments to depart from business as usual** and their continued investment in false solutions. IPES-Food’s response and panel members’ calls for food to be higher on the climate agenda were covered in *The Bulletin, National Observer, the FERN’s Ag insider,* and *Mother Jones.*

---

**4. THE LONG FOOD MOVEMENT: A LANDMARK REPORT AND THE START OF A COLLABORATIVE JOURNEY**

In April 2021, following two years of research and consultation, IPES-Food and ETC Group released ‘**A Long Food Movement: transforming food systems by 2045**’. This landmark report maps out what food systems could look like by 2045 if (agri)business-as-usual is allowed to run its course, but it also imagines what could happen if, instead, the initiative is reclaimed by civil society and social movements – with new levels of forward planning and unprecedented collaboration across sectors, scales, and strategic differences. The Long Food Movement vision struck a chord with grassroots organizations, social movements, and NGOs alike, and has been widely shared over 2021 through social media posts, blogs, and podcasts. The report has duly sparked strategic reflections across food movements and started laying the foundations for enhanced civil society collaborations in the coming years. Activities, outputs, and impacts included:
• In the first three weeks following the launch, **record number of unique page views** generated on IPES-Food website, and higher social media engagement than any previous report, including:

![Twitter](https://via.placeholder.com/150)

199,800 impressions
1.2% engagement rate
738 likes | 382 retweets

![LinkedIn](https://via.placeholder.com/150)

5,923 impressions
133 new followers

![Facebook](https://via.placeholder.com/150)

5,413 impressions
11.4% engagement rate
68 new page likes

**Suite of products** made available on launch day and over the course of the year, including a new-look report format with dedicated illustrations, executive summaries and full report available in 3 languages, FAQs, and an animated video in English, French, and Spanish.

• **Report shared and endorsed by dozens of civil society organizations** on social media, as well as being featured on CSO websites and portals, including Slow Food, IUF, Third World Network, Sustain, Agroecology Europe, Global Agriculture (the IAASTD portal), and India Environment Portal. The report was also taken up in a WWF report and cited on the FAO Agroecology Database.

• **Long Food Movement vision discussed in detail in op eds** on Common Dreams (1000+ views), Desinformémonos, Mongabay, and IPS, also in Spanish, and reprinted in Financial Express (Bangladesh), The Sun Daily (Myanmar), and DeWereld Morgen (Belgium); in a feature for a Soil health and food security report; in **podcast interviews** for Eat for the Planet,
Geoff Tansey’s Blog, and Global Political Economy News; and in a livestreamed ‘Table Debate’ between report lead Pat Mooney and Charles Godfray (300+ registered participants), and ‘exchange of letters’ (forthcoming).

- Specialized media coverage in various world regions, including in-depth pieces in Thin Ink, Geneva Solutions, and Arc2020, as well as pieces in Euractiv, Food Navigator, CounterPunch, Down to Earth, KBC (Kenya), Table Debates, the Modern Farmer, Sillon Belge, Heidi, Crónica (Mexico), ALA (L. America), Brasil do fato, in addition to Portuguese, Catalan, and Russian outlets.

- Report findings presented to French Government officials in an event convened by the agricultural ministry’s CGAAER committee, and in a Food and Global Security Network event bringing together food security experts and members of the UK national security establishment.

- Dialogue initiated with 20+ organizations and networks through introductory webinars on the Long Food Movement with: Agroecology Fund, AFSA, Right Livelihood Foundation, Framtiden ‘Future in our hands’ coalition, Norway, Global Alliance for the Future of Food, World Localization Day webinar on ‘corporate control to local regeneration’, Canadian Food Policy Working Group, FSPG – Canadian Food Security Policy Group, Food Communities Network Canada, CAWR Coventry, Spain’s Foro Anual de Soberanía Alimentaria, Feminismos y Defensa del Territorio, the Instituto de Antropología de México, and Third World Network; webinars also planned for early 2022 with IUF, Focus on the Global South, the CSM, and La Via Campesina.
5. STRENGTHENING ALLIANCES FOR FOOD POLICY REFORM

Over 2021, IPES-Food deepened its engagement in regional food policy advocacy & alliance-building. In Europe, IPES-Food’s ‘Common Food Policy’ vision – now taken forward by the 60-strong EU Food Policy Coalition (EUFPC) – continued to underpin efforts to ensure that the EU adopts an ambitious Farm2Fork Strategy, and to inspire policy reform visions in various EU member states and beyond. Meanwhile, the Alliance for Agroecology in West Africa (3AO) further cemented its role as a key regional player, as well as becoming a fully autonomous and self-funded organization. In 2021, IPES-Food also held its second food policy convening in the US and started scoping for collaboration opportunities in Latin America. Activities, outputs, and impacts included:

- Lessons from IPES-Food’s integrated food policy approaches shared with a high-level UK policy audience at the Westminster Food & Nutrition Forum policy conference, and showcased in a compendium of 'food policy innovations' for the Nordic Council of Ministers.

- Common Food Policy presented to French parliamentarians as they launched a working group on food sovereignty, to Luxembourgish policymakers in a conference co-organized by the country’s Council for Sustainable Development, in a keynote to GFGF/Birdlife’s 'Green Farming Now' event, and at a trade unions workshop on the Farm2Fork Strategy.

- Sustained advocacy for ambitious and integrated food policy via the EUFPC, including successful efforts to defend an ambitious EU Farm2Fork Strategy in the face of intensive industry lobbying of MEPs; contributions from IPES-Food to general strategy & through media interventions, with Common Food Policy vision continuing to underpin Coalition briefings on the Farm2Fork Strategy.

- IPES-Food’s analysis drawn on and cited in EUFPC position papers on agroecology and food environments.
• Ongoing participation in the 3AO steering committee and support for the creation of a now autonomous and independently-funded 3AO secretariat.


• Following a kick-off discussion in September 2020, 40 US food systems actors reconvened in March 2021 to explore US food policy collaborations. While future work is pending, IPES-Food panel members continued to intervene in US food policy reform debates and build capacity and relationships for potential future partnerships.

6. WEIGHING IN ON THE ‘POLITICS OF PROTEIN’

Over 2021, IPES-Food has become an increasingly vocal and credible voice within debates on meat and protein, thereby positioning itself for the launch of its report on this topic (due Q1 2022). With intensive research and review undertaken through 2019-2021, IPES-Food’s upcoming report seeks to provide clarity on the many contested claims made within livestock and protein debates. Through the year, IPES-Food has engaged more broadly in debates around diet shifts, retail environments, and the agri-food industry. Activities, outputs, and impacts included:

- Early insights from IPES-Food’s research on meat/protein shared in a journal article in Frontiers in Sustainable Food Systems, and in media interventions in LA Times, Civil Eats, and Wicked Leeks.

- IPES-Food’s emerging views on the ‘politics of protein’ presented for discussion at an EU Food Policy Coalition exchange session on cultivated meat and seafood.
UPTAKE OF IPES-FOOD’S WORK IN MEDIA, SOCIAL MEDIA, AND SCIENTIFIC PUBLICATIONS

IPES-Food has continued to improve its online presence throughout the year thanks to a consistent and enhanced social media presence on Twitter, Facebook, YouTube and LinkedIn, regular newsletter updates to our 8k subscribers, and frequent publication of op-eds and press releases. Products were also systematically translated into English, French, and Spanish, ensuring a broader regional spread of media and civil society uptake.

Over 2021, IPES-Food attained the following media & social media impacts:

- **Twitter followers** +27% relative to 2020, with a total of 11.2K followers by year’s end, and continued growth on IPES-Food’s new French and Spanish Twitter accounts.
- **Facebook followers** +78% relative to 2020, with a total of 2.5K followers by year’s end.
- **LinkedIn followers** +77% relative to 2020, with a total of 1.3K followers by year’s end.
- More than 2K views across all platforms of animated video on food and climate within 3 days of launch (November 2021); more than 30K accumulated views for animated video on agroecology since its release (June 2020), soon to be released in Mongolian by the FAO Representative Office in Mongolia.
- Expanded and diversified media coverage, including repeat coverage in top-tier global outlets and national newspapers (Reuters, Le Monde, Les Échos), first-time coverage in a number of major outlets (LA Times, National Observer) & regular exposure in specialized media & podcasts (IPS, Euractiv, Civil Eats, Food Tank, Table Debates, Thin Ink, FarmGate).

IPES-Food also achieved unprecedented visibility with scientific, academic, and policy audiences:

- **532 citations of IPES-Food’s work in academic publications**, up from 400 citations in 2020, including pieces in Agriculture & Human Values, Agroecology & Sustainable Food Systems, Development, Food Policy, Global Food Security, the Journal of Rural Studies,
the Journal of Agriculture, Food Systems & Community Development, the Journal of Agricultural Sustainability, and The Lancet. IPES-food’s analytical framework for understanding food systems challenges was also used in scientific publications including in Global Sustainability and Rethinking Food and Agriculture.

- Over 2021, IPES-Food’s role as a leading ‘science-policy interface’ was recognized in articles for the Netherlands Environment Agency (PBL Netherlands) and the Nature journal by members of an EU High Level Expert Group. IPES-Food’s work was also cited in an EU SCAR report, in the reading list for a CBD event, and among the key agroecology materials identified by DEVEX.

- IPES-Food was solicited to provide expert insight to inform the UNSR on Human Rights and Environment’s report on environmental impacts of global food systems on human rights; to participate in the European Environment and Sustainable Development Advisory Councils’ webinar series on planetary health; to continue serving on the advisory committee of the UN 10YFP Sustainable Food Systems Programme; and to join the FAO Family Farming Knowledge Platform (information database run by FAO).

- IPES-Food continued to reach out to and work with the next generation of food systems researchers and advocates through presentations to the Slow Food YOUTH network, journalist fellows from the Climate Action Tracker network, and students at the Universities of Antwerp, SciencesPo Paris, and ICHEC Brussels, amongst others. In 2021, the Glasgow Food & Climate Declaration was supported through research and outreach activities by Masters students of the LBJ School of Public Affairs at the University of Texas at Austin and the TSM Masters Programme at the University of Lille.