

Alliance2015 Advocacy Messages to G7 and EU agricultural leaders at the launch of the 2017 Global Hunger Index

1. Implementing nutrition-sensitive agriculture policies that recognise – and intentionally respond to – the needs of the most vulnerable (whose number often includes a high percentage of smallholder farmers themselves) has become an urgent issue to address and prevent hunger and malnutrition. Developing rural areas and improving nutrition outcomes over the long term creates economic and livelihood opportunities, especially for young people, and builds diverse forms of resilience.

Alliance2015 recommendation: Prioritise the integration and implementation of human rights-based, nutrition-sensitive agricultural policies that aim at improving the nutritional status of the most vulnerable.

2. GHI findings validate the strong evidence base already pointing to the need for a fundamental transformation of agricultural practices and food systems. Diversification of agricultural production has beneficial environmental outcomes as it builds and revitalises agricultural biodiversity (agrobiodiversity), contributing to more resilient production systems. It also benefits health outcomes as it increases the supply of nutrient-rich foods.

Alliance2015 recommendation: Lead a fundamental transformation of food and agricultural production systems from the current focus on the large-scale production of a limited range of staple crops towards inclusive, context-adapted diversification.

3. Small-scale farmers, and local, small and micro agri-businesses – a large proportion of whom are women – produce over half of the food consumed globally, and hold the key to tackling hunger and protecting environmental diversity in many countries and contexts. Their rights and productive potential are insufficiently realized because their activities lack adequate and sustained public investment.

Alliance2015 recommendation: Substantially increase the investment in smallholders and local, small and micro agri-businesses to combat hunger and malnutrition.

4. The power and potential of large agri-businesses to operate at scale is clear. However our understanding of how their actions impact on malnutrition, hunger and markets at local and national level is less well-evidenced; as is our knowledge of how well they adhere to key principles such as the [Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure](#) and 'do no harm'.

Alliance2015 recommendation: Invest in understanding better the role, risks and opportunities of large agri-business operations in sustainably addressing hunger and malnutrition, and create and enforce the necessary legal and governance infrastructure to ensure such businesses can be held accountable.

5. The EU's implementation of the [2014 Action Plan on Nutrition](#) has shown its capacity to deliver on commitments and its readiness to back solutions that work. The kind of systemic changes called for by the 2017 GHI require a scale up of this leadership. The EU has solid policies built on long experience and learning in rural development which show how to make and promote intelligent links between sustainable livelihoods, community resilience and climate change mitigation with a strong focus on gender and youth issues. More rapid implementation of these is needed to meaningfully address and prevent hunger and malnutrition.

Alliance2015 recommendation: Strengthen and scale up EU global leadership on nutrition – politically, technically and financially.

