

# A Global Coalition for Digital Food Systems Innovation

**About:** We are a coalition of public, private, and non-profit organizations committed to responsible digital innovation in food systems.

The Innovation Lever - Data & Digital Working Group of the 2021 UN Food Systems Summit (UNFSS) will leverage its momentum through a Global Coalition for Digital Food Systems Innovation which unites public, private, and non-profit organizations committed to responsible digital innovation in food systems.

Initially, the Global Coalition will support an open and inclusive data and digital ecosystem created by three delivery platforms:

- [Digital Data Cornucopia](#) as a common resource-efficient data infrastructure - *this initiative brings together a Consortium of organizations to co-develop a common resource-efficient data infrastructure to facilitate data use and sharing for food systems analysis.*
- [Future of Food Marketplace](#) as a model for efficient, interactive and climate-smart markets - *this initiative develops and supports transparent, inclusive digital pathways and sustainable models enabling farmers and consumers to build more efficient, climate smart markets for nutritious food.*
- [One Map](#) which generates public good data assets - *this initiative develops data agency and consent management mechanisms linking small agrifood businesses, policy makers, and digital service providers to generate foundational data and analytic assets for digital food systems innovation and interoperability from individual to global scales.*

The coalition's membership will expand to deepen and diversify its ecosystem footprint and to harness synergies with aligned platforms and initiatives, ensuring data and digital technologies are used to their fullest potential to drive public good climate, biodiversity, nutrition, and development outcomes through food systems transformation. It will also mobilize collective action in digital innovation in food systems to meet the needs of regional, national and local communities, in alignment with global mechanisms (e.g. UNFCCC, UNCBD, UNCBD, N4G).

**Why a coalition for digital food systems innovation? We believe data and digital innovations are fundamental to transforming the food system into a future state that is universally accessible, sustainable and resilient.**

The global food system intersects with multiple challenges facing humanity including climate change, environmental degradation, biodiversity loss, nutritional insecurity, and social inequities.

To address these challenges effectively, we believe that we must overcome fragmentation within and across sectors to act in a transdisciplinary fashion, bringing together the natural and social sciences with data and technology to drive food systems towards more favourable potential futures for humanity and the planet. It is a matter of urgency.

**How will the Coalition advance its goals? The Coalition will commit to a shared vision and guiding principles for data and digital innovation in service of food systems transformation.**

The coalition will commit to ethical action, agile governance, and collaborative learning through a shared vision and guiding principles which will reflect the following:

**1. Build an inclusive digital revolution :** We recognize inequities in access and use of data and digital innovations and we strive to understand and design for human needs, fostering solutions and partnerships that reflect the diversity and complexity of food systems.

**2. Foster data agency and responsible sharing :** We support the agency of data owners to share data, at all levels across the system while supporting the responsible use of data to unlock broader insights and drive accountability to sustainability goals.

**3. Be force multipliers :** We seek to collaborate across sectors, disciplines, and alliances, supporting a diversity of data and digital solutions to address the needs of the many food systems in the world.

**4. Iterate and share learnings :** We are biased towards action; we share data, evidence, and knowledge as we iterate to come to the best solutions.

**5. Innovate responsibly :** We are stewards of data and technologies that may impact billions of people. We commit and recommit regularly to ethical action, agile governance, and collaborative learning.

### Coalition Composition

Initially the Coalition will comprise members of the Innovation Lever - Data & Digital Working Group that have committed to join the Coalition as founding members. At the time of submission to the UNFSS Commitment Register this includes: Digital Green; CGIAR Platform for Big Data in Agriculture; GEOGLAM; Mineral at X; Google; Hewlett Packard Enterprise; Consumers International; FAO; World Bank; Mercy Corps; Bayer Foundation; World Economic Forum.

Additionally, the following organizations will be noted as having endorsed the Coalition Principles at the time of submission to the UNFSS Commitment Register: VARDA [YARA].

### Launch & Roadmap

The Innovation Lever - Data & Digital Working Group will meet approx. 2 weeks following UNFSS to finalize the initial membership, timing and online presence for the formal launch of the Coalition. The launch will be communicated through UNFSS and Coalition member channels with a call for like-minded organizations to:

- express an interest in joining the Coalition
- endorse the Coalition Principles by communicating aligned initiatives (using a simple uptake form on the Coalition's website)
- subscribe to receive notifications regarding the Coalitions progress

Within approx. 2-3 months following UNFSS, the Coalition founding members will use a consultative and inclusive process to elaborate the Coalition's shared vision, governance, roadmap and activities. Its immediate priority will be to act as a force multiplier in digital innovation in agri-food systems transformation, and to ensure synergies with climate and biodiversity related initiatives in the lead up to COP 26 and COP 15.