



## INSIGHTS SUMMARY

# TAKING A FARMER-CENTRIC APPROACH TO BOOST GLOBAL FOOD SECURITY

GLOBAL GOALS / FIRESIDE CHAT / 20 SEPT 2023

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We would like to thank the following speakers:

**Michelle Grogg**, Vice President, Corporate Responsibility and Sustainable Development, **Cargill**

**Cesar Galaviz**, Rancher, Farmer and Agronomist, **Río Fuerte Sur**

**Interviewer:** Katie Hyson, Director of Thought Leadership, **Business Fights Poverty**

***As the global community grapples with ensuring food security in the face of ever-mounting challenges, there's an imperative need to place farmers at the epicentre of strategic solutions. Together, we must ensure we focus on both food security and farmer livelihoods.***

Grounded in on-the-field experiences, farmers' invaluable perspectives offer the key to untangling the intricacies of food production and distribution, whilst experiences from outside of the agriculture sector can help navigate unprecedented projected system shocks.

### **INSIGHT 1: PRIORITISE FARMERS IN DECISION-MAKING PROCESSES**

The terrain of global food production is marred by overarching challenges like climate change, water scarcity, and geopolitical dynamics. Amidst this volatile backdrop, farmers remain the ultimate custodians of the land, having firsthand knowledge of cultivation and its tribulations. Consequently, their perspectives are not mere opinions but distilled expertise. To co-design effective solutions, it is crucial to integrate their voices into decision-making platforms, ensuring they're not just heard but are instrumental in shaping policies and practices.

### **INSIGHT 2: COLLABORATE BEYOND TRADITIONAL BOUNDARIES**

The intertwined challenges of food security and enhanced farmer livelihoods necessitate solutions that often lie outside the traditional agricultural paradigm. The sheer complexity of these issues underscores the importance of interdisciplinary collaboration. To ensure a sustainable and secure food future, stakeholders from varied sectors must converge, share insights and collectively drive innovative strategies. This isn't just about agriculture specialists; it's about technologists, policymakers,

***Make sure that farmers are at the table so that we can hear and we can really listen to what they think is needed. They're the experts, and we are here to work alongside them.***

**Michelle Grogg, Vice President, Corporate Responsibility and Sustainable Development, Cargill**

***This is the time to act and adapt to a new way of producing food. We need to be more sustainable and also friendly with the environment. But if we don't do something right now, it can be too late for the future, for tomorrow.***

**Cesar Galaviz, Rancher, Farmer and Agronomist,  
Río Fuerte Sur**

environmentalists and others uniting with a common goal. By reaching outside traditional silos, we stand a better chance of devising robust, adaptable solutions that address root causes and not just symptoms.

### **INSIGHT 3: CHAMPION FARMER-SUPPORTIVE POLICIES**

Transitioning to sustainable agricultural practices is no longer a lofty goal but an imperative. However, this transition demands a systemic shift in practices, techniques and even mindsets. Such shifts can be disruptive and challenging, especially for the farmers who bear the immediate brunt. Therefore, public and private sectors must jointly advocate for policies that not only incentivise sustainable practices but also support farmers through the transition.

Whether it's through technological training, financial incentives or infrastructural support, the goal should be to smooth the path towards a sustainable agricultural future, ensuring farmers aren't left behind.

### **IN SUMMARY**

As the quest for global food security gains urgency, a farmer-centric approach emerges not as an option but as a necessity. It's a collective call to action for a more collaborative, inclusive, and supportive ecosystem where farmers are not only participants but are central to shaping the global food narrative. As we step into this critical juncture, remembering the fundamental role of farmers and prioritising their expertise will be the cornerstone of a secure, sustainable food future.

### **CALL TO ACTION**

If anyone – regardless of background or sector – would like to be further involved, Business Fights Poverty and Cargill are working over the coming months to bring experience, insight and solutions to putting small holder farmers at the heart of creating food security and healthy farmer livelihoods, with particular focuses on:

- Finance
- Transparency
- Shocks

**To find out more, please email:**  
[Katie@BusinessFightsPoverty.org](mailto:Katie@BusinessFightsPoverty.org)