# BACKGROUND BRIEFING

Enabling Food Systems transformation through innovative Food Processing Technologies and Packaging Solutions

World Climate Summit COP26 side-event: November 8th, 10-11 am GMT (watch a live stream of the event here)

THE CHALLENGE

Food systems have delivered major human development benefits in recent decades through massive increases in productivity. Yet, they exhibit high hidden costs amounting to some $12 trillion each year[1]. They generate about 1/3 of global greenhouse gas emissions and are the single largest driver of the biodiversity crisis and pressure on other planetary boundaries. The transformation of food systems is one of the four major transformations needed to stay within planetary boundaries and to achieve the objectives of the Paris Agreement and the Sustainable Development Goals (BOX 1).

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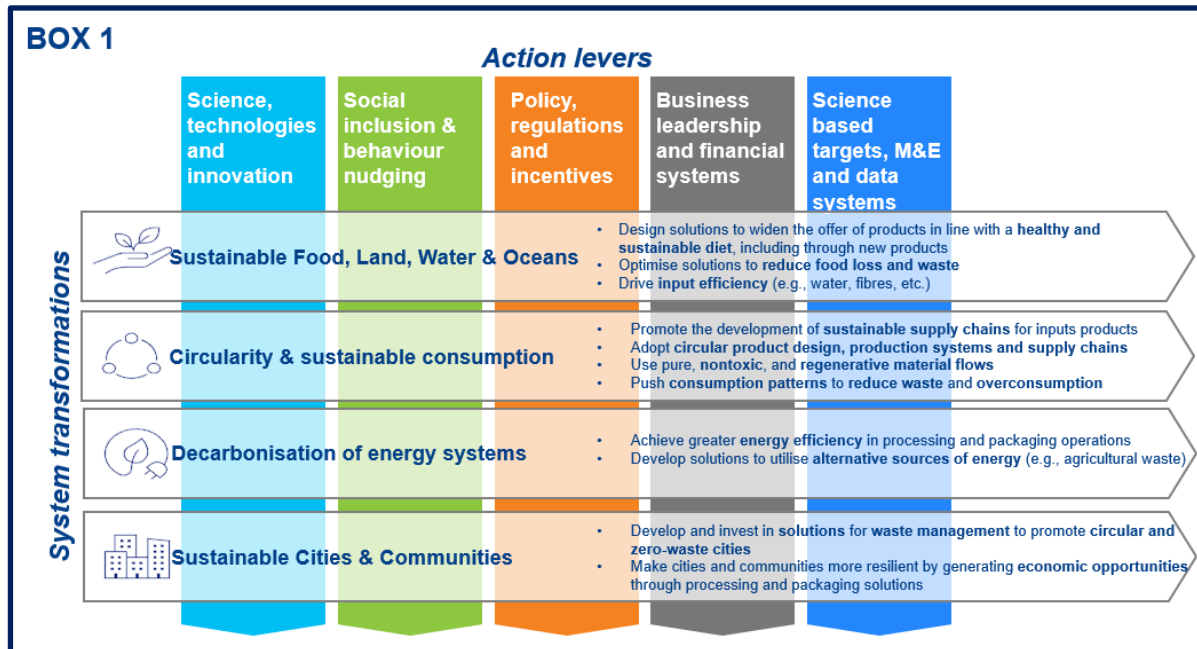
[1] FOLU. Growing Better: Ten Critical Transitions to Transform Food and Land Use. The Global Consultation Report of the Food and Land Use Coalition, https://www.foodandlandusecoalition.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/09/FOLU-GrowingBetter-GlobalReport.pdf (2019)

THE OPPORTUNITY

The food processing and packaging industry enables a safe, nutritious and diversified diet, provides food access and availability, reduces food loss and waste and generates new economic opportunities. Even more, it has the potential to contribute to all four system transformations (BOX 1).

At Tetra Pak we have been thinking about how food processing technologies and packaging solutions can contribute to food system resilience and ahead of the UN Food System Summit[2], we developed a white paper on this topic and shared with 130+ stakeholders for comments. The paper identifies initial pathways for the industry to contribute to the system transformations by activating key action levers (BOX 2). We do know that collective actions are needed to achieve impact at scale. For this reason, we seek to engage with upstream and downstream actors in the food value chain to drive these transformations.

BOX 2: PATHWAYS FOR THE FOOD PROCESSING AND PACKAGING SOLUTIONS INDUSTRY AND ACTION LEVERS

Initial pathways identified	Science, technologies and innovation	Social Inclusion and behaviour nudging	Policy, regulations and incentives	Business leadership and financial systems	Science based targets, M&E and data systems
1 Food innovation for healthy diets	●	●	●	●	
2 School feeding programs		●		●	
3 Minimised food loss and waste	●	●	●	●	●
4 Sustainable dairy production	●	●		●	●
5 Sustainable food packaging	●		●	●	●
6 Supply chain transparency & traceability	●		●	●	

ABOUT THE EVENT

This World Climate Summit COP26 side-event will gather industry leaders on the practicalities of the way forward. Johan Rockström (from the Potsdam Institute for Climate Impact Research) will deliver the keynote, and the event will be facilitated by Dan Esty (from Yale University). The event seeks to start the dialogue on:

1. The role that the food processing technology and packaging industry can play in enabling the transition to sustainable food systems, by bringing the dimensions of climate change, biodiversity loss, circular economy, and socio-economic development together.

2. Priority initiatives to advance the food system transition, drawing on the best available science, technology innovation, investments, and policy.

This event will be part of Tetra Pak's longer-term vision to engage players across industries to enable horizontal collaboration on making our food systems sustainable and resilient.

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[2] Tetra Pak, Helping build food systems resilience through food processing technology and packaging solutions, https://www.tetrapak.com/content/dam/tetrapak/publicweb/gb/en/moving-food-forward/TetraPak_WhitePaper_MovingFoodForward.pdf (2021)

WHAT WILL HAPPEN AFTER THE EVENT?

We envision a 3-step process to design our effort and coordinate with players in our industry, leveraging existing initiatives:

1. **Define the scope and ambition level** (by Q1 2022), leveraging inputs from potential partners and stakeholders. This includes also defining the priority areas for possible industry roadmaps.

2. **Design the implementation strategy** (by Q3 2022), defining the industry roadmap, mission, objectives, and means of implementation of the initiative, such as existing coalitions.

3. **Launch the initiative** (by Q4 2022), with the release to the public of an initiative strategy report, e.g., at UN General Assembly or Climate COP 28 in 2022.