

Joint statement on principles for collaboration under the Forest, Agriculture and Commodity Trade (FACT) Dialogue

1) Agricultural commodities are important for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals, notably promoting economic development, reducing poverty, food security, and improving the livelihoods of billions of people. At the same time, expanding areas for unsustainable agricultural production and other forms of land degradation may pose critical challenges to our environment, sustainability of forests and other important terrestrial ecosystems, increasing emissions, reducing resilience to climate impacts, and contributing to biodiversity loss.

2) Agriculture, Forestry, and other Land Use is a significant net source of GHG emissions. The loss and degradation of terrestrial ecosystems, such as forests, savannahs, natural grasslands, and wetlands, including tropical forests, temperate forests, and peatlands, [are contributors to greenhouse gas emissions annually](#). At the same time, sustainable land management policies and technologies can contribute to adapting to climate change and mitigating greenhouse gas emissions. To meet the goals of the Paris Agreement and Sustainable Development Goals, all countries must work together to reduce these emissions and harness the opportunities for mitigation and adaptation, in accordance with the principles of equity and common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities, in light of different national circumstances.

3) This is a shared challenge. Governments of producer and consumer countries need to collaborate to ensure that global markets reward practices that promote sustainability and disincentivise damaging practices. Effectively addressing this issue will contribute towards sustainable forests management, responsible agricultural practices, better conservation and protection of forests and other important ecosystems, as well as promoting investment, innovation, development, and trade.

Principles for collaboration

4) We agree to work together, with mutual respect, determination and in good faith, to find solutions in accordance with the following principles:

a. Partnership: partnership, based on mutual respect, good faith, cultural understanding, and cooperation, will be at the heart of our work.

b. Synergy: This should be the basis of our efforts, we will work to align our efforts, including discussion on shared policies and standards, so that our collective impact is greater than the sum of its parts.

- c. Sovereignty: this should be respected and therefore each country has a right to establish its own policies and approaches to sustainable land use and commodity markets.
- d. Collaboration and assistance: We will support each other in meeting our shared goals, including through knowledge sharing, finance, capacity building, as well as technical and technological assistance, and support investment in sustainable production methods.
- e. Participation: The participation of all stakeholders with an inclusive approach should always be upheld, where possible, in the discussion, design, and development of our collective plans and actions. This will include the private sector, academia, smallholders, civil society organizations, local communities and indigenous peoples.
- f. Respect for international commitments. We must honour our international commitments and obligations, inter alia, the Sustainable Development Goals, the Paris Agreement under the UNFCCC, the Convention on Biological Diversity, and agreements under the World Trade Organisation.

A common purpose

5) To support collaboration, the signatories aim to participate in the FACT Dialogue in a timely manner, as appropriate, to engage in the exchange of information, approaches, and experiences, to identify specific actions around the following areas:

- a. Trade and market development: Aligning and synergizing the development, implementation, and enforcement of policies across the global market for agricultural commodities' fair and equitable trade and market development as well as sustainable land use and investment in sustainably produced commodities.
- b. Smallholder support: Increase the involvement of smallholders and local communities and indigenous peoples within the agricultural commodity supply chains, including identifying policy measures to support their inclusion in markets, access to financial resources, and support their role in sustainable forest management and preservation.
- c. Transparency and Traceability: Explore ways and means to create the enabling environments that enhance transparency and traceability of information to support decision making throughout the supply chain through information collection, monitoring, and disclosure.
- d. Research, Development, and Innovation: Strengthen and enhance our research, development, and innovation efforts to support and scale up productivity improvements within agricultural commodity systems to avoid expansion of unsustainable practices and maintain sustainability of terrestrial ecosystems.

6) In conclusion, it is crucial to regularly coordinate our efforts in this regard through the FACT Dialogue. We will share efforts to overcome

strategic, political, and technical barriers to action. Working together we will enhance mutual understanding and encourage cooperation, subsequently boost investment, improve livelihoods, increase productivity, reduce costs, and expand the market for sustainably produced agricultural commodities.

This statement is supported by the following countries:

- Belgium
- Brazil
- Colombia
- Cote D'Ivoire
- Democratic Republic of Congo
- Denmark
- France
- Gabon
- Ghana
- Indonesia
- Italy
- Japan
- Liberia
- Malaysia
- Netherlands
- Nigeria
- Norway
- Paraguay
- Peru
- Republic of Congo
- Republic of Korea
- Spain
- United Kingdom
- Uruguay

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 - Republic of Congo
 - Republic of Korea
 - Spain
 - United Kingdom
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[Surge testing to be deployed across Lancashire](#)

Surge testing is being expanded across parts of Lancashire, following the identification of a number of confirmed cases of the B.1.617.2 variant, first identified in India. All cases have been instructed to self-isolate and their contacts are being identified.

Working in partnership with local authorities, NHS Test and Trace is launching additional testing and genomic sequencing across a number of areas, including Burnley, Pendle, Hyndburn and Rossendale. Additional mobile testing units and COVID-19 tests are being deployed to higher educational settings in these areas, and door to door testing is taking place to find and isolate cases.

Local authorities will shortly confirm the areas where additional testing will be offered in their boroughs, and reach out directly to residents to ensure people come forward for testing to stop the spread of the virus.

Everyone who lives, works or studies in the targeted areas and settings, including children, are being strongly encouraged to take a COVID-19 polymerase chain reaction (PCR) test, whether they are showing symptoms or not. By using PCR testing, positive results can be sent for genomic sequencing at specialist laboratories, helping us to identify variant of concern (VOC) cases and their spread.

In tandem with increased testing, enhanced contact tracing will be used for individuals testing positive with a VOC. This is where contact tracers look back over an extended period to determine the route of transmission.

Anyone with symptoms should book a free test online or by phone. They can then go to a testing site or have a kit sent to their home. If individuals have no symptoms, they should visit the local authority's website for more information.

People in this area should continue to make use of free twice-weekly rapid tests, commonly known as lateral flow devices, alongside the PCR test as part of surge testing.

The government and its scientific experts are closely monitoring the evolving situation and rates of variants, and we will not hesitate to take additional action as necessary.

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[Chancellor calls on G7 to work together to secure a green global recovery](#)

News story

Chancellor Rishi Sunak today (28 May) called on G7 members to take collective action towards securing a green and global economic recovery.



- Chancellor Rishi Sunak co-hosted a virtual meeting of G7 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors with Bank of England Governor Andrew Bailey earlier today (Friday 28 May)
- He called on counterparts to continue working together to secure a green and sustainable global economic recovery – and ensure tackling climate change is prioritised in economic and financial policy
- Today's virtual meeting comes ahead of next week's in-person G7 Finance Ministers' Meeting that will take place in London 4-5 June.

The Chancellor also pressed for action that will ensure global financial markets play their part in the transition to net zero, such as improved climate-related financial disclosures and support for the development of international sustainability-related financial reporting standards.

The UK has already set an example globally by becoming the first country in the world to announce its intention to make climate reporting, in line with the recommendations of the Taskforce on Climate-related Financial Disclosures (TCFD), fully mandatory across the economy by 2025.

This will improve understanding of how firms are managing the risks of climate change, and mean investors can take that into account when making financial decisions.

Speaking after today's meeting – which comes ahead of next week's in-person G7 Finance Ministers' Meeting at London's Lancaster House, Chancellor of the Exchequer, Rishi Sunak, said:

It was great speaking to my G7 counterparts today about the actions we need to take to progress our ambitious climate agenda.

I look forward to next week's meeting as we continue working together to support jobs and secure a green and global economic recovery.

The Chancellor welcomed the G7's continued progress on greening the financial system and highlighted the importance of ensuring the private sector plays its part in the global effort to reach net zero.

The Chancellor also reiterated the G7's important role in steering the global economy through the next stages of economic recovery.

Mr Sunak reflected on the UK's recovery at home, noting welcome signs that the government's Plan for Jobs is working in supporting jobs and urged for continued coordination to ensure this recovery is shared across the globe.

Further information

- The TCFD recommendations provide a framework and set of recommended disclosures for firms to report on how climate impacts their business and how they are managing climate-related risks and opportunities
- Photographs of the call can be found on our [flickr page](#)
- The G7 comprises of the United Kingdom, Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, the United States and the EU. The heads of the IMF, World Bank Group, OECD and FSB also joined the call.

- Readouts from the previous FMCBG meetings during the UK's G7 Presidency can be found [here](#)
- Today's virtual meeting comes ahead of next week's in-person meeting of Finance Ministers in London, on 4-5 June

Published 28 May 2021