The purpose of the evaluation is to produce an independent assessment of the past and current support of the EU in food and nutrition security, sustainable agriculture, and fisheries, at country, regional and global levels; draw lessons and produce recommendations.

EU support in partner countries during the period 2014–2020, covering spending and non-spending activities and all EU aid delivery methods and channels, including budget support and EU Trust Funds.

**Key Elements of the Methodology**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Number</th>
<th>Activity</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Case studies</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>404</td>
<td>Semi-structured interviews</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>175</td>
<td>E-survey respondents</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Key Messages**

1. The EU has strongly committed to support sustainable agri-food system changes at the global and regional level and in Partner Countries.

2. The EU faced many obstacles in applying a more integrated, systemic approach to supporting Food and Nutrition Security and Sustainable Agriculture.

3. The EU needs to improve collaboration and alignment amongst European actors, foster a common approach to Sustainable Agri-food Systems transformation, and intensify its investment in agri-food knowledge and innovation systems.

**Purpose and Scope**

An extensive documentary review and portfolio analysis, semi-structured interviews, review of available databases and global indicators, and E-survey respondents.
**ACHIEVEMENTS**

1. **EU support was directed at several strategically chosen entry points**

2. The EU played an instrumental role at the global and regional level

3. The EU made substantial contributions to facilitating sustainable agri-food systems transformation at country level, but the effects observed at the system level are largely scattered

**CHALLENGES**

1. The EU applied an integrated, systemic approach at the country level only to a limited extent

2. Several obstacles to a more integrated European approach to SAFS in partner countries persist due to the absence of a common approach

**RECOMMENDATIONS**

1. Adopt a common framework to foster a ‘One EU’ approach to sustainable agri-food systems
   - The EU should ...
   - ... develop clearer overarching ‘rules of engagement’ for European actors
   - ... anchor external action support to sustainable agri-food systems in broader, long-term EU-country partnership agendas
   - ... maintain a clear focus at the country and regional level on creating opportunities for the most vulnerable food system actors

2. Operationalise this ‘One EU’ approach at all levels
   - The EU should ...
   - ... upgrade the Commission and EU Member States’ mechanisms at headquarters level to support more high-level strategic coordination
   - ... develop a common understanding of context-specific challenges and opportunities at the country and regional level
   - ... co-develop and empower Team Europe initiatives for supporting sustainable agri-food systems, system actors
   - ... strengthen EU engagement in sustainable agri-food systems diplomacy

3. Enhance learning by articulating, orienting, and strengthening agri-food knowledge and innovation systems
   - The EU should ...
   - ... intensify support for networking, experimenting and learning for agri-food actors at all levels
   - ... enhance participation of smallholders, women, youth and small and medium enterprises in co-innovation processes
   - ... consolidate mechanisms to learn from experience from EU joint efforts to support sustainable agri-food systems

"Sustainable agricultural support has been always there as part of EU Development policies for the sector, it is only for the post-2021 programming that more efforts are put into integration and mainstreaming of farm to fork approaches."
The EU has moved towards a more systemic approach to agri-food system transformation

The EU’s Farm to Fork Strategy aims to provide a single overarching frame of reference for a systems approach to supporting sustainable agri-food system transformation. It integrates previous policy frameworks of EU external action on key issues such as poverty and inequality, nutrition and health, climate change and resilience to shocks.

The EU invested in several areas of agri-food system transformation ...

EU support has been mostly geared towards agricultural development, agricultural and environmental policy, and food assistance.
EU funding was allocated through different channels ... 
EU funding per channel (2014–2020)

- 26% was allocated to partner governments
- 23% was allocated to UN agencies (FAO, WFP)
- 19% was allocated to CSOs
- 12% was allocated to delegated co-operations
- 20% was allocated to other organisations

... and targeted to 59 countries across these different regions 
EU funding per region (2014–2020)

- 65% Sub-Saharan African
- 19% South & Central Asia
- 8% Latin America
- 8% Other
- 6% Other

EU support was guided by four priorities ... 
... and mainstreamed three cross-cutting themes.

- Enhancing the resilience of the most vulnerable to food crises.
- Increasing responsible investments in agriculture and food systems.
- Fostering specific nutrition outcomes.
- Stimulating innovations for sustainable agri-food systems.
- Addressing climate change and preserving natural resources and biodiversity.
- Promoting gender equality.
- Strengthening multi-stakeholder governance.

»Programmes have most of the time [been] implemented in silos. The Team Europe Initiative might bring this collaboration and enhance linkages.«

»A lot of EU work should focus on making the operating environment conducive to benefit the marginalized groups such as farmers/smallholder organizations, women groups, agri-MSMEs«

This factsheet was produced in November 2022 in the context of the Evaluation of the EU’s support to Food and Nutrition Security, Sustainable Agriculture and fisheries (2014–2020) commissioned by DG INTPA. It provides key information on the evaluation scope, objectives, methodology as well as results and recommendations.