



**Solutions from the Land
Global Plan of Work
Progress Report**

June 2023

SfL Vision

An Agricultural Renaissance led by innovative and entrepreneurial farmers, ranchers, and foresters constructing sustainable, profitable, and resilient systems that lay the foundation for a world of abundance on many scales; capable of producing nutritious food, feed, fiber, clean energy, healthy ecosystems, quality livelihoods and strong rural economies.

This vision requires participation and leadership from farmers, ranchers, foresters, and their partners in agriculture value chain to establish the social and environmental foundation for the successful achievement of the SDGs. For without successful agriculture humankind cannot thrive. [Renaissance Report - Solutions from the Land](#)

Highlights of 2022- <https://www.solutionsfromtheland.org/blog/reflecting-on-2022-a-year-of-global-leadership/>

Proposed Outcomes for 2023-2026 POW

Overarching outcome: Widespread adoption and incorporation of SfL guiding principles, including innovation and technology and farmer consultation in UN agency documents and subsequent member states policies.

- A. UNFCCC formally incorporates agriculture as a solution to climate change, poverty, hunger, nutrition and disease in policy documents.
- B. FAO Food Systems Pathways are agriculture innovation and technology-neutral and outcomes-focused.
- C. US government strategically uses its negotiating power in global agricultural forum platforms.
- D. Aligned farmer groups and organizations (outside the US) collaborate to guide UN agencies and member states.

UN Platforms: SfL has earned accredited standing and actively participates in the following UN entities:

- United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)
- Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)
- United Nations Water Conference (UN WATER)
- United Nations Environmental Program (UNEP)

I. Key outputs/deliverables during this reporting period include:

1. Jan '23-FAO

In response to an invitation to review, comment and make recommendations for

strengthening the FAO Committee on Food Security HLPE Vo Draft Report on reducing inequalities for food security and nutrition, SfL made the following intervention [SfL recs for HLPE Vo- Reducing inequalities for food security and nutrition.](#)

2. **Feb '23- FAO**

SfL secured the endorsement of the Private Sector Mechanism within the FAO Committee on Food Security on a recommendation SfL offered for inclusion on the CFS MYPoW. The topic is the **'role of agriculture in concurrently delivering ecosystem services and food security and nutrition'** and the actual submission can be read at [CFS MYPoW proposal- The role of agriculture in concurrently delivering ecosystem services and food security and nutrition 2](#)

3. **Feb '23-UNFCCC**

In response to the call for submissions to the Sharm el-Sheikh multiyear plan of work approved by member states at COP 27 [Joint work on implementation of climate action on agriculture and food security | UNFCCC](#)), SfL has submitted recommendations [from Solutions from the Land.](#)

4. **March '23-World Agri-Tech Summit**

SfL had two mainstage appearances at the World Agri-Tech Summit in San Francisco. The event, which drew over 2500 venture capitalists, inventors and technology provider, provided a high profile opportunity to advance our “Farmers at the Center” message and share our 21st century agriculture renaissance vision. SfL Co-Chair Howard-Yana Shapiro, a long-time participant in the summit, convinced the organizers it was time to put a panel of farmers on the main stage during the opening session. SfL president Ernie Shea moderated the event which was widely applauded as a direction setting discussion. The farmers on our panel included long time collaborating partner Larkin Martin from Alabama, Stuart Woolf from California, and Matt Coutts from Saskatchewan, Canada. You can learn more about the event and what farmers had to say at [Farmers' Voice: Managing Risk and Responding to Volatility \(rethinkevents.com\)](#) and <https://www.solutionsfromtheland.org/blog/farmers-in-spotlight-at-world-agri-tech-innovation-summit/> Howard moderated a “fireside Chat” entitled :Thinking End to End in Food System Design for Long Term Resilience & Nutrition with NUCICER CEO Kathryn Cook and Benson Hill CEO Matt Crisp which focused on ways to build a food system that meets the needs of all stakeholders in the value chain from the farmer to the consumer.

5. **March '23- UN Water Conference**

in New York at the UN Water Conference, SfL led a highly successful side event at the Nature Hub that interjected agricultural expertise and stimulated collaborative conversation on how farmers, ranchers, foresters and the entire agricultural value chain are leading the way in enhancing water management and what they need to take what they are doing to the next level. Our collaborating co-organizers of the event included the Foundation for Food and Agriculture Research, Agricultural Drainage Management Coalition, Cargill, ComNet Mekong, Ducks Unlimited, General Mills, Global Water Partnership, International Maize and Wheat Improvement Center (CIMMYT), Irrigation Association, Netafim, Nutrien, The Daugherty Water for Food Global Institute, The Nature Conservancy, Water Policy Group and the World Business Council for Sustainable Development. SfL senior advisor Jerry Hatfield keynoted and moderated the 75-minute event, and Jocelyn Anderson, a SfL Farmer Envoy, offered a farmer’s perspective on the important role that agriculture water management plays in supporting SDG attainment. We are pleased to report that the event was well attended and widely lauded. It was great to see how closely aligned the panel members were around the need to prioritize ag water management research and focus more attention on technical assistance and enabling policies to help producers improve water management practices. Agriculture water management in its many dimensions, is an unappreciated and underutilized SDG solution pathway, and we are confident that our intervention in the conference will help reorient UN system thinking about agriculture in general

and water more specifically. You can read more about this event at <https://www.solutionsfromtheland.org/news/agricultural-perspectives-to-be-heard-at-un-water-conference/>

6. April '23- FAO

SfL intervened with our latest submission in response to a Food and Agriculture Organization of UN (FAO) and International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) call for input on a global program to support selected nations to catalyze the transformation to sustainable food systems that are nature-positive, resilient, and pollution-reduced- [New Food System Integrated Program to support the transformation of food systems into nature-positive, resilient, and pollution free system \(fao.org\)](#) You can find Solutions from the Land's full recommendations and observations in the [“New Food System Integrated Program to support the transformation of food systems into nature-positive, resilient and pollution free systems.”](#)

7. May '23-FAO

Solutions from the Land was in Rome to bring farmer voices to two major, international conversations on climate and sustainable development. Amelia Levin Kent, a SfL envoy and beef cattle producer from Louisiana, and Fred Yoder, SfL Co-Chair and Chair of the North America Climate Smart Agriculture Alliance, shared their insights and recommendations at the [International Agri-Food Network's \(IAFN\) Climate, Science and Innovation Forum](#) and the [Global Alliance for Climate-Smart Agriculture's \(GACSA\) Annual Forum](#). As an added bonus, Amelia had a side bar conversation with FAO Director General QU Dongyu, where she discussed the power of sustainable grazing to sequester carbon and concurrently deliver food and nutrition security and solutions to other SDGs. These events, for which SfL is seeking additional supporting partners, provide unique opportunities to elevate farmer voices in support of pragmatic enabling policies, programs and partnerships that can provide high value solutions from the land. [Read more...](#)

A concrete outcome of the workshop SfL organized at the IAFN conference was agreement by FAO to join with SfL and other IAFN partners in constructing a roadmap that will outline pathways for scaling circular bioeconomy solutions to SDG attainment. We will also team up to introduce and proactively promote this approach to 21st century agriculture in global forums where the future of agriculture is being explored including the UNFCCC, UNEP, UN Water Conference and others. Our lead partner at FAO is Lev Neretin, Workstream Lead for the Environment. Our next step is to form a work group that will “co-create” the roadmap that will detail technologies and circular system approaches, systems and practices needed to deliver food security, better nutrition, while concurrently producing improved livelihoods, better and more healthy agroecosystems, enhanced biodiversity and high value terrestrial solutions to climate change. Likely components of the roadmap will be knowledge sharing and technical assistance programs, risk management strategies, market mechanisms, research priorities and needed investments. Work group members will include representatives of FAO, IAFN, SfL and our partners at the American Association of Agricultural and Biological Engineers, including Drs. Jim Jones and Bruno Basso. The workshop also provided us with the opportunity to share work we have been doing through the Iowa Smart Agriculture Work Group and their report which outlines circular system pathways to enhance farm sustainability and scale the state's bioeconomy <https://www.solutionsfromtheland.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/11/Iowa-Smart-Agriculture-Circles-of-Life-Report.pdf>

At the GACSA Annual Forum <https://www.fao.org/gacsa/annual-forum/annual-forum-2023/en/>,

which was held at FAO on May 4-5, SfL, co-led a panel discussion which featured examples of innovative and impactful climate smart agriculture programs, policies, partnerships and investments that have sprung up over the past three years across the globe. Terry Cosby, Chief of USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service was a featured speaker talking about the \$20 billion in CSA investments that the U.S. government had approved through the Inflation Reduction Act. The North America Climate Smart Agriculture Alliance, which SfL facilitates, played a major role securing Congressional approval of these historic investments in voluntary federal conservation and renewable energy programs. This gave us a unique and high-profile opportunity to showcase, on the global stage, some of the outcomes of our CSA work over the past decade. It also showed other countries pragmatic programs and approaches they could adopt to secure solutions from their farms, ranches and woodlands.

Another special initiative featured at the GACSAA forum was the 4R Nutrient Stewardship Program, which is expanding across Ethiopia, Ghana and Senegal- <https://www.solutionsfromtheland.org/stories/4r-nutrient-stewardship/> SfL featured this multi-partner and multi-dimensional approach to sustainable food production in our [21st Century Agriculture Renaissance: Solutions from the Land](#) report, and this was an opportunity to invite our partners at Fertilizer Canada and the African Plant Nutrition Institute to spotlight how this project has not only improved productivity, but has concurrently reduced GHG emissions, improved the environment, enabled women farmers to be successful and generated economic benefits for local communities in project areas. The project [teaches](#) farmers through online as well as hands-on, experiential learning platforms and demonstration plots how to use the 4R principles to increase yields that address hunger and ensure crops to sell for livelihoods, and precisely apply inputs to decrease environmental and financial costs. The 4R Nutrient Principles (applying nutrients with the Right Source @ the Right Rate, the Right Time, and the Right Place®) have the potential to address many of the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) like No Poverty, Zero Hunger, and Life on Land and it was an honor to have the opportunity to share this success story on the global stage.

8. **May '23- FAO**

The topic we recommended to the Private Sector Mechanism for inclusion in FAO's multiyear plan of work "The role of agriculture in concurrently delivering ecosystem services and food security and nutrition" was endorsed by PSM and was included in the thematic clusters discussed by the Bureau and Advisory Group on 17 May. CFS members were requested to make written comments to the Secretariat. A MYPoW First Draft will be shared on 5 June for written comments by CFS stakeholders by 26 June. The Advisory Group and Bureau will discuss the First Draft on 19 June.

9. **May '23- UNEP**

SfL's reach and influence in global platforms where decisions around the future of agriculture are being made was bolstered with the election of SfL Co-Chair A.G. Kawamura to the position of Co-Chair of the United Nations Environment Program farmers constituency, known as the Farmers Major Group. SfL joined UNEP as an official observer in June 2022 <https://www.solutionsfromtheland.org/news/sfl-earns-accreditation-to-global-environmental-talks>, providing us with the opportunity to contribute and intervene in official conferences, work streams and other special forums and events such as the [Draft Global Strategy for Sustainable Consumption and Production \(2023-2030\)](#). Joining A.G. as the other Co-Chair of the Farmers Major Group is Paul Temple, a UK farmer in the Global Farmer Network. UNEP's mission is to inspire, inform, and enable nations and peoples to improve their quality of life without compromising that of future generations. UNEP's current focus is on the causes of the triple planetary crisis of climate change, nature and biodiversity loss and pollution. In his new position,

A.G will be attending the Major Groups and Stakeholders Consultations taking place in Morocco July 4-5 <https://www.unep.org/events/civil-society-events/major-groups-and-stakeholders-consultations-2023>

10. May '23- AIM for Climate

May 8-11 in Washington, USDA Secretary of Agriculture Tom Vilsack and Mariam Almheiri, UAE Minister of Climate Change and Environment, hosted the inaugural [AIM for Climate Summit – Event summary](#). SfL is a Knowledge Sharing Partner in AIM4C , and we used this position to draw the conference’s attention to the need to place farmers at the center of all discussions and decisions around climate smart agriculture adaptation mitigation strategies. Partnering with the Foundation for Agriculture Research, the Hughes Center for Agro-Ecology and the University of Maryland College of Agriculture and Natural Resources, **we held a very successful farmer focused side event and field day on the eastern shore of Maryland** to close out the AIM for Climate Summit. While farmers were largely absent at the summit, we placed them front and center at our event. SfL featured collaborating farmers Shelby Watson-Hampton, Lindsay Thompson and Hans Schmidt who shared their experiences and recommendations addressing climate challenges and delivering solutions from the land. [Read more...](#)

11. June '23- FAO

The first round of negotiations of the CFS Policy Recommendations on ‘Strengthening FSN Data Collection and Analysis Tools for Food Security and Nutrition’ were held in Rome and will continue in additional sessions over the course of the next several months. SfL and our partners in the Private Sector Mechanism have significant concerns over the [2023 April 27 CFS Zero Draft Policy Recommendations FSN en](#) especially in those areas where attempts are being made expand the guidelines to include topics outside of scope of the agreed to framework for negotiations. SfL is working with a cross section of our board members, senior advisors and farmer envoys in constructing a concept note that will identify guiding principles to inform decision making around data management addressing such areas as scope, metrics intellectual property rights and ownership. An early area of agreement is that the value that data provides must be shared fairly across the entire value chain, starting first with farmers who own the data that others want. This initiative is being co-ed by SfL farmers Fred Yoder and Lois Wright Morton.

The fifty-first plenary session of the Committee on World Food Security (CFS 51) is taking place between 23 and 27 October 2023 in a hybrid format in Rome, Italy. <https://www.fao.org/cfs/plenary/cfs51/en/> We will be sending a delegation and we have submitted a proposed side event on data management.

12. June '23- UNFCCC SB 58

SfL engaged virtually and though our partners in the UNFCCC Farmers Constituency on the four-year Sharm el-Sheikh [joint work on implementation of climate action on agriculture and food security](#), advocating for the priorities we identified in recommendations [from Solutions from the Land](#).