

NUTRITION: RISING TO THE CHALLENGE

Panel Moderator: *H.E. Gerda Verburg*

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Introduction

Ambassador Kenneth M. Quinn

President - World Food Prize Foundation

People ask me sometimes, "How do you get these panels? Where do they come from? What's the inspiration?" And I find it's just kind of standing around and listening that you learn a lot. So this next panel comes from Ahmedabad in India at the African Development Bank annual meeting that our laureate Akin Adesina held. And I was kind of standing there. Most of the crowd had filed out, and there were three or four people standing there talking about nutrition. And one of them was Her Excellency Gerda Verburg, who I knew from having spoken here at the World Food Prize when she was Minister of Agriculture of the Netherlands. And Shawn Baker was there and Rajul Pandya-Lorch was there. And I just said to myself – well, this is an interesting group, talking about scaling up nutrition.

And then David Nabarro, one of our laureates..., I said – well, now we've got the core group. And then I had met Gunhild Stordalen at Prince Charles' residence at Buckingham Palace where I was at a conference. And Gunhild was to come, but she couldn't, so Sandro Demaio is here. Sandro, thank you so very, very much. This is "Nutrition: Rising to the Challenge," and certainly we have on the stage five individuals who have been involved in that.

Her Excellency Gerda, thank you for being here, making the long trip. The floor and the panel is yours.

Panel Members

Shawn Baker	Director, Nutrition, Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation
Sandro Demaio	Chief Executive Officer, EAT Foundation
David Nabarro	2018 World Food Prize Laureate
Rajul Pandya-Lorch	Director, Communications and Public Affairs & Chief of Staff, Director General's Office International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI)

Panel Moderator

H.E. Gerda Verburg

U.N. Assistant Secretary-General & Coordinator, SUN Movement

Thank you very much, Ambassador Quinn. Good morning, ladies and gentlemen. It's a great honor and pleasure to be here. My name is indeed Gerda Verburg. I'm the coordinator of the Scaling Up Nutrition Movement, and it's not only David Nabarro who has a close relationship with the Scaling Up Nutrition Movement because he was there from the beginning in 2010, but also Lawrence Haddad, who just escaped but promised me that he will be back. He's very busy these days, because being a laureate is something that there's a lot to be done if you are a laureate. But he's also a member of our executive committee. Shawn Baker is involved. Actually, all the people on the panel are involved.

And the challenge here tomorrow in discussion with you is how do we rise up to the challenge in nutrition, but also how do we make a sound bridge between food and food production and consumption and nutrition. Because we need to answer the question – What can good nutrition do for your body and for your brains, for your physical development and opportunities but also for your cognitive development? And the SUN Movement is a movement that is driven by countries, 60 countries right now, and I'm extremely honored that the jury of the World Food Prize has selected two of these eminent laureates, because they are fully involved in good nutrition and how to get it done and how to make the right connection and how to create hope and opportunities for all people interested in leaving no one behind. Two years ago the World Food Prize started already by appointing a lawyer who also was biofortification. Last year, of course, the president of the African Development Bank, President Adesina, and this year it is David Nabarro and Lawrence Haddad – great, great choice.

I wanted to moderate this panel, and my proposed ways to do it was follows. I'll ask David Nabarro and after him all the panelists to give a contribution, speak from the heart if possible, of three minutes in which they answer – What is important to make to include in all you do, good nutrition? And how do we do it. So I'm happy to give the floor to David Nabarro for his three minutes.

David Thank you very much, Gerda. Good day to everybody. I'd like to start by just sharing with you something that came through the end of that remarkable lecture and then fireside chat where Gordon and Ismail were sitting together. Gordon pointed out that the direction that the Malabo Montpellier Panel has moved in has led them to produce one very important report two years ago, titled, "Nourished." And so there you have an agriculture panel recognizing and setting out very clearly that nourishment of people is solidly linked to the food they're able to access. And taken a little bit further, that means that we need to recognize food, all of us, as being important, because it is the fundamental source of nourishment for human beings.

Now, I think for many of us sitting in this room, that is blindingly obvious, but unfortunately in actual practice those who work on agriculture and food sometimes need to be helped to recognize that their work is also key to determining whether or not populations are able to be adequately nourished. And that becomes more and more important as we come to terms with the reality, as you will hear in this panel, that so much of human experience is determined by the nutrition that people have, especially early on in their lives, but it continues right through.

To help us get into this new way of thinking, there's one other departure that's turned out to be necessary, and that is to view food not as a commodity but as an ongoing product of multiple systems that occur in society. Again, we saw it in Gordon's lecture – that lovely picture he had that showed the rice field as part of a human ecosystem. And so when we talk about food and describe food systems, we're talking about the relationships between the various factors that determine how food arrives and goes towards the plates from which we all eat and then determines whether or not we are nourished.

But if we're going to work well on food systems and see them as the source of nourishment, we also need to be able to embrace the variety of actors that are key to making those food systems work. And that's where connecting people together from different professional groups, from different sectors and among different stakeholders becomes the key – not easy.

And so perhaps my last comment in this opening piece is the importance of ensuring that everywhere those who are involved in the production of food, processing of food, marketing of food, distribution of food, ensuring that food is actually given to people when they need it, often the careers who do that work, that all those people are enabled to come together for dialog, for discussion, for debate. Because it's quite challenging to get that link between production through to consumption, from the farm or the fishing ground to the mouth, to get that relationship so that it really does contribute to good nutrition for everybody.

Gerda Thank you very much. So food is about connection, connection between people, collaboration between people, and making sure that good food is not only fueling you but also bringing you together and making sure that your body and your mind can do a good job and that it is nourishing you.

Sandro Demaio, please, what is your answer to what needs to be done and how does it need to be done.

Sandro Yeah, thanks, Gerda. And I can't agree more of the importance of cross-disciplinary and multidisciplinary, cross-sector, and multi-sectoral approaches. And we've heard from the incredible fireside chat that we were privileged to listen to just now and also David – and, David, congratulations again, David, on the award and also Lawrence – of the importance of this. But one of the challenges of working across sectors is that we need to have a common departure point. We need to share a common language and a common understanding.

So I want to paint that up for a moment as a starting point for this panel. Where are we now, and where does the food system fit in the many challenges that our global community faces? If we look at climate change, if we look at the ecological challenges facing humanity today, there was an important paper in *Nature* this week that very clearly stated our food system is now the number leading sector of the greenhouse gas emissions, the number one sector to be used for fresh water, the number one sector, the leading sector for deforestation, contributing to deforestation and ecosystem loss and of course phosphorus and nitrogen, which as a medical doctor is new language for me but very much the home turf of you in the audience. And then it's a flow-on effect through eutrophication and runoff that has enormous consequences for the planet.

But then from a health perspective, it's also again at the core of many of our global challenges. Two billion people are now overweight or obese, while 830 million and rising for the first time in decades go hungry every evening, and around two billion are micronutrient deficiency or lack key vitamins and minerals that are so crucial to their not just physical and health but also economic and intellectual development across their life course. And with this, we also see the rise of what we call the "double burden," the coexistence of multiple and contrasting forms of malnutrition. Indonesia, one example, mid-thirties, of a prevalence continuing of stunting and yet not all women arising across the age groups rising rates of overweight and obesity.

But then importantly the interconnectedness of these through the food system – because if we just look at human nutrition and climate change, we know that again I've just said world hunger is on the rise once again for the first time in decades, due to conflict and climate change. Geopolitical conflict, which is very much driven by volatile food prices and insecurity in food supply and of course climate change, which is driven to a large degree by our food systems. So the interconnectedness of these through our food system and the food that we do or do not eat, how we grow and consume and process and waste is so critical to many of these challenges.

But then where are we going to be by 2050 if we take, if we continue to take a business as usual approach, while all of the evidence suggests that we'll be going in exactly the wrong direction. If we just look at the climate markers that I mentioned – greenhouse gas emissions are expected to almost double. Phosphorus and nitrogen use, water use and land use to increase by about 50 to 70% on 2010 levels, which are already on track to go far beyond what our current planet can sustain. And yet we need to continue to drive billions out of poverty and give them anywhere near the opportunities to live a life like we have today. So the interconnectedness but also therefore the opportunities that lie in addressing many of these very large challenges through food and through our food systems.

There are three take home opportunities that again emerge from our food system and very much sit in the agricultural space more than the global health space. Global health and the malnutrition that we see is more of an outcome, but the opportunities for solutions lie very much in the agricultural sector.

The first is shifting populations to healthy diets, and very often we look at, we think of straightaway reducing our meat consumption. And for many people on the planet in our parts of the world, that will be the case. But actually it's also about what we don't grow as much as what we do grow or grow, we'll make too much of. And it's about ensuring that we can produce enough of the fresh, healthier foods that we need to power healthier diets, particularly in low- and middle-income countries' emerging markets around the world.

The second is the vital use or further investing in technology to ensure that key issues like phosphorus and nitrogen are able to be recycled, reutilized and used appropriately and kept in the food system.

And last is to look at the critical issue of food loss and waste. It's a shocking statistic that yet still today in the world one third of food is wasted. In many middle-income countries this is premarket food that never makes it to the market or the supermarket

or the home. In wealthier parts of the world, it's at or aftermarket. And if we can make investments, if we can make significant strides across these three areas – shifting diets, all of the supply and demand mechanisms that were made across sectors to achieve that, investing in technologies like those that we see outside right here today, and lastly addressing the critical issue of food loss and waste – we can go a long way to achieving the SDGs and importantly feeding an entire planet of 9.5, 9.7 billion people in a way that they deserve by mid-century, and having a planet to continue to live on.

Gerda Okay. Thank you very much. Quite an agenda, but it has to be done. Ladies and gentlemen, looking around I see that some of you are taking notes, which is great, because we have two panelists to go who will give their what and how to connect food, agriculture and better nutrition. And then I'd like to give the floor to you to come forward with questions or remarks or suggestions or whatever. And I've identified at least already two microphones, so be prepared, because we want to interact with you.

Rajul, please give us your three minutes of what and how do we get the connection right and how do we reach good nutrition for those who are malnourished, undernourished, hungry, for a thousand days but also the rising number of obese and illness, overweight, nutrition-related diseases. You have the floor.

Gerda Wonderful, thank you so much, Gerda. Three minutes to solve all these problems. Let me ask the question – Are we rising to the challenge? And I would say yes, we are. We are seeing in the last five to ten years some major policy developments, globally, regionally, nationally. We are seeing some major investments. We are seeing coalescings of groups coming together. But are we rising enough to the challenge? And I would say no. I would say you're seeing hunger and undernutrition stagnating. You see overweight, obesity rising. We need to speed up the progress. We need to accelerate the progress, and I will put four accelerators, potential accelerators on the table for us.

Accelerator No. 1 – Policy. We see successes. We see some interesting policies, innovative policies being developed. We need more policy innovation. We need more courageous policies and courageous policymakers who are willing to cross boundaries to develop policies. We see great examples of innovation and courage in Bangladesh, in Ethiopia, in Rwanda, in Peru. How can we have more of these, and how can we sustain these?

Two policy challenges I put on the table will be – How do we find ways to reduce the costs of nutrient-dense foods? We have invested a lot of policies in staple foods, not enough in nutrient-dense foods. How do you find a way to the lower the cost?

Second policy challenge is – How do we generate demand, consumer demand for nutritious foods? We can produce nutritious foods. How do we generate demand?

That is policy accelerator 1.

Second accelerator I want to put on the table is program accelerator. We are seeing more multisectoral action. We need to see even more of that. How do we incentive agencies and implementers to cross boundaries as they invest in their programming? And here I want to put on the table the findings that we are getting from other

research about behavior change communication. More and more of the work we have seen is the importance of integrating behavior change communication in programming.

Third accelerator is technology. We have already heard here about biofortification. We heard of many technologies. How do we bring together and invest in technologies that will allow us again to accelerate and to scale up. There was a very interesting session this morning on scaling up. And I think some of the lessons from there are very critical for us. How do we scale up not just the generation but the application and the use of technology that will lead to acceleration of progress?

And the fourth accelerator I'd like to put on the table is investment. Innovative financing to accelerate progress and take up investment in people. We need capacity. We need leadership. We can have technologies, but if we do not have the capacity to use them effectively, again we are halfway there.

And the last one will also be knowledge. We need to accelerate the generation of evidence that we can use to design policies and of data to help us know – are we accelerating or are we stagnating? Thank you very much.

Gerda Thank you. Quite the agenda. We will discuss this. Shawn Baker – he is from the Gates Foundation, but he was already introduced to you. Shawn, what should be the agenda, and how do we meet the challenges?

Shawn There are a few challenges. Good morning, everyone. So my first reflection as I was looking out into the room – I'm used to being in conferences where I think I know about 90% of the participants. What's exciting to me about this is that I might know probably less than 10% of the participants. I think that's so important, because nutrition needs you. We are not going to resolve the challenges of undernutrition without the ag sector stepping up in a big way and differently.

And so welcome to the nutrition family. I know you've always felt you're here, and we want to make you feel even more a part of that. And I think the recognition of the leadership this year of two of the global nutrition leaders is a huge vote of understanding of how essential it is that ag and nutrition work together.

I then actually want to build on Rajul, one of your points about the cost of a nutritious diet. And I think as nutritionists we often come in with social and behavior change communication, but you need to step back and just think – well, why are we concerned about this? Why are we obsessed about the cost and availability of nutritious foods?

And let me talk with infancy on kids. The first six months is great – breastmilk is meeting all the nutrient requirements. But from 6 to 23 months it's a critical period, because we need to make sure, in complement to breastmilk, we're meeting those infants' and young kids' needs. And anybody who's fed an infant knows the gut's really tiny, so it's actually incredibly high quality, dense in energy and dense in nutrients. Because otherwise you're filling up the gut but in fact with basically empty calories or empty volume.

But if you look at the data globally, with the rather imperfect indicator of minimal acceptable diet in low- and middle-income countries, only 17%, 17% of infants and young children 6 to 23 months are getting a minimal acceptable diet. So I can come in with great behavior change communications, but if that mom cannot afford a nutritious food for her baby, we're not being serious. And I as a nutritionist can't make that food more affordable—only the ag sector and the food processing sector can do that. So your role is fundamental.

And to put again that into context, the other thing I think is incredibly important that's struck me, in fact, we are all serving the same people, because it is actually the smallholder farmers whom you've all dedicated your lives to serving who are the families the most at risk of malnutrition. And this malnutrition is in fact tying them into a vicious cycle of poverty, because we know it's those malnourished kids who grow up with abilities and in fact we're just tracking them into this cycle of poverty. So in fact we are coming together by serving fundamentally the same populations.

And we also know that it is the people, the lower you are in your socioeconomic quintile, the higher proportion you're spending on food stuff. I was looking at data from Nigeria. The 5th income quintile, over 82% of people in that quintile are spending 75% or more of their income on food. So making sure that they can actually then use part of that to buy a more nutritious food becomes incredibly difficult. But somebody even in the 4th income quintile, so not even the poorest of the poor in Nigeria, I'm communicating to that mom, look, feed an egg to yourself and to your child every day. She would have to spend 44% of her income, 44 just to buy one egg.

So without partnerships through the ag sector to make sure that nutritious foods are available and affordable, and then layering on, as Rajul, you had said, effective behavior change, we're not going to be able to break this vicious cycle of malnutrition and poverty. At the same time, and I'll come back to it, we have seen success. And I think we don't want to walk away with just seeing the challenges but also seeing in fact we have risen to the challenges, and we can do even more. And that's what gives me the most hope.

Q&A

Gerda Thank you very much. Ladies and gentlemen, four perspectives, and they can all come together, and they have to come together. But we'd like to hear from you. I've seen two microphones. Maybe there are more. Is there somebody who wants to take the mic? Please say your name and make your point very clear and crisp. How many students in the room here? I think I see some of them, and I'd like to hear your ambitions and your views and your questions as well, please. Sir, you have the floor. And my proposal is that we take three or four questions, and if you can address your question—do you want to ask David Nabarro, Rajul, Shawn Baker, Sandro Demaio?

Q Yeah, I think it's probably a question for everybody. Sorry to go this direction on you. Jim Gaffney with Corteva Agriscience. There seems to be a chorus of proponents saying we need to reduce animal agriculture and meat consumption for climate change reasons. At the same time, if you look at most of the reports coming out of the world, especially in low- and middle-income countries, meat consumption, dairy, egg

consumption is increasing fairly rapidly. And it is also one of the ways for smallholder farmers to come out of poverty. So where do we go from here? Thank you.

Gerda I think you have an opinion. What's your opinion?

Q So my opinion is that, if we're looking at helping smallholder farmers and we're looking at improving nutrition, animal agriculture is one of the ways to do both.

Gerda Okay. I address this question first to Sandro Demaio, maybe also Shawn, but we go, we continue because, as I said, I'd like to have four questions. Madam, please.

Q Thank you. My name's Clare Thorp. I'm the Executive Director of the International Life Sciences Institute for North America. And the topic of this discussion is *Rising to the Challenge*, and the speakers have talked about the importance of engaging all players and stakeholders within the food chain and joining it up. It's a very complex food chain. The challenge I would like to speak to and to ask the panel about is – How do we do this effectively? Because my organization conducts research in the public health interests, but we're funded by industry. We conduct our research using a tripartite model, so we engage government and academic and industry scientists. And what I find from this position, and also having worked in industry associations before and having worked in government and having worked as an academic, is that when you start bringing industry into the fold, you become a target. People want to marginalize it, dismiss it. They want to tarnish the reputation of it, and they make it increasingly difficult for industry to engage. I would like to ask the panel how we propose we overcome the naysayers and we enable industry to participate in what is often foundational research in a manner which enables it to be used and contribute to this challenge.

Gerda Thank you. Thank you so much. It's not only question, but I propose – How do we bring the right stakeholders to the table, and how do we prevent exclusion or marginalizing of the private sector that we need David Nabarro, I think this really is a question for you and maybe also for the others. I come to the second... Madam, you and then you, sir, and maybe hope we have a second round of questions. Madam, you, please.

Q Hi. My name is Christine Rock. I'm a student from Kansas State University, and I have a question about policy. You mentioned that that's an important component of strengthening nutrition-based efforts, but I wonder what makes those policies effective, if it's the wording, the implementation, the resources that are involved. So just more about policy. I'd love to know some more specific examples.

Gerda Rajul, that's a question for you. Sure, please.

Q Ted Scheier with Jet PHC. We work on diabetes prevention and reversal. I just was wondering about your thoughts in terms of strategy and nutrition. If you focus on reversal of diabetes and obesity, which form kind of a central component of diet-driven disease, if you focus on those two, you can help all of the other diet-driven diseases. And was wondering if you could share your thoughts on strategy?

Gerda Yeah, thank you very much. I see one moving, but I know at least there are two who would like to give an answer here. But let me first take a first round of answers, and please do it in a very summarized way. The meat question.

Sandro Very quick. I think there are three things that I think we should think about when we're answering this question. The first is the danger of an aggregated global sort of view that we often make the statements that are very simple, very easy to understand but come at the cost of nuance. And whether it's the private sector, whether it's meat, I think they're both great examples of that where the discussion can become sort of very superficial, and it becomes – the world needs to eat less meat. And that's simply not true. What is true is that we need to be eating, consuming meat in different ways. We need to be producing it in different ways, and we need to be, rather than just focusing on quantity, we need to be focused on quality and equity. Shawn talked very much about the importance of greater animal-based proteins in many low- and middle-income countries and even in sub-populations young women in low- and middle-income countries, for example, of critical importance to achieving sustainable development over the next 30 years or even the next 12. But there are big parts of the world that need to eat less meat and eat less poor-quality meat. So the first is a danger to the aggregated view.

The second is to focus on the quality of what we produce and how we produce it. But thirdly also, often the discussion falls to what we shouldn't be eating instead of what we should. And the global burden of disease data as well as the nature this week, both really say we are not producing enough fruits, vegetables, legumes, pulses, nuts and seeds to feed the global population a healthy diet and to keep within planetary boundaries. So I think the conversation needs to be as much about what we need to grow more of as it needs to be what we need to improve the quality of. (Yeah, I'll stop.)

Gerda Okay, okay. Let's try to be..., there's a lot of richness in this. David Nabarro, how do we get the right stakeholders to the table, and how do we prevent ourselves from just...

David Okay. Thank you very much. Indeed, it is my view that I've built up over the years that to advance in the area of nutritious food, every concerned stakeholder should be at the table for the discussion. Farmers are business people. Food processors are business people. Marketers are business people. Business should be inside the discussion chamber, should never be shut out on discussing how to move forward with nutritious food for everybody.

The one area that's really important is for you, you'll see... The one area that I would say, Clare, where business should stay away is when standards are being set about what is the right food for people to eat. And the standard-setting organizations are usually inside the health sector, and they should be left to get on with their standard-setting, but then when it comes to implementation, business has a key role.

Gerda Thank you very much. Rajul, how do we get effective policies, and how do we make them work?

Rajul An excellent question, maybe three parts to that. Very quickly, one is to design effective policies, and there the role of knowledge, evidence, stakeholder consultation,

all of that very important. The second part is the implementation of effective policies and implementing policies to be effective sufficient resources, sufficient capacity, sufficient review to adjust the policies as needed. And the third part is policies, good policies are not isolated. They're part of an enabling environment, and how do you create the culture where policies are valued and then policy is our resource. Effective implementation requires good leadership, governance, and champion.

Gerda Thank you very much. That's very good answer, but from my perspective as a former minister of agriculture and food quality likes to add something. And I'd like to emphasize what Roger just said in the panel before. We need researchers and people coming up with policy advice to understand the political economy and to talk the language of not only farmers but also the language of civil servants and influencers in order to make sure that a policy will follow also the proposals and recommendations of the researchers and the scientists. So this is something for the students to understand, but it's also already emphasized by Roger. Shawn, do you feel comfortable to answer the final question? Otherwise you have a double duty in the second round.

Shawn Okay. I was going to reflect on two questions if I may, quickly. So was going to come back to the animal school food issue. To me it's in fact perhaps fundamentally a question of equity. Last night I was at a reception. I had probably enough meat products to satisfy my requirements for at least a month. I didn't need that much animal source food. It's not the smallholder woman farmer in Burkina Faso, it also is increasing her flock size from 5 hens to 50 hens that's driving the issues. And so it's really the right amounts for everybody who needs it and how with this wealth of animal source foods, how do we actually share it more equitably. It's clear that for the population suffering undernutrition, animal source foods at affordable and appropriate levels are clearly part of the solution.

I would perhaps, when it comes to the private sector, I would echo, I think, David's comments which is not... It's no longer a question...

Gerda In this case I would like to...

Shawn Cut me off?

Gerda Yeah, to put a food stop here, because I'd like to see in the second research and development.

Shawn Sure.

Gerda And I'd like David to enter, and you will have an opportunity. The diabetes. No, no, but if you will agree or echo David's remark, could you respond to the question about diabetes? Do you have...

Shawn Oh, diabetes I don't know.

Gerda Yeah, no, no, no. David.

- David Thank you very much indeed. If not, I will ask... I think I'd like to defer. I'm very interested in the diabetes questions. It's quite challenging, and I would just like to personally say that for me the big epidemic for the future is Type 2 diabetes. When I traveled to 53 countries last year on a campaign, the one thing I found in going to hospitals was just the extraordinary number of people who are in hospital beds in Latin America, Middle East, Asia, and now increasingly in Africa, experiencing complications of Type 2 diabetes, some of which are tragic. So the absolute emphasis on preventing and ideally reversing Type 2 diabetes that you described is something I would prioritize.
- Gerda Thank you very much. Second round, and I'm not sure that we can take every question, but let's give it a try. Sir, you, and then you or others, Michael.
- Q Thank you very much. I'm from the Forum of the Future that's led by Mr. Alysson Paolinelli. To tell you first that since 15, Brazilian researches led by Embrapa nurses have developed a sustainable neutral carbon system for producing beef. And they have a lot of lack of support and comprehension. It's not anymore a challenge. It's not an experiment. 14 million hectares work producing beef without [inaudible].
- Gerda So what is your point, sir?
- Q The point is – Why don't we support solutions for, to produce meat instead of reducing it, for those meeting carbon neutral bases?
- Gerda Okay. Thank you very much. Why don't we invest more in producing meat in a carbon-neutral way? Shawn Baker, you can already digest the question.
- Q David Beckmann from Bread for the World, and I'd like to ask David and maybe you, Gerda – How do we organization the effective clamor we need all over the world to continue and accelerate the really remarkable progress we've made against child nutrition over the last decade?
- Gerda Thank you very much. David Nabarro, this one is for you. Please.
- Q Pedro, scientist from University of Florida. I was taught by Ghanaian health expert Boateng, that you actually need meat because it has the highest concentration of iron in the small stomachs of young babies. And my question to you is – Is this correct, and if so, what are we doing about it?
- Gerda Sandro Demaio, this one is for you. Madam, please.
- Q My name's Grace Pacarseck. I'm a student at Pennsylvania State University, and my question is related to urban areas and those...
- Gerda Speak slowly.
- Q Oh, sorry. My question is related to urban areas and those areas like more farremoved from the farm and what feasible changes can be implemented to address proper like utilization and access to nutritious foods in areas like that, and that's also related to like the obesity and diabetes concerns.

- Gerda Thank you very much. I understood your question – the relation between rural and urban areas and growing, this balance – what do we do about it? Rajul, I think that's one question for you. I think we can make it. Yes, sir, you and then you, and then I come back, and then we have all the questions from the room. Please.
- Q Susie O'Nielsen at Purdue University. Rajul, you were obviously at the Scale-Up session that we had this morning, and I wonder what came to mind. A couple of things that came to mind to you is uniquenesses with regard to the challenge in scaling up nutrition programs.
- Gerda Yes, thank you so much. I think I'll ask Shawn and David to reflect a little bit from this scaling up. Madam, please.
- Q Thank you. Nabeeha Kazi with No Waste of Lives. You're right, Shawn, we've had great success, and we know that we've made improvements on child survival on stunting, but we're still seeing 50.5 million kids with acute malnutrition or obesity. Overweight numbers are also on the rise, and these often coexist in the same communities, in the same household. And I think while collectively we want to address all three, we're not quite there. So my question... And, Gerda, feel free to weigh in on this as well, but certainly for Shawn and David, is – How do we make the financing mechanisms, both domestically and internationally work better so we're addressing the spectrum of malnutrition in all of its forms. Thank you.
- Gerda I'll give my answers afterwards, because it's not in my contract to answer questions today. Please, sir.
- Q Yes. My name is Tom Steele. I work with the DCO. We're a manufacturer of therapeutic foods. Similar to the last two questioners, folks who've asked questions, very similar. When it comes to severe, acute malnutrition, we have a tool in our toolbox that's proven time and time again to be effective, and that's therapeutic foods, ready-to-use therapeutic food in combination with community-based management of malnutrition. Yet, less than 20% of those children with severe, acute malnutrition are receiving this lifesaving treatment annually. Why? You know, I've worked in this field for ten years, and I still can't wrap my head around why is the access rate so low. Thank you.
- Gerda Thank you very much. Seven questions, and we have exactly one minute for a panelist to answer, and I start with Shawn. No they are prepared, Shawn, your final minute in this panel.
- Shawn And so I get to pick and choose the question.
- Gerda Yes.
- Shawn So I'll try to respond to scale and severe, acute malnutrition, and it may have a flavor of finance. So I think to scale, one of the hard choices, because within the nutrition suite of solutions, there are a number of arrows. And when you start going to scale, you actually are faced with a really difficult choice of – What do I focus on? And so not making it, everybody has to do everything for everybody everywhere. But what are the few things the health sector can do? What are the few things the ag sector can do,

do them well and do them at scale. And to me that discipline of trading off, of understand how do we make it the minimal parking that will have impact, who's responsible, where, so it's focused on the most vulnerable populations, and do it at quality, and then build that up over time, is perhaps the most important thing. Within that reflecting on severe, acute malnutrition, my hypothesis is that, since that came out of the humanitarian field, sort of the development sector and the development sector working with strengthening health system didn't take it seriously. And I think most of the burden of severe, acute malnutrition is not actually in non-conflict settings. So until we get this as just one of these core services that's a non-negotiable in the health system in countries with burdens of acute malnutrition and it's integrated in supply chains, etc., we're not going to move forward.

Gerda Okay, thank you very much. Rajul.

Rajul Okay, on the urban, there is very little work out there on urban food security and nutrition. IFPRI is developing a research program on that under the leadership of Marie Well. It is very difficult to get financing to support that work, and I will just ask everyone – you look around, you look at what are the big, evolving trends: Urbanization. You better get ready to understand the dimensions, the scale, the scope, the opportunities. Invest in urban food security and nutrition programming.

On the effective clamor, I know it's a question for David, but I will just comment. We need to find a way to engaging youth. They are the ones who will effectively clamor. We need to figure out exactly a point, Gerda. How do we talk their language and get them to embrace this issue. Thank you.

Gerda Thank you. Rajul, Sandro, a piece.

Rajul I'll try and respond quickly to three questions. So the first is around the issue of the quality of meat production, and to answer, I think a lot is being done, and a lot is being invested in trying to find ways, not just in the forms that you talked about but also looking at specific breeds, feed types of reducing the carbon intensiveness of meat production and across the full supply chain of particularly red meat. So I think a lot is happening here in addition to then looking aftermarket, how do we reduce, look at meat alternatives but much lower tech solutions like meat mixes. There's a great example in very large-scale example across Europe and America now of mixing red meat with mushroom to create 50% beef burgers that taste exactly the same. So not just in the production but also at the market solutions.

The second is around meeting young people. Shawn is probably better qualified as well, but certainly from a medical perspective and having just left WHO, the evidence is very clear – 0 to 6 month old children breastfeeding, exclusive breastfeeding is the best for the child. It also has many benefits for the mother, even relating to the issues of overweight and obesity. Complementary feeding in the first 24 months of life. There are currently on – they're up to date – global guidelines on this. WHO is working on them. The World Health Organization is working on them, and they should be out in the next few years, funded by in fact the Gates Foundation....

Gerda And your third point if you want.

Sandro Yeah, but I'm not aware of any evidence specifically around the importance of meat as such in the first 24 months of life, but certainly the importance of animal-based proteins is critical. Just wanted to say that.

And the last is – the double burden is a huge challenge facing the global community, not just in the population or the household but here in the U.S. in the individual – obesity with micronutrient deficiency increasingly common in our calorie-dense, nutrient-poor diets. So looking at what we call “double-duty actions,” actions that we know can be utilized, deployed to address overweight, obesity, and diet related NCDs including diabetes and undernutrition. A great example is again breastfeeding. It’s critically important for addressing both undernutrition and rising rates of overweight obesity in children and in the mother.

Gerda Okay, thank you very much. And last but certainly not least, David Nabarro.

David Thank you very much indeed. Let us just be clear, all of us, that bad nutrition is a handicap, and if it happens early in life, it is a handicap throughout your life. And it needs attention. It’s actually a needless injustice, as you’ve heard. There are ways, very, very inexpensive ways, to prevent it. And if our food systems are somehow contributing to that needless injustice, then it needs political action from government joined up with the efforts of business, civil society, and science.

But governments only act if people demand action. They demand action on security, on migration, on terror, but millions more people are affected by the injustice of malnutrition than are affected by terror. And yet there’s much less political attention and money that goes into this injustice. So we have to redouble our efforts to make sure that clamor reaches the ears of decision-makers. And it's starting to happen. That’s why we created the Scale Up Nutrition Movement. And we see presidents and prime ministers all over the world, not perhaps here but elsewhere, saying, “This is an injustice we will not tolerate.” That’s how we get the clamor.

Gerda Thank you very much. Ladies and gentlemen, I think we agree we had a great panel. And though it is not in my contract, I'd like to say a few more words. Adding to what the panelists said, let me summarize it in this way.

Talking about nutrition is talking about people from different backgrounds – bring them together and make them work together, and you will sort out, it is fun. Because you discourage that those people are involved from a different perspective, and it is very, very good and exciting to talk to them.

Secondly, let’s not talk about what you should not do anymore, but let us talk about what you can do. Because it’s much more encouraging for people if you are encouraged what to do and not that you only have to live with – I don't, I'm not allowed, I cannot eat this, I shouldn't do that. That’s not... That is keeping us locked and it shouldn't happen.

And last but certainly not least, with my own political experience, put it on the agenda of politicians that they need to look into food production and food consumption, into nutrition, into health-related issues. It is there, but ask them what their program is. And once they are elected, hold them to account. So that’s emphasizing and even

making it louder what David Nabarro said. It's about time, and we need political leadership to bring change. But it doesn't mean that all of us shouldn't step up already right now. Thank you very much for your attention, and we are here to continue to talk.