



Impact of COVID19 on Food Systems from the EC's perspective

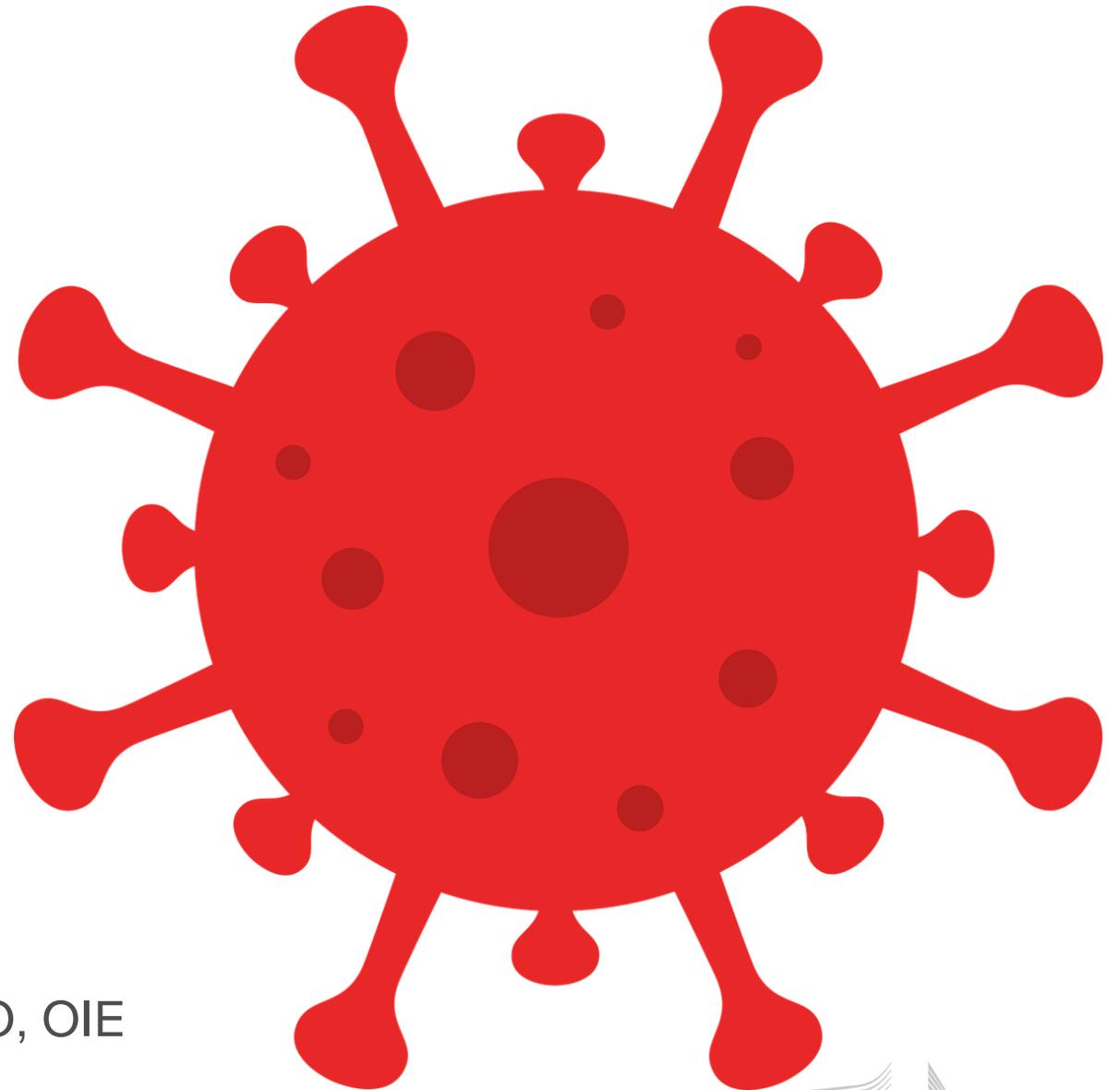
ECVPH Conference – 23 September 2020

Javier Dominguez Orive

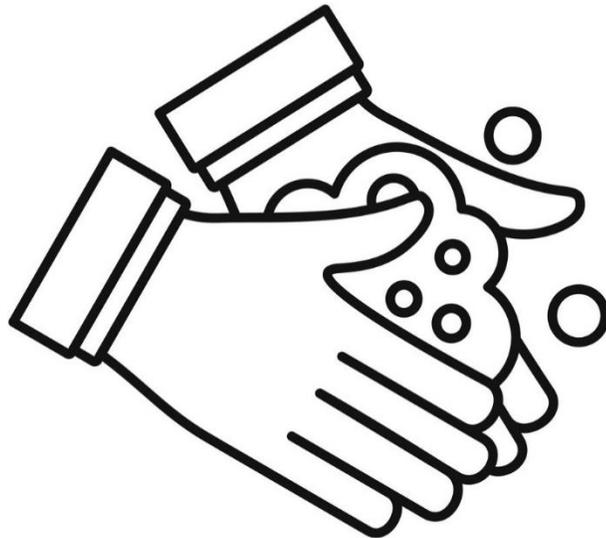
DG Santé

Today...

- Covid19 effect on...
 - Food safety
 - Trade
 - Food security & nutrition
 - Technology
 - Veterinary profession
- What is being done by...
 - International organisations: WHO, FAO, OIE
 - European Commission

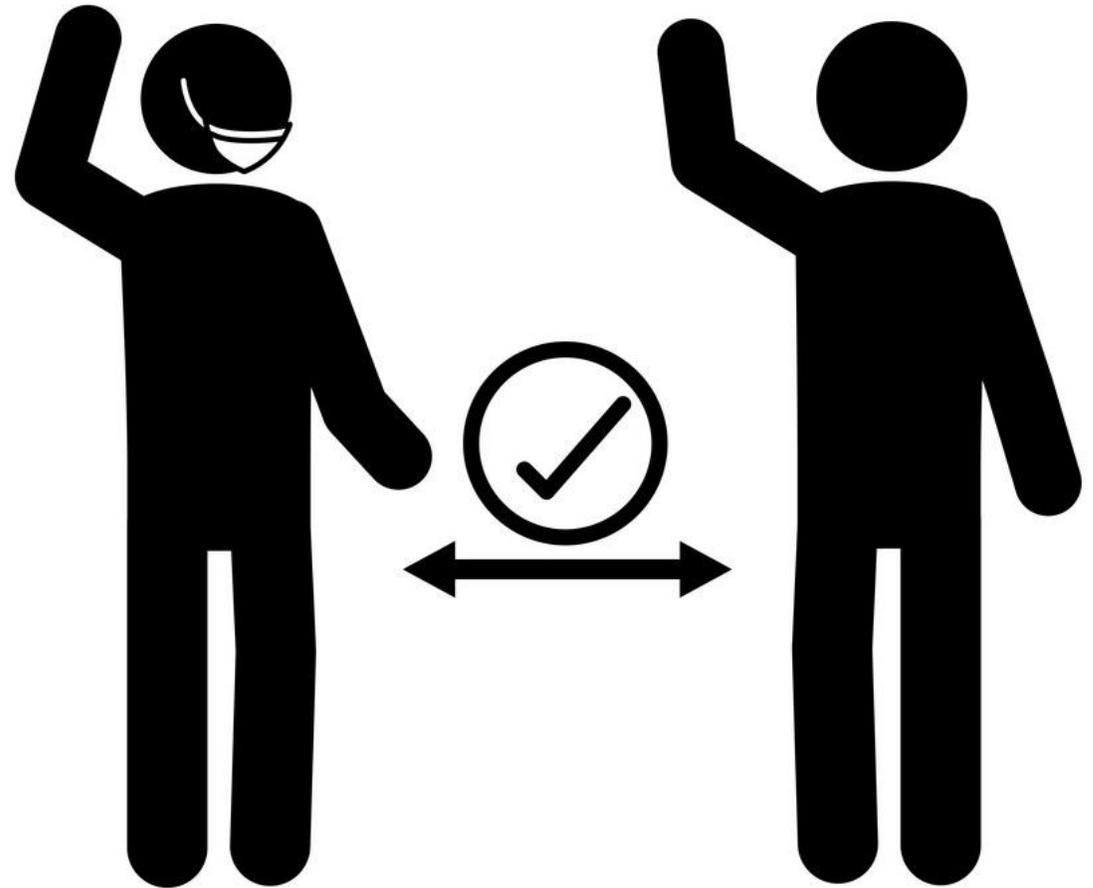
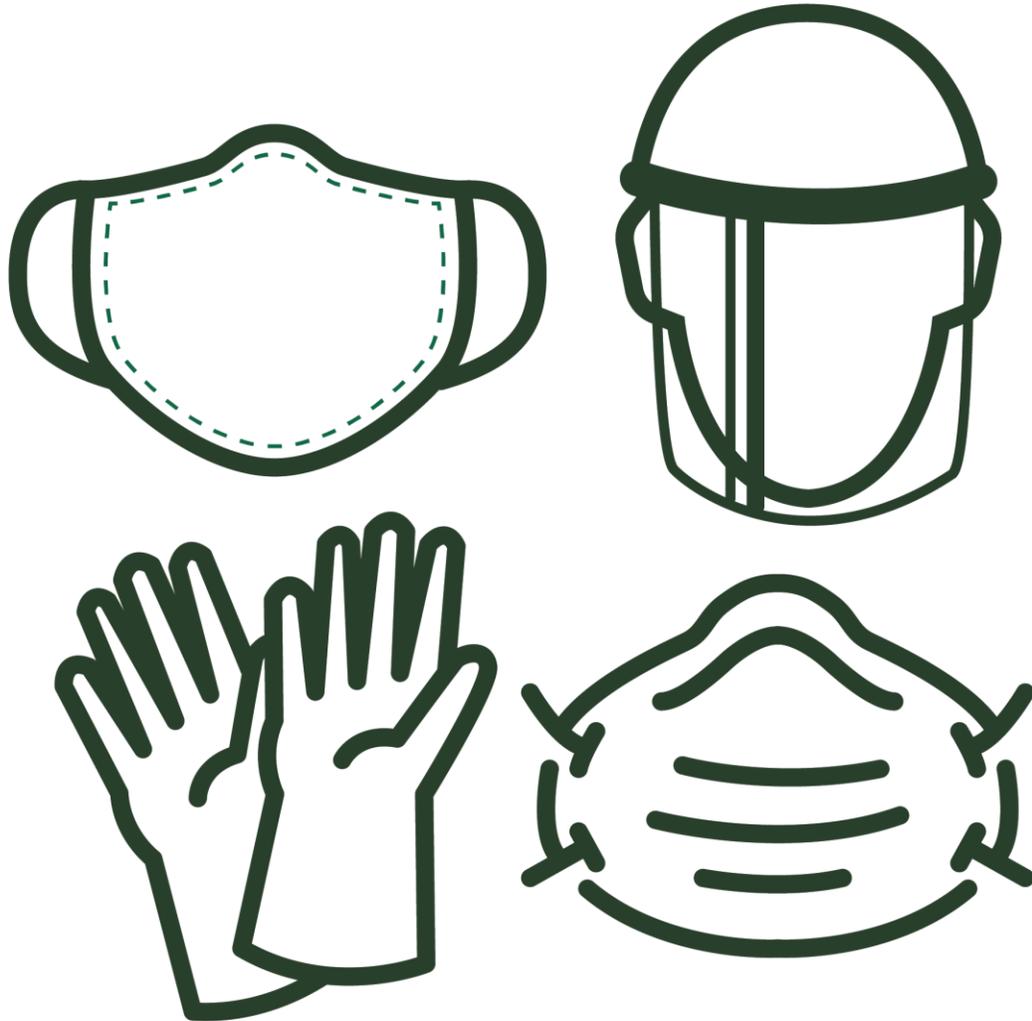


FOOD SAFETY



- Coronavirus: no evidence that food is a source or transmission route
- Experiences from previous outbreaks of related coronaviruses
 - severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus (SARS-CoV)
 - Middle East respiratory syndrome coronavirus (MERS-CoV),
- show that transmission through food consumption did not occur. At the moment, there is no evidence to suggest that coronavirus is any different in this respect

Recommendations



TRADE



What history tells us? Price surge 2007/08



- Droughts in Australia and Argentina
- Increasing oil prices
- Rising use of food grains for biofuel
- No shortage of rice supply, but higher taxes on rice exports or banning exports = price increases

What history tells us? HIV/ AIDS, Ebola, MERS

- Negative impacts on food and nutrition security — particularly for vulnerable populations (children, women, the elderly and the poor)
- Ebola (2014) Guinea, Liberia, and Sierra Leone
 - Road blockages, farmers had limited access to inputs such as seeds, fertilisers & insecticides. Many of the regions faced acute labour shortages.
 - >40% of agricultural land not cultivated
 - Farmers could not transport fresh produce to local and urban markets (rice prices increased by more than 30%/ Cassava, a staple in Liberia, skyrocketed by 150%)
 - Day meal programs in schools were disrupted because food aid could not be delivered to the schools
 - Trade disrupted - international shipping services either delayed or cancelled - crew members of cargo vessels refused to travel to those countries for fear of being infected

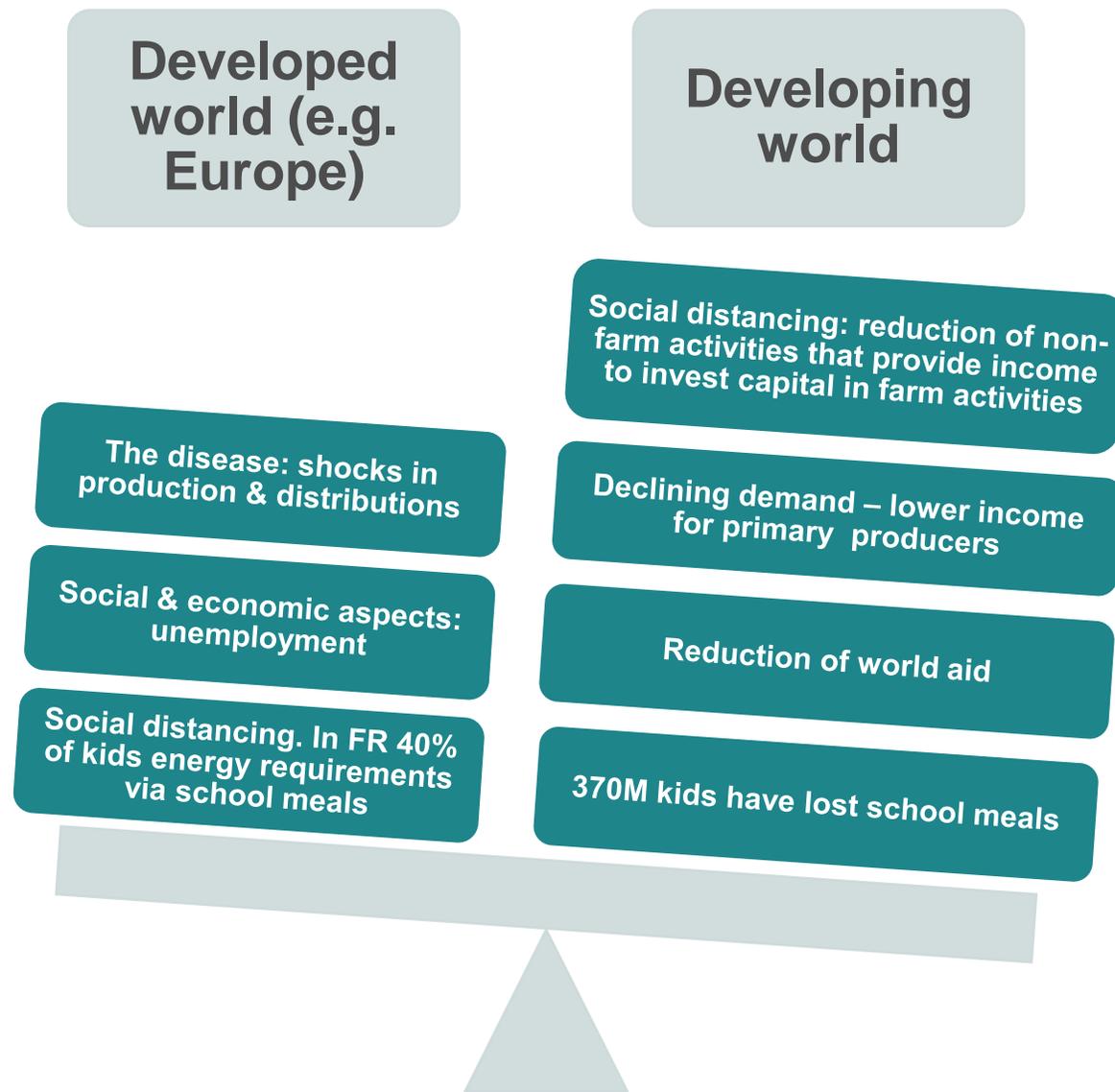
Covid19 situation (so far..)

- 22 countries announced trade restrictions (33 did it in 2007/08)
- Economic policy context very different:
 - Stocks of food supplies are good to meet demand
 - Agri commodities and petrol prices low and stable
 - Good harvest
- Difficulties in ensuring food availability related more to logistical challenges: health restrictions (confinements) [China – ‘green channels’] & loss of income
- Developed countries – increase of e-commerce

FOOD SECURITY & NUTRITION



Developed vs Developing world



Hunger may increase - extra 120M people (Oxfam)

Food security & nutrition – developing world

- For the most vulnerable (750M people living in extreme poverty-\$1.90/day) food access and affordability threatened
- Acute food insecurity and crisis levels of hunger could increase by 23M to 120M overall in the 46 countries
- 100M additional people will descend into poverty, food insecurity, and chronic hunger. Women and girls impacted more severely.
- SMEs, the backbone of livelihood and food systems across South Asia and sub-Saharan Africa, struggling to stay afloat
- Economic impact on hunger could result in more deaths than the virus itself (130K additional child deaths this year).

Food security & nutrition – developed world

- Prices: initial disruption in some foodstuffs but more or less stable
- Initially: panic buying of non-perishable products (pasta, toilet paper!)
- Later: food related to leisure (snacks, alcoholic drinks, flour and yeast for bakery)
- Food supply chains have responded
- Increased in sales of local products and in local shops
- Disparity on buying patterns:
 - Stable income: healthier eating and premium brands
 - Low income: basic products and retailer's own brand



Countermeasures

- Fiscal stimulus
- Resources to contain the spread of the disease
- Adequate healthcare
- Additional social protection to compensate those affected by the virus and containment measures
 - Malawi – developed a based on WHO recommendation to address health; social support; water, sanitation, and hygiene; education; food security; economic empowerment; communications; and transport & logistics.
 - Rwanda was quick to close borders to foreigners, ready healthcare systems, and establish green channels to allow the movement of essential goods

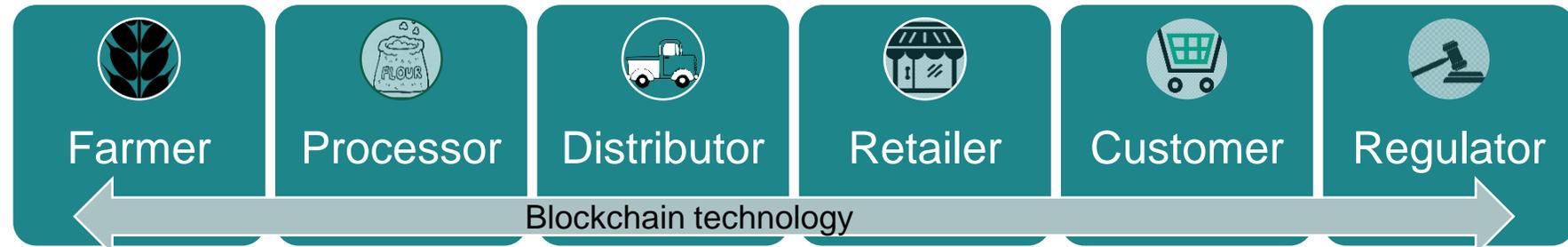
TECHNOLOGY



An opportunity?

- Covid19 has highlighted vulnerabilities on food supply systems
- Can technology help with a future sustainable, resilient and just food system?

- Blockchain
- Internet of Things
- Robotics
- Vertical farms



- New technologies can tackle other problems: greenhouse emissions/ reduce waste
- But world's 570M farms are both small scale & family-run – low cost sensors & mobile phone technology

VETERINARY PROFESSION



Impact on vets?



- Students – EMS/ extra support of new graduates
- Wellbeing of staff – burnout risk/ being furloughed/ managing return back of furloughed staff
- Economic impact
- Companion animals: increase in behavioural problems separation anxiety/ exotic species returned
- Production animals: increase in dairy bull calves as farmer return to conventional semen (not sex-selected)
- Backlog of finishing pigs – outbreaks on farms, abattoirs, cutting plants
- Restrictions on building – lack of new housing for livestock...

INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS - ACTIONS



FAO – likely context



- Issue: not food availability but food access
- Most affected: low income countries (820M people) and middle-income countries depending on food imports
- Global recession: small islands developing states (tourism)/ oil exporters/ commodities-export dependant countries
- FAO estimates as a result of global GDP reduction:
 - 2% reduction: +14.4M people hungry
 - 5% reduction: +38.2M
 - 10% reduction: +80.3M

FAO – impact assessment on countries



- Shock at supply
- Shocks at demand: slow down due to slow in trade caused by contraction in the economic activity and rising unemployment – this slow in demand may generate a contraction in supply (≠ data collection/ social protection/ policy response to protect producer livelihoods and incomes)
- Good stocks of foodstuffs – problems for low income families due to low income rather than high prices (≠ access to credit and social protection)

FAO – recommended measures for countries

- Focus on measures such as:
 - Meet needs of most vulnerable: food assistance and nutrition interventions
 - Expanding social protection
 - Protect food workers and smallholders food production
 - Keep global trade channels open
 - In the long term: address food security issues – tackling inequalities & build resilience = Food systems that can provide healthy diets for everyone while promoting sustainable use of natural resources, biodiversity and ecosystems services.
- Proposal to create a new Food Safety Strategy, including lessons learnt from Covid19





Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations



Grow,
Nourish,
Sustain.
Together.

16 October 2020
World Food Day

**Grow, Nourish, Sustain.
Together.**



Our Actions are our Future.

#WorldFoodDay

fao.org/world-food-day



73rd World Health Assembly (May 2020)



- Food safety – essential element of public health
- Apply the “One Health” approach to promote safe, sufficient, sustainable, affordable and nutritious food for all
- Support Codex Alimentarius Commission (WHO & FAO)
- Participate in the International Food Safety Authorities Network (INFOSAN)
- Tackle foodborne antimicrobial resistance
- Integrate food safety policies with agri, trade, environment and development to achieve the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development



SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

1 NO POVERTY

2 ZERO HUNGER

3 GOOD HEALTH AND WELL BEING

4 QUALITY EDUCATION

5 GENDER EQUALITY

6 CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION

7 AFFORDABLE AND CLEAN ENERGY

8 DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH

9 INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE

10 REDUCED INEQUALITIES

11 SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES

12 RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION

13 CLIMATE ACTION

14 LIFE BELOW WATER

15 LIFE ON LAND

16 PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS

17 PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

73rd World Health Assembly (May 2020)

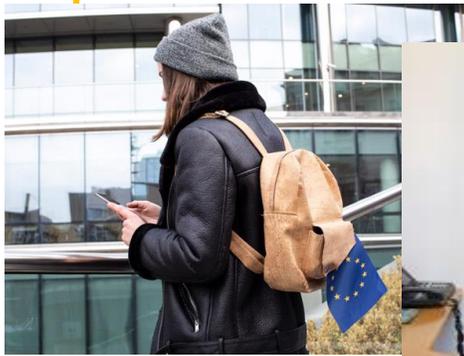


- Provide appropriate investment in national food safety systems to prevent food safety threats (food fraud), and enable a rapid and appropriate response to food safety emergencies
- Use scientific data and evidence to support food safety decisions
- Include consumers - promotion of a culture of food safety by means of education and training in communities and schools
- Enhance traceability/ early detection of contamination/ improve the supply chain/ promote cost-effective and efficient food safety systems/ simple, easy-to-use laboratory analysis
- Promote World Food Day (16 October)

- Tripartite frameworks for emergency management (FAO/ WHO/ OIE)
- Participated in the WHO's Emergency Committee regarding the outbreak of coronavirus
- OIE experts have supported the WHO R&D blueprint, which is a global plan that allows the rapid and coordinated activation of research and development activities.
- The veterinary profession has shown its commitment to support the work of human health authorities:
 - provision of testing capacity by animal health laboratories,
 - donating essential materials such as personal protective equipment and ventilators
 - direct provision of human resources and expertise

WHAT IS THE EU DOING?





Overall budget 2021-2027



Global Goal:
Unite for our Future

GLOBAL GOAL
Builds for Our Future
www.globeurope.eu

#globagoalunite
#UnitedAgainstCoronavirus | #GlobalResponse

CORONAVIRUS GLOBAL RESPONSE

.....

Green Deal Going Local

Achieving climate
neutrality

Sustainable transport

Clean, reliable and
affordable energy

Preserving Europe's
natural capital

Financing
the transition

Transition to a
circular economy

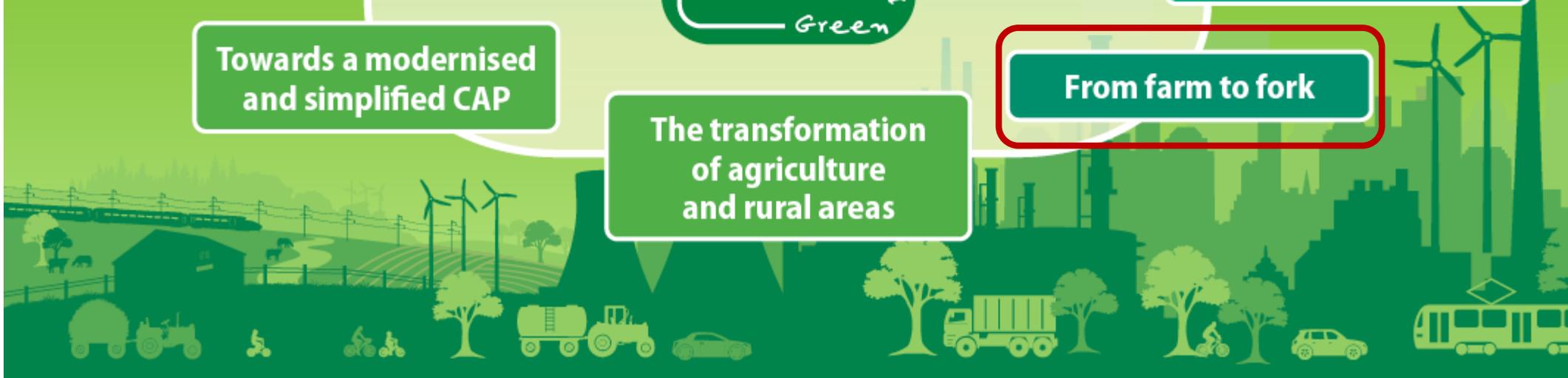
Leave no one behind
(Just Transition)

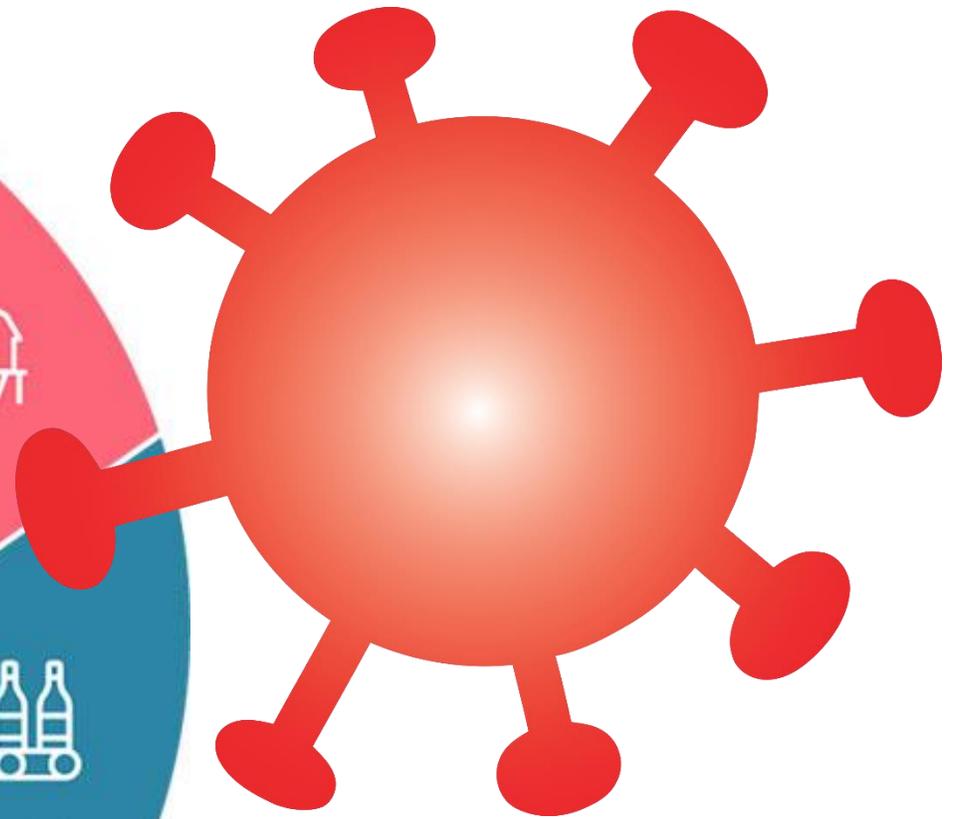
A zero-pollution
Europe

Towards a modernised
and simplified CAP

The transformation
of agriculture
and rural areas

From farm to fork







WHO

Oie

WORLD ORGANISATION FOR ANIMAL HEALTH



Thank you!