**FEEDBACK FORM**

**DRAFT Food and Agriculture Benchmark methodology**

**Public consultation (deadline 31 January 2021)**

**Feedback process**

From 16 December 2020 to 31 January 2021, the World Benchmarking Alliance (WBA) is holding

a public consultation on the [draft methodology](https://www.worldbenchmarkingalliance.org/research/draft-methodology-food-and-agriculture-benchmark) for the Food and Agriculture Benchmark. Interested stakeholders are invited to review the draft methodology and share their comments via this feedback form with us by emailing to [info.food@worldbenchmarkingalliance.org](mailto:info.food@worldbenchmarkingalliance.org).

This consultation is part of WBA’s continuous stakeholder engagement process. It builds on earlier presentations and meetings with a wide range of stakeholders, with input from WBA’s Allies, civil society, academics, business, business associations, investors and policymakers. With the publication of the draft methodology for the benchmark, we collect additional input from stakeholders. A set of numbered consultation questions for which we seek explicit feedback is outlined in the draft methodology and listed in this feedback form below. We also welcome feedback on any other aspect of the document.

Once we have received and incorporated feedback, WBA will publish a finalised methodology report for the Food and Agriculture Benchmark in early 2021, that we will then use to assess the 350 companies in the benchmark. A summary of the feedback received will be made publicly available. We thank all stakeholders for taking part in this public consultation.

**Contact details**

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| **Title** |  |
| **First name** |  |
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**Consultation questions**

**General**

**Introduction (p. 5)**

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| **1 Do you have general feedback on the Food and Agriculture Benchmark?**  *Your feedback* |
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**Introduction (p. 5)**

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| **2 Do you have general feedback on the draft Food and Agriculture Benchmark methodology?**  *Your feedback* |
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**How are companies assessed (p. 15)**

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| **3** Where possible, the benchmark aims to capture and encourage company actions from farm to fork.  **We welcome feedback on how to best account for differences in corporate expectations across the value chain and whether this draft methodology captures these sufficiently.**  *Your feedback* |
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**Approach to weighting (p. 18)**

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| **4** The two weighting options incorporate differing (technical) considerations to calculate company scores and rankings in the benchmark.  **Which of the two options best incorporates company contributions to food systems transformation, ensuring a fair and meaningful comparison across the food value chain?**  *Your feedback* |
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A Governance and strategy

**General (p.21)**

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| **G1 Do you have feedback on the Governance and strategy indicators?**  *Your feedback* |
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B Environment

B2. Scope 3 greenhouse gas emissions (p. 22)

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| **E1** Company contributions to reducing GHG emissions has been separated into two indicators (4 and 5), separating Scope 1 and 2 from Scope 3 emissions, to effectively assess progress in reducing emissions from agriculture (see rationale). It allows for assessing downstream companies’ (food and beverage manufacturers and processors, food retailers, restaurants and food service) progress on reducing Scope 3 emissions and upstream companies’ (agricultural inputs, agricultural products and commodities, animal proteins) progress on reducing Scope 1 and 2 emissions, ensuring applicability across the value chain.  **Does this approach provide an effective way to track the entire value chain’s contribution to reducing agricultural emissions?**  *Your feedback* |
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**B5. Soil health and agrobiodiversity (p. 24)**

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| **E2** While it is widely acknowledged that soil health and agrobiodiversity are crucial for transforming food systems, a robust consensus on frameworks and metrics is still emerging.  **How should companies (both upstream and downstream) quantify improvements in soil health and agrobiodiversity in their reporting?**  *Your feedback* |
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B6. Fertiliser and pesticides use (p. 25)

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| **E3** While it is widely acknowledged that the use of fertilisers and pesticides have a critical role in food systems transformation, a consensus on the best certifications and schemes for downstream sectors (food and beverage manufacturers and processors, food retailers, restaurants and food service) to use is less clear.  **Which certifications and schemes are most relevant for businesses in these sub-sectors that want to undertake corporate action in relation to sustainable use of fertilisers and pesticides?**  *Your feedback*  **E4** While this indicator prioritises minimising fertiliser use to avoid the negative impacts of excessive fertiliser use, it also assesses the replacement of inorganic with organic fertilisers.  **To what extent is the shift from inorganic to organic fertilisers crucial for food systems transformation?**  *Your feedback* |
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B10. Animal welfare (p. 27)

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| **E5** **Should this indicator assess companies that do not produce or sell animal-based products? If so, what is the company’s role and how should we assess it?**  *Your feedback* |
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B11. Antibiotics use and growth-promoting substances (p.27)

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| **E6 Should this indicator assess companies that do not produce or sell animal-based products? If so, in what way?**  *Your feedback* |
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C Nutrition

**General (p.28)**

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| **N1** While it is acknowledged that healthy food starts at the farm level – and hence all companies across the value chain have a role to play – the food and beverage and retail industries hold the greatest level of responsibility in terms of food safety and product diversification as well as the most effective means to influence consumer behaviour. Although it is our aim to capture business responsibilities for nutrition from farm to fork, expectations in relation to business are currently more clearly defined for consumer-facing companies.  **We welcome feedback on how to best capture business responsibilities for nutrition for non–consumer facing companies, in particular. If they have a role to play, how can we assess them in a way that is fair and as consistent as possible across the system?** |
| *Your feedback* |

C1. Availability of healthy foods (p.29)

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| **N2** It is unclear how all companies across the value chain can directly influence the indicator for the availability of healthy foods.  **How should companies that do not sell food products directly to consumers, such as the agricultural input sector, be assessed on their nutrition commitments and activities?**  *Your feedback* |
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C2. Accessibility and affordability of healthy foods (p.29)

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| **N3** **How best can this indicator ensure it assesses the activities of companies that are not selling food directly to consumers?**  *Your feedback*  **N4** Currently, the indicator focuses on the company’s commercial activities, rather than its non‑commercial or philanthropic activities. **Should non-commercial activities be acknowledged, to broaden the applicability of the indicator to other sub-sectors?**  *Your feedback* |
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**C3. Availability of sustainable protein (p.30)**

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| **N5** This indicator relates to the shift towards more sustainable forms of protein in people’s diets, rather than addressing protein deficiencies, which is included under nutrient deficiency in the indicator for the availability of healthy foods. **Is this distinction sufficiently clear?**  *Your feedback*  **N6** **Can this indicator assess how companies that are not selling animal-based protein or animal feed can contribute to protein diversification? If so, in what way?**  *Your feedback* |
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C4. Clear and transparent labelling (p. 31)

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| **N7** This indicator is about consumer behaviour and a company’s role in enabling consumer decision-making that leads to healthier, more nutritious and sustainable choices. Currently, it is intended for assessing processed and composite foods rather than single ingredient foods.  **Should all foods be included under this indicator?**  *Your feedback*  **N8** **Can this indicator assess how the labelling activities of companies that are not selling directly to consumers can influence healthy food choices? If so, in what way?**  *Your feedback* |
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C5. Responsible marketing (p. 32)

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| **N9** **Can this indicator assess how the marketing activities of companies that are not selling directly to consumers can influence healthy food choices? If so, in what way?**  *Your feedback* |
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D Social inclusion - Transformation-specific social indicators

D19. Child labour (p. 35)

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| **S1** ‘Child labour’ in this indicator is defined as work by people aged under 18 (children) that is not permitted. This is different to ‘child work’, which is defined as work by people under 18 (children) that is permitted. Child work is carried out by ‘young workers’.  A child is anyone under the age of 18, as defined by the Convention on the Rights of the Child. ILO Convention C138 – Minimum Age for Admission to Employment (1973) specifies that a child aged under 18 can work if it is above the age for finishing compulsory schooling, and is not younger than 15 (or 14 in specific circumstances in developing countries) and as long as the work is not ‘hazardous’.  **This indicator assesses the prevention of child labour; safe working conditions for young workers (child work) are assessed in the health and safety indicator. Does this distinction make sense?**  *Your feedback* |
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D23. Farmer productivity and resilience (p. 36)

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| **S2** While it is widely acknowledged that companies can contribute to smallholder farmers having a decent livelihood, a robust consensus on frameworks and metrics is still emerging.  **How should companies – agricultural producers as well as consumer-facing companies – demonstrate their support for (smallholder) farmer resilience, productivity and access to markets?**  *Your feedback* |
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