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# From commitment to action

An assessment of food and agriculture companies participating in the G7 Sustainable Supply Chain Initiative

Summary, October 2022

**Corporate accountability helps drive change. Over three quarters of companies assessed through the G7 Sustainable Supply Chain Initiative (SSCI) made progress on at least one topic deemed crucial for food systems transformation. Moreover, all companies improved their public disclosure by publishing relevant reports or policies. In 2021, 22 food and agriculture companies made a pledge to improve the environmental, social and nutritional impact of their business operations and supply chains. Collectively, the companies represent USD 500 billion in annual revenue and employ over 2 million people in their direct operations and millions more throughout their supply chains. The World Benchmarking Alliance (WBA) assessed the progress companies made to deliver on their pledge. This report presents the findings of that assessment.**

This is reason for optimism, as companies are on their journey to improve their actions and impact to key topics in the food systems transformation agenda. Given their influence across continents, ecosystems and communities, however, companies have far-reaching responsibilities and room for improvement to address global challenges. This report aims to inspire these companies, and others, to step up their efforts. Its insights

will help inform businesses and governments on where they need to work together to realise the agricultural transformation required.

In 2021 the G7 presided over by the United Kingdom (UK), launched the G7 SSCI with 22 signatory companies. In 2022 the German government took over, connected the initiative to its presidency's agenda, and appointed the OECD as the secretariat. WBA has evaluated companies headquartered in G7 countries, comparing their progress on key sustainability topics with their performance in the [2021 Food and Agriculture Benchmark](#). Of the 22 companies that signed up to the G7 SSCI, 21 agreed to be assessed across the four measurement areas of environment, nutrition, social inclusion and governance and strategy.

WBA's 2023 Food and Agriculture Benchmark will assess the progress of 350 companies, including those assessed in the initiative, on topics in forementioned areas. This new stocktaking will again shed light on where the private sector is positioned on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and where further commitments and pledges are urgently needed.

## Moving the needle: progress on agricultural transformation

As we did for the 2021 Food and Agriculture Benchmark, WBA assessed companies on topics covering the environment, nutrition, social inclusion, and governance and strategy. Most progress was captured in the **environment** measurement area, with 13 companies improving their performance. Six companies improved their efforts to reduce scope 1 and 2 emissions compared to the 2021 benchmark. In terms of reducing scope 3 emissions, five of the 20 companies assessed improved their tracking and reporting. The improvements ranged from disclosing quantitative reductions in emissions to setting targets to reduce scope 3 emissions. Of the remaining 15 companies, seven are yet to make any significant progress towards setting emissions reduction targets. As suppliers and other value chain partners often represent the largest contribution to food and agriculture companies' emissions, companies need to enhance their focus on these partners to significantly reduce their scope 3 emissions in line with the Paris Agreement.

Companies also showed progress in the **social inclusion** measurement area, particularly human rights commitments to eliminate child and forced labour, with four companies improving their disclosure. However, considerable reporting gaps remain regarding how companies ensure their suppliers implement human rights commitments and monitoring systems. While three companies improved their disclosure around supporting farmer productivity and resilience, 11 companies are yet to make significant progress on this topic by measuring the impact of their

support activities. Three companies do not disclose any commitment to work with farmers and improve their productivity and resilience. Similarly, companies' disclosure and commitments related to key topics such as ensuring a living wage saw no improvements.

Much less improvement was recorded on topics in the **nutrition** measurement area, where only five companies showed progress. Most companies across the value chain have taken the first steps to demonstrate how their business contributes to tackling malnutrition, and four food and beverage manufacturers show leading practices related to improving the availability of more nutritious options in their portfolio. Nonetheless, a lack of disclosure is particularly evident when it comes to making healthy and nutritious foods accessible to vulnerable communities across the globe, and ensuring their marketing practices to be responsible, especially involving children. As such, nutrition remains an area of concern. Companies are lagging, and steps are needed to improve their impact in a world facing rising food prices and alarming trends in malnutrition in all its forms.

Almost half of the companies progressed in the area of **governance and strategy**, in terms of formulating relevant strategies and targets and assigning accountability at the highest level. However, additional improvements regarding strategy development and stakeholder engagement are needed to ensure complete embodiment of and accountability for companies' most material topics.

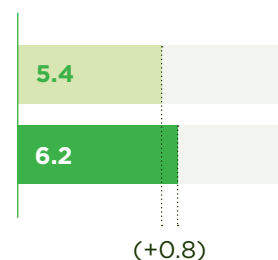
# From commitment to action

## Companies in scope

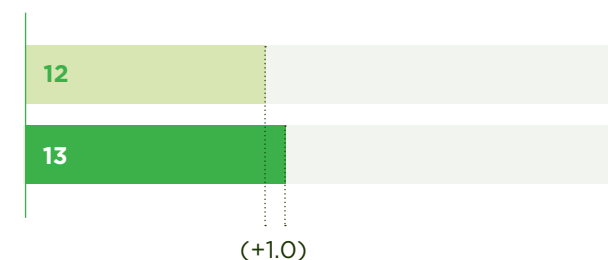
Associated British Foods  
BASF  
Bayer<sup>1</sup>  
Boparan Holdings  
(2 Sisters Food Group)  
Compass Group  
Danone  
Diageo  
ED&F Man  
Ingredion  
Union InVivo  
Kraft Heinz  
McCain Foods  
McCormick  
Meiji  
Wm Morrison  
Supermarkets  
NH Foods<sup>2</sup>  
PHW Group  
Sainsbury's  
Seven & I Holdings  
Sodexo  
Tate & Lyle  
Unilever

## Progress across measurement areas

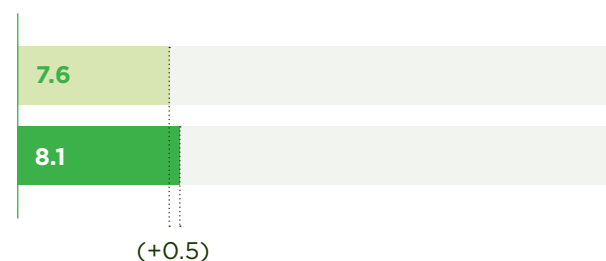
### Governance and strategy (out of 10)



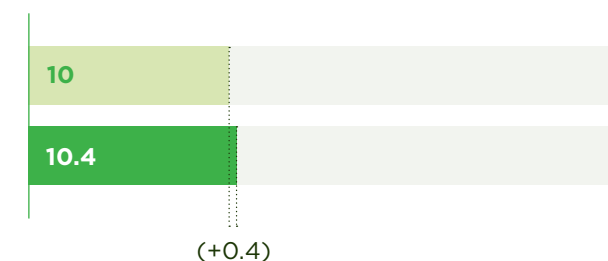
### Environment (out of 30)



### Nutrition (out of 30)



### Social inclusion (out of 30)



2021 G7 SSCI (21 companies)  
2022 G7 SSCI (improvement)

<sup>1</sup> Bayer is partially using WBA metrics to track progress.  
<sup>2</sup> NH Foods will use other indices to track progress.

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### About the World Benchmarking Alliance:

The World Benchmarking Alliance's mission is to build a movement to measure and incentivise business impact towards a future that works for everyone. We develop publicly available and free benchmarks that compare the private sector's contribution to the United Nations (UN) Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The benchmarks show where 2000 of the world's most influential companies (the SDG2000) and industries stand on the transformational roadmaps, where they can improve and where urgent action is needed, accelerating sustainable development. [www.worldbenchmarkingalliance.org](http://www.worldbenchmarkingalliance.org)

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