

UN STI Forum

Roundtable 1: National science-policy advice (06 May - 8:45 - 9:45AM)

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During the pandemic, scientists from national institutions, WHO, and private sector took center stage not only to find solutions to fight coronavirus, but also in public debates to explain their effectiveness and safety, for such solutions to be accepted and used by the people. This showed, more than ever in recent times, that the capacity of governments to make decisions, plan and rapidly implement interventions, and build public trust largely depended on the joint competences of scientists, reliability of private companies' technologies, and UN independent guidance and supervision.

In such global emergency context, governments' trust towards Bayer's innovative crop science technologies enabled us and our local partner NGOs to support over 1.5 million smallholders in 15 countries across Asia, Africa, and Latin America with starter packs, services, and market linkages, in 2021, helping avert the collapse of agriculture, preventing a health crisis to turn into a hunger crisis in the short term and providing solid basis to build food systems back better in the long term. Beyond emergency, our highly regulated and science-based technologies are currently enabling 45 million smallholders in low- and middle-income countries to sustainably produce more and better with less.

Yet, to fully garner trust in science-based innovative solutions fighting global diseases, food insecurity, climate change and other major challenges facing humanity, people and their governments need to be able to grasp what scientists and private companies are doing and why they are doing it. Bayer has thus fully committed to transparency beyond regulatory requirements – e.g., by enabling public access to our studies and submission documents; opening our labs; sharing internal product safety standards.

We recognize the U.N. Sustainable Development Goals as the framework for business planning and action to achieve our vision of “Health for all, hunger for none”, and we call on this Forum to strengthen the enabling institutional frameworks to advance multistakeholder partnerships involving the private sector, led by trustworthy organizations like the United States Council for International Business.