



BUSINESSatOECD

Business at OECD (BIAC)

Food and Agriculture Committee

Annual Activity Report 2023

Message

from the Committee Chair

Following the OECD Agriculture Ministerial meeting in November 2022, this year we focused on the next steps – promoting partnerships between the private and the public sector and putting business initiatives at the forefront of solutions.

In 2023, alongside our continuous engagement with the OECD at all levels on issues that are most salient for our businesses, we continued building on our 'Peace for Food' campaign, concentrating on sustainable productivity growth. By challenging different leaders, businesses, policymakers and even farmers to discuss and engage with each other on specific and current issues in the food and agricultural sectors, we addressed topics such as challenges stemming from climate change, innovation and digitalization of agriculture, and connecting developed and developing economies together.

As part of our campaign, we were pleased to co-organize two regional roundtables – one in Istanbul, jointly organized with the OECD Istanbul Centre, as their first event since their official opening, and another in Vilnius, together with AgriFood Lithuania and the Lithuanian Confederation of Industrialists. This marked the second year in a row in which we partnered to bring the OECD and BIAC perspectives into the context of the Baltic States.

Throughout the year we focused on advancing the discussion on the digitalization of agriculture and how the private sector contributes to raising agricultural productivity, moving toward producing more food with fewer resources. In this context, we launched a new 'Field of the Future' campaign, which particularly focuses on these issues. We also encouraged replacing distortive government support with trade-facilitating measures, and removing trade restrictions and regulatory discrepancies across countries.

In 2024, our Committee will continue to engage the OECD to shape policy-making on behalf of our businesses, particularly under the 'Peace for Food' and 'Field of the Future' campaigns, and with the hope that together, we can enhance food security globally. We will also engage with this year's B20 as Brazil takes up the presidency and has included a task force on sustainable food systems. I look forward to continuing our work impacting food supply chains from farm to fork.



Metin Akman

Business at OECD Food and Agriculture Committee Chair

Context

The OECD is a global leader of statistics, forecasts, and evidence-based policy recommendations in the area of food and agriculture. Its annual publications, such as *Monitoring and Evaluating Agricultural Policies* and the *OECD–FAO Agricultural Outlook*, are closely followed by policymakers and industry.

The OECD's policy work contributes to bettering food systems in pursuit of the Sustainable Development Goals. The OECD contributes actively to the G20, including through the Agricultural Market Information System (AMIS).

Business at OECD (BIAC) is the officially recognized business advisory group to the OECD and represents the leading business and employers' organizations in OECD countries. The work of our Food and Agriculture Committee enables private sector representatives to participate in high-level OECD sessions and regular policy meetings, exchange and network with governments and OECD leadership, access information and contribute to OECD policy recommendations, and build momentum with private sector peers to impact policy-making at all stages.

This activity report provides selected year highlights of the *Business at OECD* Food and Agriculture Committee in 2023, and includes a list of Committee releases and sessions. In line with the OECD's priorities and the efforts of many others in our Committees, our activities in 2023 focused on advancing discussions on sustainable productivity growth and the triple challenge through our Peace for Food campaign, as well as bringing discussions on innovation through the launch of our Field of the Future – digital farming campaign.

Our activity highlights

March

In March, a large *Business at OECD* (BIAC) Food and Agriculture Committee delegation participated in the OECD Working Party on Agricultural Policies and Markets (APM) meeting, to discuss the OECD work on food systems and agricultural resilience to natural disasters and environmental impacts in food systems, among other issues.

April

In April, our *Business at OECD* Food and Agriculture Committee convened in Paris and virtually to exchange members' agriculture priorities and discuss with Ms. Marion Jansen, OECD Trade and Agriculture Director, the key priorities for the Organization on agriculture for the upcoming period. We also exchanged with Julia Nielson, OECD Trade and Agriculture Deputy Director, on the OECD Accession process in this field.



(*Business at OECD Food and Agriculture Committee Meeting April 2023*)

A large *Business at OECD* delegation led by Chair Metin Akman attended the next day's OECD Global Forum on Agriculture and our Vice Chair, Natasha Santos, moderated a panel on trade implications of carbon footprints in food systems.

Following the Forum, we participated in the session of the OECD Committee for Agriculture (COAG) and convened business priorities for the programme of work of the organization in this field.



(*Business at OECD Food and Agriculture Committee Vice Chair Natasha Santos at the OECD Global Forum on Agriculture April 2023*)

May

In May, a *Business at OECD* delegation participated in the session of the OECD Working Party on Agricultural Policies and Markets and the Joint Working Party on Agriculture and Trade, and convened business messages on aligning agricultural, trade and environmental policies, assessing the transmission of production shocks across the global value chain and other issues.

In May, together with the OECD Istanbul Centre, and as the next step of our [Peace For Food](#) campaign, we brought global stakeholders together to Istanbul for our Roundtable on *Opportunities to promote more sustainable, productive and resilient food systems*. The event was the first official event of the OECD Istanbul Centre since its launch in March 2023, and took place in the context of the renewal of the Grain Corridor Agreement.



(Joint Business at OECD (BIAC) – OECD Istanbul Centre Roundtable)

In preparation for the event, and in the context of the B7, we also launched a [What's next for Agriculture?](#) publication, which provides business suggestions toward a shared action agenda for agribusinesses and governments. Our campaign and business recommendations calling for further public private cooperation, reducing productivity gaps through investment, increasing spending on agriculture research, and fostering sustainable farming practices were taken up in the B7 Tokyo Summit Joint Recommendations.

June

In June, a large business delegation led by Vice Chair Ben Rivoire attended a meeting of the OECD Food Chain Analysis Network (FCAN), which focused on measuring and communicating environmental impacts of food products. Through this participation we cemented our engagement with FCAN and are now regularly invited to these discussions.

September

In September, members participated in the meeting of the **OECD Working Party on Agricultural Policies and Markets**, discussing issues such as measuring the impacts of agricultural policies, productivity-sustainability-resilience work and food systems work, among others.

October

In October, our delegation led by Vice Chairs Martin Schaefer and Ben Rivoire attended the **OECD Committee for Agriculture**, where we reemphasized our business priorities in the context of the first discussion of the OECD proposed Programme of Work and Budget 2025-26 and suggestions for the Global Forum on Agriculture for 2024.

November

In November, we had the pleasure of welcoming our committee members to Vilnius, where we held our committee meeting. Members exchanged with OECD Trade and Agriculture Deputy Director Julia Nielson on the future of work for the OECD in this field, as well as Andy Zynga, CEO of EIT Food, and Vidmantas Janulevičius, president of Lithuanian Confederation of Industrialists.



(Business at OECD Food and Agriculture Committee Meeting November 2023)

As next steps for the Peace for Food campaign, we partnered with AgriFood Lithuania for the **largest AgriFood Forum in the Baltic States**. The Forum gathered digital innovation hubs, government representatives, as well as OECD and EU high-level officials to discuss some of the most pressing challenges for the agriculture sector in the Baltic region.

On 27 November, we launched our new, *Field of the Future* campaign through the organization of a digital farming roundtable in Paris. Representatives from various sectors within the agricultural and digital industries and government stakeholders exchanged promises and opportunities within the digital transformation of agriculture, contributing also to solving climate change challenges, and exploring the role that international collaboration can play in propelling such recommendations.



(Field of the Future – Digital Farming Roundtable)

December

Members also participated in the meeting of the **OECD Working Party on Agricultural Policies and Markets, and the Joint Working Party on Agriculture and Trade**, discussing among others agriculture policies to build system-wide resilience in agrifood value chains and climate change adaptation policies to foster resilience in agriculture.

Sessions

Our Meetings with the OECD and Governments

Business at OECD Sessions

24 April

Business at OECD Food and Agriculture Committee Meeting

8 May

Business at OECD – OECD Peace for Food Istanbul Roundtable

13 November

Business at OECD Food and Agriculture Committee Meeting

14 November

Joint Business at OECD, AgriFood Lithuania and LPK Peace for Food – AgriFood Baltic Forum

27 November

Business at OECD Field of the Future Roundtable

Engagement in OECD Fora

25 April

OECD Global Forum on Agriculture

Engagement in OECD Committee Sessions

26-27 April

OECD Committee for Agriculture

3-4 May

OECD Committee on Fisheries

25-26 October

OECD Committee for Agriculture

21-23 November

OECD Committee on Fisheries

Engagement in OECD Working Party Sessions

OECD Working Party on Agricultural Policies and Markets (APM)	14-15 March
OECD Joint Working Party on Agriculture and the Environment (JWPAE)	6-7 April
OECD Joint Working Party on Agriculture and Trade (JWPAT)	9 May
OECD Working Party on Agricultural Policies and Markets (APM)	10-11 May
OECD Food Chain Analysis Network (FCAN)	22-23 June
OECD Working Party on Agricultural Policies and Markets (APM)	28-29 September
OECD Joint Working Party on Agriculture and the Environment (JWPAE)	9-10 November
OECD Working Party on Agricultural Policies and Markets (APM)	29-30 November
OECD Joint Working Party on Agriculture and Trade (JWPAT)	1 December

Our **key releases**



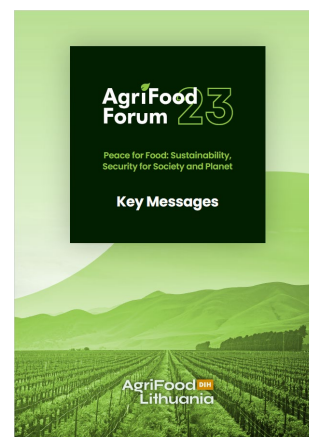
[What's Next for Agriculture?](#)
(May 2023)

Suggestions for a shared action agenda

This "What's Next for Agriculture" insights report prepared by *Business at OECD* builds upon our previous contributions and explores further the practical actions that can be undertaken to enable more sustainable, productive and resilient food systems. Taking stock of the current situation in agriculture markets and the outcomes of the AGMIN, our report provides for a shared action agenda for agribusinesses and governments.



[Key messages for the consideration of G7](#)
(April 2023)



[Peace for Food – AgriFood Lithuania Forum Key Messages](#)
(December 2023)



[Field of the Future Roundtable Statement](#)
(January 2024)

Committee Leadership

Chair

Metin Akman

Trouw Nutrition Turkey (Türkiye)

Vice Chair

Natasha Santos

Bayer (Germany)

Vice Chair

Gabriela Wurcel

FMC Corporation (US)

Vice Chair

Mark Ball

Syngenta (Switzerland)

Vice Chair

Martin Schäfer

BASF SE (Germany)

Vice Chair

Benjamin Rivoire

International Seeds Federation
(International)

Vice Chair

**Kristina Šermukšnytė -
Alešiūnienė**

AgriFood Lithuania DIH (Lithuania)

Vice Chair

Verónica Puente

FIAB (Spain)

Vice Chair

Paul Kelly

Ibec (Ireland)



(Food and Agriculture Committee members convening in Vilnius for the Committee meeting, with OECD Trade and Agriculture Deputy Director Ms. Julia Nielson, and President of Lithuanian Confederation of Industrialists, Mr. Vidmantas Janulevičius)



BUSINESSatOECD

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Established in 1962, *Business at OECD* (BIAC) stands for policies that enable businesses of all sizes to contribute to growth, economic development, and societal prosperity. Through *Business at OECD*, national businesses and employers' federations representing over 7 million companies provide and receive expertise via our participation with the OECD and governments promoting competitive economies and better business.