

## Discussion Guide on Towards the establishment of an International Digital Council for Food and Agriculture

**Question 2. How can the establishment of the Digital Council address the numerous barriers to adoption of these technologies?**

**Proposed information for the concept note** – In realizing its roles and in running every activity, the Digital Council will respect some principles in order to address the numerous barriers to adoption of these technologies:

- **Be Inclusive:** Membership shall be inclusive, diverse and balance representation from the various stakeholders active in the food and agriculture global value chain. It is particularly important that this also includes adequate representation of minorities and small agricultural and rural communities. In doing so, the council shall be transparent and work to ensure all stakeholder perspectives are voiced and heard.
- **Be Neutral:** The Digital Council should be impartial to geography and technological solution areas when setting its agenda, instead prioritizing those efforts that can offer the greatest potential value to accelerating digital agriculture.
- **Be Accessible:** The initiatives undertaken by the Digital Council should try to have a role in making digital agriculture solutions available and affordable, especially for farmers and people in rural areas, women and youth.
- **Be Autonomous:** The council's leadership body should have the autonomy to make strategic decisions free from political or donor pressures.
- **Be Accretive:** The Digital Council should ensure that its work is mindful of and consistent with broader normative commitments such as the UN SDGs and the principles for digital development, and additive in its contributions to digital agriculture growth.
- **Be Efficient:** The action of the Digital Council shall be as practical as possible and always aimed at achieving the best results within the shortest time and with the lowest effort.
- **Be Ethical:** The council should ensure that technology is used in a fair and ethical way, considering the rights of the most vulnerable.
- **Be Scalable:** the actions of the council should work toward solutions that have the greatest potential for scale and the broadest reach and applicability to target beneficiaries. Moreover, additionally, activities will be rooted in market principles and based on end user needs and to the extent possible those needs shall be reflected in deliberations.

**Further guiding questions related to Q2 for your consideration:**

- Do you think the principles highlighted are conclusive and address the needs for overcoming the barriers?
- According to you, what should be added or removed?