Terms of Reference
Coalition on Sustainable Productivity Growth for Food Security and Resource Conservation

Statement of purpose

The goal of the Coalition for Sustainable Productivity Growth for Food Security and Resource Conservation (the SPG Coalition) is to accelerate the transition to more sustainable food systems through productivity growth that optimizes agricultural sustainability across social, economic, and environmental dimensions. The SPG Coalition is intended to advance a holistic approach to productivity growth that considers impacts and tradeoffs among multiple objectives, including, but not limited to, food security and nutrition, food safety, food affordability, food access, diet quality, farmer and farmworker incomes and wellbeing, equity and inclusion, food loss and waste, animal welfare, resource conservation, biodiversity, soil health, water quality, resilience, and climate change mitigation and adaptation.

The SPG Coalition will provide a platform for

- **Sharing and disseminating** information about best practices, lessons learned, and innovative, evidence-based approaches for sustainable productivity growth, inclusive of those rooted in traditional knowledge and experience; those involving innovations in social, behavioral, managerial, and institutional structures; and those incorporating cutting edge technologies.
- **Learning** from other members' experiences and research
- **Identifying** knowledge gaps, research opportunities, and collaboration opportunities
- **Connecting** with new partners
- **Inspiring** new action, enabling mechanisms, and impactful outcomes

Coalition members will

- **Act,** individually or in collaboration with other coalition members, to advance sustainable productivity growth that optimizes agricultural sustainability across social, economic, and environmental dimensions. Possible types of actions include, but are not limited to, those describe in Annex 1.
- **Share with SPG members and disseminate to non-members** information about best practices, lessons learned, and innovative, evidence-based approaches for sustainable productivity growth, inclusive of those rooted in traditional knowledge and experience; those involving innovations in social, behavioral, managerial, and institutional structures; and those incorporating cutting edge technologies.
- **Contribute to** members-only discussions, meetings, and workshops; public events and platforms on sustainable agriculture and food systems; and to the SPG Coalition's annual reporting on members' major success and lessons learned, as appropriate.

The SPG Coalition organizational structure

- **Coalition members:** All entities (except individuals) involved with advancing sustainable productivity growth can join, including countries, farmer and producer groups, agricultural and food businesses, NGOs, civil society groups, youth groups, women's groups, minority groups, groups representing Indigenous Peoples, UN agencies, academic groups, think tanks and research institutions. The SPG Coalition is open to members from all sectors of agriculture, including crops, livestock, poultry, aquaculture and forestry.
- **Coordination:** The U.S. Department of Agriculture will provide coordination services for SPG Coalition meetings and annual reporting, as feasible.

- **Biannual meetings**: The SPG Coalition will hold biannual meetings, either virtual or in person. Meetings will be conducted in English. Additional meetings, potentially with sub-groups of coalition members, may be convened as needed.
- **Financial contributions:** There is no financial commitment or funding obligation associated with joining the SPG Coalition. The SPG Coalition is not intended as a mechanism for collecting and distributing financial support.
- **Annual reporting**: SPG Coalition members are invited, but not obligated, to contribute to an annual reporting of major successes and lessons learned, which will be posted on the SPG Coalition website, currently hosted on the U.S. Department of Agriculture website.

ANNEX 1
Types of Possible Member Actions

1. *Link productivity growth goals with resource conservation and climate goals* to help ensure that productivity growth delivers on its conservation promise, including by linking with goals on reducing the negative externalities of agricultural production and increasing the positive ones. Examples include industry actions to increase productivity while simultaneously setting goals to reduce pollution or GHG emissions.

2. *Link conservation and climate goals with productivity goals* to help ensure that conservation and climate action does not reduce food production, increase food insecurity, or grow farmer poverty. Examples include capacity building programs designed to close productivity gaps so that farmers and farm communities can afford to reduce or avoid expansion into new lands, including programs supported by USAID.

3. *Advance, implement, and promote Climate Smart Agriculture and Forestry* (CSAF) and its objectives of sustainably increasing agricultural productivity and incomes; adapting and building resilience to climate change; reducing greenhouse gas emissions and storing carbon within agricultural landscapes. Examples include regional climate hubs that develop regionally appropriate approaches and extension services that support the dissemination and adoption of CSAF.

4. *Link productivity growth, resource conservation and climate goals with business, market, and producer-level needs* to help spur public, private and grassroots action towards achieving these goals. Examples include sustainable productivity focused business case models, uniform ESG reporting requirements, and success stories that showcase private industry actions.

5. *Build public-private partnerships to leverage efforts, including R&D.*   The public and private sectors possess unique research capabilities, scientific expertise, and dissemination channels. Public private partnerships can accelerate progress on the development and adoption of innovative and impactful new approaches.

6. *Join or otherwise participate in the Agriculture Innovation Mission for Climate* (AIM for Climate) to help increase and accelerate global investments in agricultural innovation and R&D that sustainably increase agricultural productivity, improve livelihoods, conserve nature and biodiversity, and help communities adapt and build resilience to climate change, all while reducing greenhouse gas emissions and sequestering carbon.

7. *Advance continuous improvement in sustainable production of livestock and poultry*, by advancing and expanding the work of international and country-specific sustainability frameworks working to identify and facilitate implementation of best practices (for example, the Global Roundtable for Sustainable Beef, U.S. Roundtable for Sustainable Poultry and Eggs, and U.S. Dairy Net Zero Initiative) as well as investing in research to identify additional opportunities for innovation that increases efficiency to meet food security, nutrition and environmental targets.

8. *Advance progress in utilizing underutilized genetic resources to increase productivity growth, address climate change, and enhance nutrition*. Underutilized genetic resources contained in existing seed vaults that have been neither sequenced nor trait mined, can support the improved and accelerated breeding programs needed for agriculture to appropriately address the climate challenges.

9. *Advance progress in growing the nutritional productivity of agriculture* to improve the availability and affordability of nutritious foods. This could be achieved by improving the nutrition content of crops and animal derived foods (for example through biofortification and quality selection) as well as by increasing the productivity and nutrition of diverse crops and livestock.

10. *Advance progress in conceptualizing and measuring sustainable productivity growth across objectives* in order to drive even more comprehensive productivity growth, including by incorporating additional outcomes, such as nutrition indicators, food loss and waste amounts, or externality impacts, into the calculations.