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Singapore launches Food Security Roadmap to protect food systems

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Nearly 2.37 billion people lacked access to adequate food in 2020, a rise of 320 million in just one year, according to a World Bank **policy brief**. A **report** by the Global Network Against Food Crises (GNAFC) found that the number of people facing acute food insecurity who need urgent life and livelihood-saving assistance hit a five-year high in 2020.

Against this backdrop, APEC ministers convened at their annual APEC Ministerial Meeting on Food Security on Thursday, chaired by New Zealand Minister of Agriculture Damien O'Connor, and adopted the **APEC Food Security Roadmap Towards 2030**.

The roadmap details goals and key action areas where APEC is well placed to help ensure people always have access to sufficient, safe, affordable and nutritious food to meet their dietary needs and food preferences for an active and healthy life.

APEC 2040 vision is to deliver an open, dynamic, peaceful and resilient region. The roadmap, aligned with New Zealand's APEC 2021 priorities as well as the APEC Putrajaya Vision 2040, incorporates four key areas of focus:

- Digitalization and innovation: using digital levers to drive food sustainability
- Productivity: prioritizing systems that are fit for purpose
- Inclusivity: ensuring that underrepresented groups are set up to thrive
- Sustainability: tackling climate change and environmental challenges

"Besides our effort to address the challenges of food security, the roadmap also emphasizes efforts in increasing productivity and efficiency, minimizing food waste, mitigating and adapting to climate change as well as reducing costs and facilitating

food trade," added Philip Houlding, Chair of the **APEC Policy Partnership on Food Security**. The group spearheaded the development of the roadmap and drives public-private sector engagement on all aspects of food security in the region.