Summary
This series of high-level events was developed and hosted jointly by The Global Panel and the Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development in Nigeria. The events included: a high-level roundtable meeting to support and inform Nigeria’s strategic approach to securing healthy diets for all; the launch of the new Nigerian Government Agricultural Sector Food and Nutrition Strategy 2016-20, a workshop to test the Global Panel’s Policy Decision Tool, and the African launch of the Global Panel’s brief Improving nutrition through enhanced food environments.

“I never dreamed the day would come when food and nutrition security would be so well recognised.” H.E. Professor Hafiz Abubakar, Deputy Governor Kano State

Speakers
Senator Heineken Lokpobiri, Minister of State for Agriculture and Rural Development; Professor Baffour Aygeman Duah, CEO, JAK Foundation; Professor Sandy Thomas, Director, Global Panel; HE Professor Hafiz Abubakar, Deputy Governor Kano State; Professor Olugbenga Ben Ogunmoyela, Chairman, Body of Fellows, Nigerian Institute of Food Science and Technology

Consensus statements
- There is widespread commitment to raising the profile of nutrition policy and strengthening collaboration between the private sector, civil society and government.
- A “business as usual” approach will not work. Despite the multiple initiatives of recent years, the prevalence of malnutrition continues to rise in Nigeria.
- A single co-ordinating body is needed to oversee and enable collaboration across sectors at all levels. Government alone cannot solve the challenges of malnutrition in Nigeria.
- Private sector and government need to collaborate much more effectively on food, agriculture and nutrition policy development. Private sector attendees welcomed the Global Panel’s convening power bringing government, NGOs and the private sector together at these high-level events.
- Better nutrition expertise is needed when developing federal and state policies and interventions. Modifying educational curricula to build capacity for nutrition professionals should be prioritised.
- Decision makers lack the high-quality data needed to develop a deeper understanding of the science which underpins healthy diets, e.g. factors that drive consumer behaviour and household surveys.
- Shared ownership for delivering the FMARD Food and Nutrition Strategy will be essential, as will defining roles and responsibilities.
- Social attitudes to women and food safety remain high priority areas for action.
- The Global Panel’s Food Systems Policy Tool “has a huge potential to work very well in the case of Nigeria” – Dr. George Mavrotas, Senior Research Fellow, Development Strategy & Governance Division & Program Leader, Nigeria Strategy Support Program, International Food Policy Research Institute.

Key actions to take forward
- Director to brief the National Economic and National Governors Forums, utilising the influence and authority of the Global Panel, by invitation.
- Strengthen support for the inter-ministerial working group through provision of briefs at scale.
- Refine the Food Systems Policy Tool to reflect feedback from workshop participants.