

Submission to SCF Standing Committee on Finance

By Jeremy Collier Foundation

The Jeremy Collier Foundation (JCF) is delighted to note that the SCF Forum this year will be focused on the topic of accelerating climate action and resilience through financing sustainable food systems and agriculture. JCF would like to submit a suggestion for a sub-topic to be included at the Forum this year, as well as a suggestion for a case study.

1. Suggested sub-topic: Repurposing agricultural subsidies

A FAIRR-led investor statement in 2023, backed by investors with \$7 trillion, called on the G20 Finance Ministers to reform agricultural subsidies in line with climate change and nature goals¹. The statement noted that according to the UN, governments provide nearly \$500 billion per year of agricultural support that is price distorting and environmentally and socially harmful. Furthermore, the statement also called for increase available funding for *“Just Transition Mechanisms or funds to unlock the necessary finance to support affected stakeholders who are impacted by reforms”*.

This topic aligns with the proposed Forum sub-topic of *‘Fiscal instruments, incentives and regulation and multisectoral policy coherence and coordination as means to support, incentivize and enhance sustainable agricultural production’*,

2. Suggested case study: Investor engagement in sustainable food systems

The FAIRR Initiative is an initiative of the Jeremy Collier Foundation and is a collaborative investor network with a membership of over \$75 trillion in assets under management. FAIRR works with institutional investors to define the material ESG issues linked to intensive livestock and fish farming systems and provides them with the tools, data and research necessary to integrate this information into their asset stewardship and investment decisions.

FAIRR also facilitates collaborative engagements between investors and companies on specific topics of particular interest to our members such as the use of antibiotics in the global food supply chain. Through our network, FAIRR encourages companies to enhance disclosure and improve practices to minimise risks and maximise opportunities whilst staying within planetary boundaries, as well as providing investors with bottom-up analysis of corporates across the system including the largest meat and dairy companies. As an example, companies have continued to improve their scores against the Collier FAIRR Protein Producer Index in 2024², with scores increasing for nine out of 10 factors on average. However, the 15 worst-performing companies – defined as those in the bottom quartile – made limited progress across all ESG factors.

¹ <https://www.fairr.org/investor-statements/g20-agricultural-subsidies>

² <https://www.fairr.org/tools/protein-producer-index/key-findings>