Disclaimer: *In view of the European Commission's transparency policy, the Commission is publishing the texts of the EU-India FTA further to the conclusion of negotiations on 27 January 2026. These texts are published for information purposes only and may undergo further modifications, including as a result of the process of legal revision. These texts are without prejudice to the outcome of the Agreement between the EU and India. The texts will be final upon signing. The Agreement will become binding on the Parties under international law only after completion by each Party of its internal legal procedures necessary for the entry into force of the Agreement.*

CHAPTER 15

SUSTAINABLE FOOD SYSTEMS

ARTICLE 15.1

Objective

1. The Parties, recognize the importance of the sustainability of the food systems and agree to establish cooperation on the transition towards sustainable food systems.

2. This Chapter applies without prejudice to the provisions of other Chapters of this Agreement.

ARTICLE 15.2

Scope

1. This Chapter applies to cooperation in mutually agreed areas with a view to improve the sustainability of the Parties' respective food systems and to promote trade relations between the Parties.

2. This Chapter includes provisions for cooperation on specific aspects of sustainable food systems, as provided in Articles 15.4, 15.5, 15.6 and 15.7.

ARTICLE 15.3

Definitions

1. A sustainable food system is one that delivers adequate, affordable, safe and nutritious food to meet the needs of the present and future generations with minimal negative impact on the environment, while aiming to enhance benefits for the society and the economy of the Parties.

2. In accordance with the Parties' respective laws, regulations and domestic practices, sustainable food systems may include the following important characteristics:

(a) The sustainability of food production;

(b) The sustainability of food supply, including affordable access for consumers;

(c) The sustainability of food processing and marketing;

(d) The sustainability of food consumption and

(e) The reduction of food loss and waste.

ARTICLE 15.4

Sustainability of food production, supply, processing, marketing and consumption, and reduction in food loss and waste

1. Taking into account their priorities and circumstances the Parties shall endeavour to cooperate with the objective to enhance the sustainability and resilience of their respective food systems. Such cooperation may also, if agreed, be undertaken at the international fora.

2. To achieve the objectives established in paragraph 1, the Parties will, inter alia, cooperate to promote :

(a) sustainable food production, methods and practices which aim to improve sustainability;

(b) sustainable management of natural resources and address biodiversity loss in the process of food production;

(c) sustainable use of chemical pesticides and fertilizers, by reducing their use and mitigating their harmful effects in the food chain, when appropriate and according to differences in circumstances and agronomic conditions of the Parties;

(d) efforts to accelerate climate adaptation and mitigation in food production;

(e) enhanced resilience of their respective food supply chains;

(f) sustainable food processing and marketing;

(g) consumption of broad varieties of nutritious food and healthy diets;

(h) environment-friendly consumption;

(i) reduction in food loss and waste taking into consideration the SDG target 12.3.

3. The cooperation may include research and innovation collaborations, exchange of relevant and available information, expertise and experiences in the above fields.

ARTICLE 15.5

Deceptive practices along the agri-food chain

1. For the purpose of this Article, 'deceptive practice' means any suspected intentional unfair practice with the aim to gain undue competitive advantage and mislead the customers and consumers.

2. The Parties endeavour to cooperate in the fight against deceptive practices in the agri-food chain that are, or appear to be, non-compliant with their rules and/or that pose a risk to health of humans, animals or plants or the environment or mislead customers and consumers.

3. The information exchange for cooperation under paragraph 2 of this Article will be undertaken by prioritising extant systems and take advantage of the information already acquired through such systems.

ARTICLE 15.6

Animal welfare

1. The Parties recognise the importance of well-being of animals in food production system and the connection between improved animal health and the welfare of farmed animals.

2. Based on their respective legislations, the Parties aim to cooperate on animal welfare matters and the promotion of World Organisation for Animal Health (WOAH) animal welfare standards. Such cooperation will take into account any possible WTO commitment related to animal welfare that the Parties may take.

ARTICLE 15.7

Antimicrobial resistance

1. The Parties recognise that antimicrobial resistance is a serious problem and a global threat to human and animal health.

2. The Parties acknowledge that the nature of the threat requires 'One Health' approach in line with the Global Action Plan, which the Parties support.

3. The Parties acknowledge that the threat of AMR requires developing and implementing National Action Plan on AMR in line with the Global Action Plan.

4. Based on their respective legislation, priorities and needs the Parties aim to cooperate on areas of mutual interest in the fight against AMR and exchange their relevant experiences and expertise with each other on

(a) promoting the prudent and responsible use of antimicrobials in animal production and veterinary practice and

(b) phasing out the use of antimicrobials as growth promoters in food-producing animals

ARTICLE 15.8

The SFS Committee

1. The Parties hereby establish a Committee on Sustainable Food Systems under this Chapter, hereinafter referred to as the SFS Committee. All decisions made by the SFS Committee shall be by mutual agreement.

2. The SFS Committee shall be composed of representatives of the European Union and India with responsibility for matters covered by this Chapter and shall meet at an expert level.

3. The SFS Committee shall meet within one year of the date of entry into force of this agreement.

4. The SFS Committee shall endeavour to establish its rules of procedure at its first meeting. The SFS Committee shall modify its own rules of procedure if it deems it to be appropriate.

5. In pursuing the objectives of this Chapter to cooperate on the transition towards a sustainable food system, the SFS Committee will establish an action plan.

6. The SFS Committee will review the implementation of this Chapter, including the action plans, notably in the light of progress achieved.

7. The SFS Committee may establish technical working groups consisting of expert-level government representatives of the Parties, which shall identify and address technical and scientific matters covered by this Chapter.

8. When additional expertise is required, the SFS Committee may establish ad-hoc groups, including scientific groups. Membership of such ad hoc groups need not be restricted to representatives of the Parties and shall be mutually agreed upon by the Parties. If the Parties fail to reach consensus on the inclusion of an individual expert in the ad-hoc group, such expert shall not be included.

9. The SFS Committee shall report as needed on its activities to the Joint Committee established under the Agreement and seek mediation in case of disagreement between the Parties.

ARTICLE 15.9

Additional provisions

1. The Parties shall ensure that the activities of the SFS Committee referred to in Article 8 do not endanger the independence of their respective national or regional agencies. The Committee shall establish rules mitigating potential conflicts of interest for the participants of its meetings and those of any technical working group reporting to it.

2. Nothing in this Chapter shall affect the rights and obligations of each Party to protect confidential information, in accordance with each Party's relevant legislation. Each Party shall ensure that procedures are in place to prevent the disclosure of confidential information that is acquired during the process established in this Chapter.

3. Fully respecting the Parties' right to regulate, nothing in this Chapter shall be construed to oblige a Party to:

(a) modify its import requirements;

(b) deviate from domestic procedures for preparing and adopting regulatory measures;

(c) take action that would undermine or impede the timely adoption of regulatory measures to achieve its public policy objectives; or

(d) adopt any particular regulatory or financial provision.

ARTICLE 15.10

Dispute settlement

Neither Party shall have recourse to dispute settlement under Chapter 17 for any matter arising under this Chapter.