

## Strategy 6. Redesign supply chains

The disruption of supply chains due to the COVID-19 pandemic<sup>9</sup> has also created opportunities to reconsider supply chains, as reported by the UN Secretary-General in the Sustainable Development Report 2020.<sup>10</sup> For Japan, this could create opportunities to stimulate local production for local consumption, reconsider regional dynamics, and drive regional development. We would like these opportunities be utilized to redesign supply chains so that they can contribute to the achievement of the SDGs, in combination with the use of programs such as the “Regional Revitalization SDGs in Finance” scheme under the Japan’s Cabinet Office.

### Key points for achieving the SDGs

1. The reconsideration of supply chains could have synergies with many SDGs, including local production for local consumption, improved food self-sufficiency, job creation, and reduced risk of infectious diseases. Designing systems to reduce the number of points in a supply chain by even a little can lead to a reduction in the risk of infectious diseases, and a transformation in food systems can also promote smart agriculture. In addition, measures such as cold storage to reduce excess food can be expected to have synergies with the reduction of food loss. Meanwhile, when changing arrangements with suppliers, it is also important to keep in mind the need to avoid adverse impacts (e.g., wiping out small-scale overseas suppliers, and the contraction of sales channels). Thus, it is important to maintain a multi-dimensional approach with the 17 SDGs in mind when reconsidering supply chains.
2. Producers and other businesses engaged in direct sales could also see benefits such as a reduced carbon footprint.
3. Reduce plastics use, which increased due to the pandemic: Utilize of various strategies, including recycling. Also, consider biomass-derived plastics (bioplastics).

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<sup>9</sup> Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation (2020): COVID-19 A Global Perspective 2020 Goalkeepers Report, 4-5pp.

<sup>10</sup> Bertelsmann Stiftung and Sustainable Development Solutions Network (2020): Sustainable Development Report 2020, 12pp.

### **Key targets to help achieve the SDGs**

- 2.1 (Ensure access to safe, nutritious and sufficient food)
- 2.3 (Double the productivity and incomes of small-scale food producers)
- 2.4 (Ensure sustainable food production systems and implement resilient agricultural practices)
- 12.1 (Implement the 10-Year Framework of Programmes on Sustainable Consumption and Production Patterns)
- 12.3 (Reduce food losses)
- 12.5 (Reduce waste generation through prevention, reduction, recycling and reuse)
- 17.11 (Significantly increase the exports of developing countries)