



Working together to transform food systems

2022 ANNUAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

14-15 June 2022

IFAD HQ IN ROME, ITALY AND VIRTUALLY



Global Donor Platform
for Rural Development

Agenda

DAY 1 – Tuesday 14 June 2022

09:10 – 09:30

OPENING SESSION

09:30 – 12:45

MAIN SESSION

SUPPORTING NATIONAL FOOD SYSTEMS TRANSFORMATION PATHWAYS:
Enhancing donor effectiveness and coordination
at the country level in times of crises

GROUP COUNTRY DISCUSSION SESSIONS
Breakout rooms

14:00 – 15:15

SYNTHESIS PANEL

Highlight messages from countries
Plenary discussion and panel responses

15:30 – 17:00

OPTIMIZING THE USE OF DATA IN DECISION-MAKING

Session by the SDG2 Roadmap Thematic Working Group

DAY 2 – Wednesday 15 June 2022

09:00 – 09:10

OPENING OF DAY 2 AND SUMMARY OF DAY 1

09:10 – 10:40

**RESPONSIBLE LAND-BASED INVESTING AS A STRATEGY TO MITIGATE THE
HARMS OF A NEW FOOD CRISIS**

Session by the Global Donor Working Group on Land

11:00 – 12:30

**RURAL YOUTH EMPLOYMENT AND FOOD SYSTEMS TRANSFORMATION –
SOLUTIONS IN TIMES OF (MULTIPLE) CRISIS!**

Session by the Thematic Working Group on Rural Youth Employment

13:30 – 14:45

**SPECIAL HIGH-LEVEL SESSION
BUILDING CONSENSUS AND COORDINATION ON THE CURRENT GLOBAL
CRISIS RESPONSE**

The potential role of donors and the Global Donor Platform for Rural
Development

14:45 – 15:30

**MEETING SUMMARY
CLOSING SESSION AND FINAL REMARKS**



Members of the Global Donor Platform for Rural Development (GDPRD) convened on **14 and 15 June** for the **2022 Annual General Assembly (AGA)** to discuss evolving and emerging priority areas for collaboration among donors.

This year's AGA was a chance to expand and elaborate on the ideas emerging from the 2021 United Nations Food Systems Summit, and adapt thinking to rapid and dramatic shifts in the global context.

It was held against the backdrop of an **ongoing war** launched by Russia against Ukraine. This conflict has curtailed **exports of grains and edible oils** by these countries, which are two of the world's leading exporters, and reduced access to Russian fertilizers for farmers worldwide.

The consequences include **soaring prices** for traded food commodities and energy, **stoking inflation** caused by strong demand and **constrained supply** as the world economy recovers from the continuing COVID-19 pandemic that began in early 2020.

The sense of **crisis and urgency** has been reinforced by the *Hunger Hotspot*¹ report by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the World Food Programme. It warns that war and climate change have put **49 million** additional people in **46 countries** at risk of famine during the 2022 June-September "lean season" in the northern hemisphere.

The report also said rising food and energy prices were compounded by **high fertilizer costs** which are "likely to affect yields and therefore the future availability of food". And this as humanitarian organizations were seeing sharp cost increases for their operations.

In this meeting review, drawn from the annual assembly discussions piloted by the GDPRD in Rome, we look at five key themes for donors:

- Supporting national food system transformation pathways
- Building consensus and coordination of initiatives in response to the global crisis
- Optimizing the use of data in decision-making
- Responsible land-based investing
- Rural youth employment in food systems.

ABOUT THE AGA
<https://www.donorplatform.org/event/2022-annual-general-assembly/>

¹ WFP and FAO. 2022. Hunger Hotspots. FAO-WFP early warnings on acute food insecurity: June to September 2022 Outlook. Rome: World Food Programme and Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations.

Support countries in reshaping their national food systems

MAIN SESSION: Supporting National Food Systems Transformation Pathways

KEYNOTES



“ This is not the time to be closing borders to trade in food. Rwanda is investing ...our future is in highly productive, high-value agriculture.”

Géraldine Mukeshimana
Minister of Agriculture (Rwanda)

The conflict in Ukraine has raised concerns that we will soon face a food crisis. By disrupting the supply of grains, energy and fertilizer, it threatens a new shock to a global food system already destabilized over the past two years by the COVID-19 pandemic and now by an unprecedented food crisis.

Some states have responded with export controls. This is a mistake that exacerbates the crisis. Rwanda is keeping its trade relations strong and open. We know that there may be a need to import food from our neighbours when production does not meet national needs. This is not the time to be closing borders to trade in food.

Rwanda is also investing in food systems. Our national plan recognizes that our future is in highly productive, high-value agriculture. Rwanda is determined that small-scale farmers should be able to market their crops nationally and internationally. Government is building hard and soft infrastructure to help them succeed.

Rwanda is working with partners, including the WEF and IFAD, but “donors must find their niche with the country's existing policies and investment plans”.



“ There is now clear global consensus that we need to re-orient the way we produce and consume food.”

Claudia Sadoff
Executive Management Team Convener and Managing Director, Research Delivery and Impact (CGIAR)

Last year was really a turning point. There is now clear global consensus that transformation is needed across land and water systems, that we need to re-orient the way we produce and consume food. This challenge will be central to the COP 27 UN Climate Change Conference to be held at Sharm El Sheikh, Egypt on 6-18 November 2022. Global food security has become a top foreign policy objective.

But while confronting urgent and immediate crises, we must build long-term resilience against future shocks. The report [Ceres 2030: Sustainable Solutions to End Hunger](https://ceres2030.iisd.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/03/ceres2030_en-summary-report.pdf)² found that donors needed to double their investments. Need and urgency had since been compounded by Russia's assault on Ukrainian – “a nightmare that few of us could have predicted or imagined”.

While increased investment is needed in public research, “private sector partnerships are an essential piece of the puzzle”. Investing in innovation over the next 10 years could end hunger and generate over US\$1 trillion in economic returns. Meantime, the CGIAR was helping a group of countries, including Rwanda, Senegal and Kenya, to draft national pathways to food systems transformation.



“ The UN Food Systems Hub is now online and open for business.”

Stefanos Fotiou
Director, Office of Sustainable Development Goals, Director, United Nations Food Systems Coordination Hub

The Hub acts as an information source for countries seeking to implement food systems transitions, helping them to design projects, access funding and monitor progress – a critical element because of the need to demonstrate the benefits of food systems transformation, for people, the economy and the planet.

² https://ceres2030.iisd.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/03/ceres2030_en-summary-report.pdf.

How should we refocus?

MAIN SESSION: Opening Panel

The global cost-of-living crisis arising from soaring food and fuel prices, and rising interest rates, has been exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic and Russia's invasion of Ukraine. Donors and policymakers must respond to the crisis, while accelerating work on the underlying and necessary transformation of food systems.

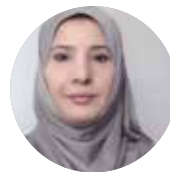
Donors and experts say:



“ Shifting to a food systems approach is an opportunity to harmonize the way we collect national statistics and conduct analysis to support decision- and policymaking; rationalize data collection and ensure more open access to information; and develop common frameworks for financing, and for monitoring progress at national and subnational levels.”

Sok Silo

Secretary General of the Council for Agricultural and Rural Development (Cambodia)



“ National pathways need to reflect national needs and policy choices, and those choices need to be informed by ideas and perspectives from civil society and the business sector. We need to ensure that the pathways reflect people's needs and aspirations.”

Karima Al-Hada'a

Planning and Liaison Specialist, Scaling-Up Nutrition Secretariat (SUN-YEMEN), Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation (Yemen), SUN Movement Executive Committee Member (ExCom) 2022-2023, Food Systems Invisible Convenor



“ As we move to action, we need to overcome the problem of fragmentation and build partnerships. We also need to decide what areas need public investment, which can be left to the private sector, and where there is scope for all sorts of organizations to work together.”

Agnes Kalibata

President, Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa (AGRA), former United Nations Special Envoy on the Food Systems Summit



“ The volatility of food prices used to be exceptional, but over the past 20 years it has become frequent. During crises, countries revert to non-cooperative strategies: we have to move away from such behaviour. We must also ensure we do not sacrifice environmental priorities as we respond to food crises.”

Johan Swinnen

Global Director of Systems Transformation (CGIAR), Director-General, International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI), Co-Chair of the Think20 Task Force on Food Security



Jyri Ollila

Coordinator for the Food Systems Summit, Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry (Finland)

“ Finland has a long tradition of stakeholder consultations to help decide policies – because this leads to better policies.

Our work on developing a national food systems pathway has shown that we need to focus on diversity and resilience. For diversity, we should mimic natural systems, which all use diversity as a survival strategy, by promoting diversity of production and technologies, input sourcing, marketing and in our eating habits.

What threatens our resilience? Sources we don't control. For example, the war in Ukraine has shown us to be dangerously dependent upon fertilizer and raw materials from Russia and Belarus. We also need to be more self-sustaining in energy, genetic materials, labour, finance and knowledge, whilst complementing these sources with international trade.”

TRANSFORMATION CASE STUDY



Ayodeji Balogun
Chief Executive Officer
of AFEX Commodities
Exchange

“AFEX Commodities Exchange is an excellent example of a private sector initiative that can enhance food system efficiency and resilience. Launched in Nigeria in 2014, last month we were named one of the fastest-growing businesses in Africa.

Drawing upon the franchise model of burger chain McDonald's, we now have exchanges in 15 countries, and revenues in 2020 of US\$31.7 million.³ The company's exchanges enable investors to trade commodities. Its online WorkBench platform loans money to farmers to buy inputs: these are repaid in grain after the harvest, which can be stored in or transit through AFEX warehouses. It brings the benefits of digital technologies to farmers and investors alike, aiding food productivity and security of supply. We expect to be working with half a million farmers, and to open operations in Côte d'Ivoire and Uganda by year's end.

The private sector brings the chance to amplify the impact of the donor dollar tenfold. We have catalysed innovation. And we have reduced the cost of implementation, making it cheaper to reach small farmers, provide them with inputs, and buy their produce.”

3 Matonga, G. 2022. Technology drives change through Africa's food chain. Financial Times, 16 May. <https://www.ft.com/content/f08cd09b-5b0e-42d8-8275-b9a013f3d986>.

GROUP COUNTRY DISCUSSION SESSIONS

Mahamadou Aboubacar
Coordinator and Focal Point,
Haut-Commissariat de l'Initiative
3N (Cellule Nutrition, Scaling Up
Nutrition (SUN)-Niger)

Louise Aubin
United Nations Resident Coordinator
(Niger)

Zulma Yanira Fonseca Centeno
Director of Nutrition, Colombian
Institute of Family Welfare (ICBF)
(Colombia)

David Gressly
United Nations Resident and
Humanitarian Coordinator (Yemen)

Olusola Idowu
Chair of the National Committee on
Food and Nutrition (NCFN) (Nigeria)

Mahesh Kharel
Program Director, National Planning
Commission (NPC) (Nepal)

Jean Claude Musabyimana
Permanent Secretary for the Ministry
of Agriculture and Animal Resources
(MINAGRI) (Rwanda)

Sara Sekkenes
United Nations Resident Coordinator
(Lao People's Democratic Republic)

Sisay Sinamo
Senior Program Manager at Seqota
Declaration (SD) Federal Program
Delivery Unit, Federal Ministry of
Health (Ethiopia)

Julie Kasa-Kanga Tshilombo
Coordonnatrice Adjointe de la
Coordination des Ressources
Extérieures et du Suivi des Projets
(Democratic Republic of the Congo)



Key messages

Donors need to be **disciplined and coherent**, and to attune their contributions to the government's plan.

Developing national pathways means broadening the **historic emphasis on agricultural production** to embrace nutrition and food security.

Donors should see national pathways as opportunities to **assist and focus on local needs**.

There are **no blueprints** for national pathways. Countries need to consult civil society and the private sector.

Donors and multilateral institutions must help countries to define a **clear strategy**, and offer a strategic view of how to deal with food system challenges.

Inclusiveness is equally – perhaps especially – vital in conflict situations. In some fragile and conflict-affected countries, we are working on how to get an economy off its knees and resurrect food systems so that people can rely upon themselves – and reduce reliance upon food assistance.

The food systems approach brings together consideration of **food, incomes, biodiversity**, and the **well-being** of our planet, highlighting necessary trade-offs.

New financial resources are needed: **repurposing is not enough**.

It is the consumption system, which really decides who eats what, where countries and donors need to consider the **wide diversity of stakeholders** included in the chain from production to consumption.

It is vital to ensure that **vulnerable groups** retain access to land as agriculture commercializes, so concrete indicators, and monitoring, are essential.

A food systems approach must also focus on **food intake** and **consumers**, on healthy diets and even health care systems.

How should we support national food systems transformation pathways?

SYNTHESIS PANEL

What matters?

- Maintaining cross-border trade in food is a vital tool in managing the crisis.
- National food system transformation pathways are **the** tool to build a framework for long-term solutions to avoid future disasters.
- National pathways should be built upon a thorough understanding of the national situation, informed by widespread consultation with all those involved.

How can we get it right?

- Donors need to aid governments to draw up national pathways, then collaborate to assist their implementation.
- National pathways should be designed to facilitate healthy consumption by consumers.
- Good data are critical to design, if we are to be sure no one is left by the wayside.



“There is a tendency to focus on production systems without considering consumption systems...Moreover, funding comes in annual chunks, but transforming food systems requires multi-year funding.”

Sara Sekkenes

United Nations Resident Coordinator (Lao People's Democratic Republic)



“Donors need to align with national priorities and see these as providing opportunities to assist. Since every context is different, donors must focus on local needs.”

Ron Hartman

Director, Global Engagement, Partnership and Resource Mobilization, IFAD



“If you grab anybody on the street and ask about climate change, everybody knows what you are talking about. Ask about agrifood systems, and 95 per cent would probably have no clue. This is all about food intake and consumers. We need to mainstream this as a topic within society: we need to make food systems look like an opportunity.”

Peter Wobst

Participant. Team Leader, Decent Rural Employment/Senior Economist, Economic and Social Development Stream, FAO



“In Yemen, we are working on how to get the economy off its knees and resurrect food systems so that people can rely upon themselves – and reduce reliance upon food assistance.”

David Gressly

United Nations Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator (Yemen)



“Donors also have to be disciplined and coherent. They need to stick to government's game plan, not donors' needs.”

Louise Aubin

United Nations Resident Coordinator (Niger)



“Donors must accept and align to countries' priorities. We know what needs to be financed.”

Stefanos Fotiou

Director, Office of Sustainable Development Goals, Director, United Nations Food Systems Coordination Hub



Watch video

<https://youtu.be/C7jBDtM9WCs>

Responding to the current global food crisis

SPECIAL HIGH-LEVEL SESSION: Building Consensus and Coordination on the Current Global Crisis Response Initiatives



The world is caught in a cost-of-living crisis. Amid generalizing inflation, food prices are soaring – but so is the cost of vital inputs, such as fertilizers and energy, that farmers must buy to assure production. How can donors secure the present, while continuing to build for the long term?

What is the problem?

- Donors must closely coordinate responses to the cost-of-living and food crisis, while redoubling their drive to build long-term food security in target countries.
- To enhance long-term food security, governments and donors should accelerate and scale up proven programmes, such as the African Development Bank's **African Emergency Food Production Facility**.
- Short-term programmes should be financed by new money. Meantime, donors should invest even more generously in the long-term redesign of food systems, which is the only way to ensure food security for all.



“ The Food & Agriculture Resilience Mission (FARM) initiative aims to ensure that countries commit to not overstocking beyond their needs, that borders remain open, and that exports can continue.”

Celine Jurgensen

Ambassador and Permanent Representative for France to the United Nations agencies in Rome



“ This is above all a cost-of-living crisis. That means social protection will be needed on a very wide scale, along with more finance, because this is going to go on until at least 2023.”

David Nabarro

UN Global Crisis Response Group, Food Workstream Co-Lead and Strategic Director of 4SD



“ We must stick to the long-term transformation of agricultural and food systems...and use the crisis to push that agenda forward even more quickly.”

Sebastian Lesch

Head of Division, Sustainable Agricultural Supply Chains, International Agricultural Policy, Agriculture, Rural Development, Innovation, Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development, Germany



“ Needs far surpass anything any one of us can do, so our various efforts need to be coordinated.”

Jim Barnhart

Assistant to the Administrator, Bureau for Resilience and Food Security, USAID

What initiatives have been launched in response?

France launched an international initiative, **Food and Agriculture Resilience Mission (FARM)**, in March, endorsed by governments of the European Council. It is intended to limit catastrophic food security effects from Russia's war on Ukraine. Built on trade, production (led by IFAD) and solidarity, the FARM initiative aims to ensure that countries do not overstock food, borders remain open, and exports can continue, says Celine Jurgensen.

United Nations Secretary-General António Guterres set up a **UN Global Crisis Response Group on Food, Energy and Finance**, under his personal chairmanship.

David Nabarro says the crisis is putting 1.7 billion poor people – in 94 rich, middle-income and poor countries – at risk of impoverishment, and of those, 1.2 billion are at serious risk.

A 10 per cent increase in the cost of food for poor people could lead to a 5 per cent drop in their purchasing power. A fifth of smallholders are likely to find the next few years extremely difficult, and social protection will be needed on a very wide scale, along with more finance, because this is going to go on until at least 2023.

What else is being done?

Sebastian Lesch points to the **Global Alliance for Food Security**, launched in May by the G7.

Jim Barnhart says the US government is mitigating the global fertilizer shortage to help developing countries reduce their dependence upon Russian exports; increasing investments in agricultural capacity and resilience; and striving to cushion the macro-economic shock and its impact on poor people – particularly women and youth – as they often bear the brunt.

Producing food, not talk

One of the most direct initiatives is the African Development Bank's US\$1.5 billion **African Emergency Food Production Facility**. This aims to enable 20 million farmers to produce 38 million more tonnes of food – a 30 per cent increase – by 2024, says Beth Dunford. Its design is based upon that of the African Agricultural Transformation programme, which enabled Ethiopia to become self-sufficient in wheat.

Satu Santala says we must continue to shape policies that are pro-poor, not big solutions that look great. In the next few months, we are going to start our five-yearly round of negotiations to replenish our funding, and we hope global attention on the cost-of-living crisis will encourage Member States to contribute generously, because we must not lose sight of the long-term strategic imperatives.

David Nabarro says that this is the most massive crisis for decades. We are all standing at the edge of the river, testing the water, looking at the current. Now, he says, donors "need to get in. We have to work together like never before."



“There has been under-investment in rural development for a long time. We have to seize the political moment created by this crisis to put a rocket behind what we are already doing.”

Satu Santala

Associate Vice-President, External Relations and Governance Department, IFAD



“The technologies that African farmers need exist. If we get them to farmers in the next few growing seasons, that will be game-changing.”

Beth Dunford

Vice President for Agriculture, Human and Social Development, African Development Bank



“We need to keep the long-term vision we had before the war started.”

Gabriel Ferrero

Chairperson of the Committee on World Food Security, and Ambassador at Large for Global Food Security, Spain

Moderator: Henry Bonsu



Watch video

<https://youtu.be/9QXb5MxqLE4>

Optimizing the use of data in decision-making

SESSION BY THE SDG2 ROADMAP THEMATIC WORKING GROUP



Collecting better data is vital to help us shape national food transformations and ensure they deliver the right benefits to the right stakeholders.

Key messages

- Governments and donors should avoid duplication and increase data-gathering to inform policymakers, farmers and traders.
- Satellite images and mobile phone data can provide valuable additional sources of information – and phones can disseminate the findings.
- Data-gathering and analysis is a sound investment, enabling better policies and avoiding waste of resources.



“A food system transformation requires understanding how production impacts nutrition. We need to nurture a transformation of how we monitor data, and get information to people in good time to help them make decisions.”

SPEAKER

Jaron Porciello

Co-director, Ceres2030



“Earth observation data can show what crops are being grown where, whether they are adequately watered, and more. Mobile phones provide a vast reservoir of data, and allow information from data to be shared...with farmers.”

SPEAKER

Davis Adieno

Director of Programs, GPSDD



“Investing in data is spending to save. Relatively little spending can make such a difference.”

MODERATOR

Jenna Slotin

Senior Policy Advisor, Global Partnership for Sustainable Development Data (GPSDD)



“Data help policymakers, but we should ensure they are also available to farmers, to help them decide what crops to grow, in what quantities, and when.”

SPEAKER

David Laborde

Senior Research Fellow, IFPRI

Data and forecasting are the roots of agricultural policy

Since the 1970s they have been complemented by the World Agricultural Output Board, meeting monthly, which provides supply and demand estimates for 15-20 commodities, available online, incorporating all the latest data, including from Earth observation satellites and national authorities.

The COVID-19 pandemic and the war in Ukraine have demonstrated the need for agility in gathering and analysing data to understand, for example, the world's reliance on food and fertilizer production in Ukraine and Russia, said David Laborde, Senior Research Fellow, International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI). Helping farmers decide what crops to grow, in what quantities, and when, can have big impacts upon their livelihoods.

But huge data gaps are commonplace. Jaron Porciello said that Cornell University's Ceres 2030 initiative, which sought to calculate the cost of ending hunger and doubling the income of small farmers by 2030, was stymied by serious data gaps, including around gender.

Davis Adieno summed it up like this: When we lack data, food systems suffer under-investment, and people die as a result.



“Eighty per cent of the food we eat in Africa is produced by small-scale farmers, so unless we understand how they contribute to the economy, we won't end hunger.”

PANELLIST

Béatrice Gakuba

Executive Director, African Women Agribusiness Network (AWAN)



“The main critical gap is the lack of consent of clear, rigorous and compliant metrics. International organizations and academia can help in systematizing what is available in a way to propose a set of indicators that can be used as reference for monitoring the process of food systems transformation.”

PANELLIST

José Rosero Moncayo

Director, FAO Statistics Division (ESS)



“The annual outlooks of the US Department of Agriculture, issued since 1924, have become a global information source used by forecasters and suppliers worldwide.”

KEYNOTE

Joe Glauber

Senior Research Fellow,
IFPRI Agricultural Market
Information System
(AMIS) Chairman



“The 50x2030 initiative aims to strengthen production of statistics in 50 countries by 2030 so that they know what they produce, how productively, from what soils – and so on.”

SPEAKER

Vasco Molini

Program Manager, 50x2030



“The challenge is in the timeliness and right frequency of data, and with the transformation into transparent and useful indicators that enable donors and policymakers to make evidence-based decisions.”

PANELLIST

Conrad Rein

Policy Officer, European Commission



Watch video

<https://youtu.be/ycp8Rq0uQU4>

How can we encourage responsible investment in food production, while stamping out land grabs?

SESSION BY THE GLOBAL DONOR WORKING GROUP ON LAND



There is a high risk that surging food commodity prices will trigger a new surge in land grabs to increase food production at industrial scale. Action is needed to ensure ethical investment.

Key messages

- Many governments still need support to draft and implement better land tenure laws.
- Donors should do more to empower communities to understand their rights, and strengthen monitoring systems.
- Bringing together investors, companies and non-governmental organizations can be an effective way to improve outcomes and ensure ethical inclusion of all stakeholders.



“ To promote responsible land-based investment, you can try to influence companies investing in land, you can help communities protect their rights, and you can look at the role of regulation.”

PANELLIST

Chris Penrose-Buckley

Senior Adviser, Land Policy, Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office, UK



“ A good land law and implementing regulations must take effect on the ground to get the outcomes you hope for.”

PANELLIST

Karol Boudreaux

Senior Land and Resource Governance Advisor, USAID, and Chair, Global Donor Working Group on Land

The 2007-2008 food crisis triggered a wave of land grabs and the subsequent introduction of the Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests in the Context of National Food Security (VGGT).

The UK has launched a second programme to combat this scourge, which will work more with governments on land investment, approval and monitoring systems.

USAID is currently working with 17 countries, and spending US\$300 million to enhance the legal environment, help communities register their land rights, and introduce mobile smartphone applications to secure tenure (MAST), says Karol Boudreaux.

Gemma Betsema notes the benefits of working closely with Netherlands agricultural companies, banks, and insurance and pension funds. But the Land Matrix Report, which tracks land grabs around the world, shows unsatisfactory compliance in 78 per cent of the deals studied.

We need to fast-track land reform, says Michael Taylor, and ensure that people whose livelihoods are based on the land decide who benefits and how.



“ Part of IFAD’s approach is to finance responsible small and medium enterprises (SMEs), agri-aggregators, farmers’ organizations and socially committed companies to increase production by existing land-owners.”

PANELLIST

Francisco Marques

Technical Specialist, Private Sector, IFAD



“ Following the food crisis of 2007-2008 we invested heavily in research and learning, and community land rights registration.”

PANELLIST

Gemma Betsema

Senior Programme Advisor, Netherlands Enterprise and Development Agency, and Vice Chair, Global Donor Working Group on Land



“ We were contacted by members in two Tanzanian villages... because police and the army were threatening them with eviction. Then came pictures of live ammunition being used.”

PANELLIST

Michael Taylor

Director, International Land Coalition Secretariat, IFAD

Moderator: Henry Bonsu



Watch video

<https://youtu.be/1JIm4Vmiurs>

How can we ensure food systems transformation also provides work for young people?

SESSION BY THE THEMATIC WORKING GROUP ON RURAL YOUTH EMPLOYMENT



Young people play a vital role in the necessary food systems transformation, both as entrepreneurs grasping emerging opportunities, and as employees providing the new skills that will be needed.

Key messages

- Agrifood systems have huge employment potential.
- Governments need to involve young people in designing and implementing policies, including national pathways for transforming food systems.
- Training and education, backed by finance, will be essential to create high-quality jobs and seize the opportunities offered by digital technologies.



“ International institutions should encourage and support the participation of young people in policy processes and institutions, so that young people are included in the design of interventions...and become agents of change.”

KEYNOTE

Lauren Phillips

Deputy Director, Inclusive Rural Transformation and Gender Equality, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)



“ The crisis in Ukraine has caused fuel prices to skyrocket everywhere, and because fuel is needed to move food to markets, that has led to soaring food prices, causing people to eat less.”

YOUTH PERSPECTIVES

Tumwebaze Khamutima

CEO, Young Farmers Champions Network (YOFCHAN), Uganda



“ The African continent has a competitive advantage in agriculture, and the free trade area offers a tremendous advantage for boosting inter-African trade in agricultural commodities.”

CONTINENTAL PERSPECTIVE

Kennedy Mukulia Ayason

Policy Officer, Rural Development Division, African Union Commission Department of Agriculture, Rural Development, Blue Economy and Sustainable Development (AUC-DARBE)

Young people are all too frequently working, but poor, says Lauren Phillips. Unless we include young people, we will not be able to achieve our objectives of transforming food systems.

Thomas Tichar of Wageningen University agrees, but highlights the need to teach young people entrepreneurship, and life and organizational skills.

Tumwebaze Khamutima says that young people understand that new technologies and development are creating opportunities in agriculture and food chains. If they are leaving, it is because inputs cost more than they can recover through their production. The challenge, he says, is to develop business models that are profitable.

“ In Madagascar, the government has a strategic commitment to support family farming, promote agribusiness, and create job opportunities for rural youth.”

COUNTRY POLICY PERSPECTIVE

Lova Manjaka Rakotoson

Head of the Rural Training and Agricultural Extension Department, Directorate for Support to Producers' Organizations and Agribusiness, Madagascar



“ We must promote high-quality employment and entrepreneurship within food systems. This is no time to cut corners on labour rights.”

MULTILATERAL ORGANIZATION

Elvis Beytullayev

Rural Economy Specialist, International Labour Organization (ILO)



“ To create and implement policies on labour issues... requires a systems approach to food system transformation... linking agriculture and labour ministries which often are not used to working together.”

MULTILATERAL ORGANIZATION

Mollie Brennan

Lead Consultant, Coalition of Action on Decent Work and Living Incomes and Wages for All Food Systems Workers (DWLIW), IFAD



“ We are no longer a small business. We are working with IFAD to train youth and employ them. Not every young person will be an entrepreneur, and being an employee offers a good salary and benefits.”

YOUTH PERSPECTIVES

Olawale Rotimi Opeyem

Founder and CEO, JR Farms Limited, Rwanda



Watch video

<https://youtu.be/QFmieq4bckg>

Main meeting take-aways



The UN Food Systems Summit has completely reframed the rural development agenda. Today's challenges, stemming from climate change, the COVID-19 pandemic and Russia's invasion of Ukraine, have created a short-term crisis, but also reinforced the need for underlying change. Donors are working hard to both address the crisis and reform the world's food systems – but a lot remains to be done.

The GDPRD Annual General Assembly concluded that:

1. **We need to adopt the reframing that a food systems approach has brought**, and understand the links between rural development and climate change, today's crises and the way we produce, process and consume food.
2. **The current crisis is severe, and urgent.** It risks making **1.7 billion people in 94 countries poorer**. This will make it even harder to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals.
3. **Money is tight:** much more funding is needed for immediate humanitarian assistance and for transforming food systems in the longer term. Mitigating the **rising cost of fertilizers** to ensure farmers are able to maintain yields for the coming seasons will add huge costs, at a time when **national finances have been stretched** by the COVID-19 pandemic.
4. **Coordination is critical:** with resources tight, diverse impacts in different geographies and multiple response structures, coordinating political efforts and responses is essential to define priorities and avoid duplicating efforts. Working together – and diplomacy – are also essential to keep international food trade open and flowing.
5. **Short-, medium- and long-term responses are needed:** short-term to meet the immediate humanitarian crisis, medium-term to maintain food production and availability over the coming year, and longer-term to make food systems truly resilient.
6. **National pathways can unlock the necessary and urgent fundamental overhaul of food systems.** These are paths everybody is now walking together, but they will need constant updating. Donors really need to get behind these national pathways and support them.
7. **Governments and donors alike need a structural view.** Donors must ask themselves how they can support short-term deliverables, and work together to bring about the big policy changes that are needed. Thousands of little projects do not add up to the big changes we need.



Short interviews by the Platform Secretariat during the 2022 Annual General Assembly in Rome, Italy

Five experts talk about national pathways for food systems transformation, the current global food crisis response, and what they want small-scale farmers and the younger generation to know.

https://youtu.be/EFCVR_ejOl4



“The current global crisis is a real opportunity to bring the issues of food security to the front of mind.”

CLAUDIA SADOFF

Executive Managing Director at CGIAR. She was a keynote speaker at the AGA2022.

<https://youtu.be/lwsHN59WWWw>



“We need to pass from a culture of consumption to a culture of creation. And I’m very hopeful for the youth today.”

STEFANOS FOTIOU

Director, Office of Sustainable Development Goals and Director, United Nations Food Systems Coordination Hub. He was a panellist during the first session of the AGA2022.

<https://youtu.be/21Gb-fkfkRo>



“We need to understand that our food has consequences that the environment and people’s health are paying for.”

AGNES KALIBATA

President, AGRA, United Nations Secretary-General's Special Envoy for the 2021 Food Systems Summit. She was a panellist during the first session of the AGA2022.

<https://youtu.be/iAExRSRCKKw>



“We must continue to foster new ways to drive innovative finance that will trickle down to the smallholder farmers, particularly in Africa.”

AYODEJI BALOGUN

Chief Executive Officer of AFEX Commodities Exchange. He was a panellist during the first session of the AGA2022.

<https://youtu.be/ELYLOXaBr48>



“The future is with the youth. They will have to be a really important and dominant part in the world we want.”

JOHAN SWINNEN

Global Director of Systems Transformation (CGIAR), Director-General, International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI), Co-Chair of the Think20 Task Force on Food Security and Sustainable Agriculture. He was a panellist during the first session of the AGA2022.

<https://youtu.be/5B1Qf4VPiLw>







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The Global Donor Platform for Rural Development (GDPRD) is a network/ partnership platform of 40 bilateral and multilateral development agencies, international financial institutions, intergovernmental organizations and foundations. It was established in 2003 to lobby for increased public and private investments in food systems, agriculture and rural development.

Among its notable achievements in recent years, the Platform has contributed to the food systems agenda with a Stocktaking Report on Donor Contributions to Food Systems, a Declaration of Intent, signalling the intention of GDPRD and its members to help take forward the outcomes of the UN Food Systems Summit and a white paper on “Transforming Food Systems: Directions for Enhancing the Catalytic Role of Donors.” The Platform has also supported important advocacy initiatives aiming to achieve SDG2, such as Ceres2030 and 50x2030.