

# Innovative approaches to sustainable finance for food systems transformation

23 October 2023 | 13.30 - 14.45 CET  
Sheikh Zayed Center, FAO HQ, Rome, Italy and Zoom

[Register](#)

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## Introduction

The global community is facing escalating acute and chronic food insecurity with ever tighter cycles of crises due to climate change, the Russia-Ukraine conflict, and COVID-19 shocks. Simultaneously, donor and public funds face budget constraints and limited fiscal capacity, reducing their ability to alleviate food insecurity. A lack of available investment opportunities combined with the complexities of investing in the food and agriculture sector in particular in emerging and frontier markets pose a barrier to attracting investments, which is particularly acute in value chains sourcing from smallholder farmers.

This session will provide examples of how donors can mobilize responsible investment from the private sector and present the results of a new research by the Global Donor Platform for Rural Development and the Shamba Centre for Food & Climate on how donors can develop value-added partnerships with public and private funders to drive investment in smallholder commercial agriculture, for food systems transformation and high development impact. Examples include the UK Government's Commercial Agriculture for Smallholders and Agribusiness (CASA) programme and the Western Cape Department of Agriculture's partnership approach in South Africa. The World Food Programme Regional Bureau Nairobi will also speak to the opportunity costs of funding cuts for food security and resilience building.

### THIS EVENT WILL:

- Discuss experiences of innovative funding strategies and how governments can make their funding more catalytic.
- Demonstrate how research and stakeholder engagement can help build an enabling environment for sustainable, resilient global food systems to thrive.
- Showcase an example from South Africa, with a focus on the support provided to smallholder farmers, the need for tracking and accountability and the role of data collection to enable evidence-based decision making.
- Showcase an example from Nepal, where the UK's Commercial Agriculture for Smallholders and Agribusiness programme CASA is supporting small and medium-sized agribusinesses with significant smallholder supply chains to grow and attract investment, helping build inclusive, climate-resilient agri-food systems.
- Determine immediate and longer-term steps to increase both public and private funding for sustainable agri-food value chains.
- Understand the cost of inaction and its implications on the resilience of food systems and on food insecure communities.

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## AGENDA

**Moderator:** *Carin Smaller*, Co-founder and Executive Director, The Shamba Centre for Food & Climate. Co-founder, Hesat2030

TIME	ITEM
13:35-13:40	<b>OPENING REMARKS</b> <b>Tristan Armstrong</b> , Co-Chair, Global Donor Platform for Rural Development & Senior Sector Specialist, Agricultural Development and Food Security Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) – Australia
13:45-14:05	<b>WHY WE NEED INNOVATIVE FINANCE FOR FOOD SYSTEMS – PANEL DISCUSSION</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Peter Beez</b>, Programme Manager and Senior Policy Advisor, Swiss Agency for Development &amp; Cooperation (SDC)</li><li>• <b>David Dewez</b>, Managing Partner, Incofin IM</li><li>• <b>Oshani Perera</b>, Co-founder and Director of Programmes, Shamba Centre for Food &amp; Climate</li></ul>
14:05-14:25	<b>WHAT WORKS? EXAMPLES FROM THE GROUND</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Dr Ivan Henry Meyer</b>, Minister of Agriculture and Leader of Government Business, Western Cape Department of Agriculture, Western Cape Government</li><li>• <b>Dr Mogale Sebopetsa</b>, Head of Department, Western Cape Department of Agriculture, Western Cape Government</li><li>• <b>Siddharth Khadka</b>, Country Manager, Commercial Agriculture for Smallholders and Agribusiness (CASA) Nepal</li></ul>
14:25-14:35	<b>THE COST OF INACTION</b> <b>Siddharth Krishnaswamy</b> , Head of Research, Analysis and Monitoring, East Africa Region, World Food Programme (WFP)
14:35-14:45	<b>CONCLUSION AND Q&amp;A</b>