



Virtual Side Event: Fourth International Conference on Financing for Development

Financing Agrifood Systems for People, Planet and Prosperity

Towards a new pact for mobilizing capital, reforming
systems, and driving transformation at scale

CONCEPT NOTE

Monday, 30 June 2025 14:30-16:00 CEST

Zoom link

<https://ifad.zoom.us/j/86064817587?pwd=HOBxDmYFPLsSZC1kNm0kpbFgISv9RF.1>

1. Background and rationale

The world is facing a perfect storm of escalating poly-crises, while official development assistance (ODA) is being reduced and multilateralism is being unwound. This convergence threatens the international community's ability to respond effectively to urgent challenges, with potentially devastating humanitarian, economic, health and environmental consequences.

Transforming agrifood systems is foundational for future global prosperity, wellbeing and security. It offers substantial economic and development returns, including job creation, greater resilience, improved health outcomes, climate adaptation and long-term prosperity. Conversely, the costs of inaction through underinvestment are severe, leading to deepening global hunger, escalating humanitarian crises, forced migration, lost economic opportunities and growing environmental crises.

Ensuring universal access to sufficient, nutritious, and sustainably produced food is one of today's most urgent and interconnected development challenges. Agrifood systems lie at the heart of both the challenge and the solution. The Fourth International Conference on Financing for Development (FfD4) presents a pivotal opportunity to reshape the global financial architecture to drive agrifood systems transformation and foster resilient rural areas.

The Global Donor Platform for Rural Development (GDPRD), under the guidance of a High-Level Advisory

Group (HLAG),¹ has prepared a White Paper offering strategic guidance on financing food systems transformation and rural revitalization. The White Paper makes a compelling economic and development case for scaling up investment in agrifood systems and highlights the need for more strategic and catalytic use of public resources to mobilize private capital, philanthropic funds, and other innovative financing streams.

2. Session topics and objectives

This session will convene members of the High-Level Advisory Group (HLAG), GDPRD stakeholders; government representatives, multilateral development banks (MDBs), and private sector partners for a strategic dialogue on financing agrifood systems transformation. Discussions will focus on elevating the recognition of food systems and rural development within global financing frameworks, advancing the uptake of the White Paper's recommendations into official outcomes and donor strategies, and showcasing scalable initiatives that demonstrate how public finance can be deployed more catalytically to leverage larger-scale investments.

Overall, the session will:

1. **Position food systems and rural development as a core priority** in global financing for development discussions.
2. **Promote coherent and strategic donor approaches** that mobilize and scale public and private investments in agrifood systems and rural economies.
3. **Facilitate high-impact partnerships and coordinated action** among donors, governments, IFIs, and private actors.

¹ The High-Level Advisory Group (HLAG) is composed of: Federica Diamanti, Associate Vice-President, External Relations Department, International Fund for Agricultural Development (Co-Chair); Leonard Mizzi, Head of Unit, Sustainable Agri-Food Systems and Fisheries, Directorate-General for International Partnerships, European Commission (Co-Chair); Nikita Eriksen-Hamel, Deputy Director, Food Systems Practice, Global Affairs Canada; Marianne Grosclaude, Lead Agriculture Economist, World Bank; Lawrence Haddad, Executive Director, Global Alliance for Improved Nutrition; Cornelia Hett, Deputy Head of Section, Health and Food Systems, Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation; Arif Husain, Chief Economist, United Nations World Food Programme; Alice Ruhweza, President, AGRA; Maximo Torero-Cullen, Chief Economist, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations; Wilma Van Esch, Head of Food Security, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, The Netherlands; Virginia Villar Arribas, Deputy Director, Private Sector Partnerships, United Nations World Food Programme. The White Paper development has been approved by the Board of the GDPRD. It draws on recent reports on the financing of agrifood systems transformation and on interviews with key informants.