



Food and Agriculture Organization
of the United Nations



Global Donor
Platform for
Rural Development

CFS 53 SIDE EVENT (SE32)

Financing Agrifood Systems Transformation: Aligning multilateral, public and private investments

Concept Note

Friday 24 October 2025 | 11:45-13:00 CET | Hybrid, Iran Room, FAO HQ, Rome

Lead organizers:

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) - Partnerships and UN Collaboration Division (PSU)

Global Donor Platform for Rural Development (GDPRD)

International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD)

Other organizers:

European Commission; Norway; UN Multi-Partner Trust Fund Office; World Food Programme (WFP)
[Bangladesh; Member Country (TBC)]

Abstract:

Marking the UN's 80th anniversary, this side event will reaffirm the importance of multilateralism at a time of mounting global crises, declining official development assistance, and weakening international cooperation. It will spotlight the transformation of agrifood systems as a cornerstone for achieving prosperity, wellbeing, and global security.

The session will highlight how blended public-private investment and multilateral pooled funding mechanisms can serve as complementary drivers to mobilize resources and deliver sustainable, inclusive, and resilient agrifood systems. Drawing on insights from the GDPRD High-Level Advisory Group and its 2025 White Paper "[*Financing Agrifood Systems for People, Planet and Prosperity*](#)", the event will explore strategic recommendations to scale investment and align donor strategies.

At the heart of this event is a clear call to action: Agrifood systems must become a top-tier investment priority.

The discussions will:

1. Elevate agrifood systems as a smart investment, and mobilize support for more coherent, scalable and country-driven financing approaches that prioritize integrated, cross-sectoral solutions, including the brokering of collaborative agrifood financing agreements to align actors and scale investment.
2. Demonstrate the value of pooled funding in driving efficiency and country-prioritized action, using a field example: the Safe Access to Fuel and Energy Plus, Phase 2 (SAFE+2) joint programme in Bangladesh, implemented by four UN agencies and funded through a Multi-Partner Trust Fund (MPTF) with Norway's support.

By convening governments, UN agencies, International Financial Institutions (IFIs), and the private sector, the session will demonstrate how coordinated approaches can reduce fragmentation and catalyse large-scale, sustainable investment. In celebrating 80 years of the UN, the event will chart a forward-looking vision of joint action and financing for more equitable and food-secure futures.

Objectives:

1. Position agrifood systems as a core priority in global financing for development discussions.
2. Mobilize and strategically align governments, IFIs, UN, private sector, and philanthropy with national priorities and the SDGs to scale investment.
3. Showcase successful models of UN joint programming supported by multilateral pooled investments, highlighting lessons from the field.
4. Promote de-risking tools like blended finance, collaborative agreements, and systemic coordination as key enablers to unlock investment.

Relevance to CFS work:

This side event directly supports the CFS mandate to strengthen responsible investment and innovative financing for food security and nutrition. By showcasing both blended public-private investments and multilateral pooled funding mechanisms, it highlights complementary approaches to mobilizing resources at scale, reducing fragmentation, and advancing country-led food systems transformation.

The event contributes to the CFS Multi-Year Programme of Work (MYPOW) 2024–2027 by fostering policy convergence, collaborative governance, and coherence across global financing discussions, including the Fourth International Conference on Financing for Development (FfD4), the Second UN Food Systems Summit Stocktake (UNFSS+4), the Nutrition for Growth Summit (N4G), and relevant G7 and G20 workstreams. It also illustrates the practical application of key CFS policy products, including the **Principles for Responsible Investment in Agriculture and Food Systems**, the **Voluntary Guidelines on Food Systems and Nutrition** and the **Global Strategic Framework for Food Security and Nutrition**.

Furthermore, the event reflects the CFS's multistakeholder approach, fostering dialogue among UN agencies, member states (both resource partners and programme countries), and financial institutions, among other key stakeholders. It supports the **CFS workstream on Collaborative Governance**, particularly by addressing challenges related to financing for food security and nutrition - highlighted during the CFS dialogue on 15 April 2025.

Provisional Agenda:

Moderator: **Jim Woodhill**, Senior Advisor, GDPRD

Time	Segment	Speakers
11:45-11:50 (5 min)	OPENING AND WELCOME Agrifood systems as a top-tier investment priority	Maurizio Martina , Deputy Director-General, FAO (TBC)
11:50-11:55 (5 min)	SCENE-SETTING Why position food systems as a core priority in global financing for development (GDPRD White Paper)	Jim Woodhill , Senior Advisor, GDPRD
11:55-12:15 (20 min)	PANEL DISCUSSION Broader context: Strategic alignment of blended public-private and multilateral investments <ul style="list-style-type: none">· Role of donor alignment and catalytic partnerships in addressing fragmentation and ensuring financing flows where impact is greatest· Importance of collaborative agrifood financing agreements	Leonard Mizzi , Head of Unit, Directorate General for International Partnerships, European Commission Ron Hartman , Director, Global Engagement, Partnerships and Resource Mobilization, IFAD Chris Isaac , Chief Investment Officer, AgDevCo Representative of UN Multi-Partner Trust Fund Office (TBD)
12:15-12:35 (20 min)	Examples/Solutions: Stories from the field and lessons learned <ul style="list-style-type: none">· UN joint programme in Bangladesh: Safe Access to Fuel and Energy Plus, Phase 2 (SAFE+2)· Reflections from Phases 1 & 2 implementation and opportunities for scaling up	Paul Gulleik Larsen , Ambassador and Special Envoy, Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs Representative of Bangladesh (TBD) Emmanuela Mashayo , Head of Area Office, Cox's Bazar, WFP Bangladesh
12:35-12:50 (15 min)	Interactive Q&A	
12:50-13:00 (10 min)	Reflections and closing remarks	Maurizio Navarra , Senior Partnership Officer, IFAD. Secretariat Coordinator, GDPRD Arsen Vartanyan , Head of UN Collaboration, FAO

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