CFS 53

COMMITEE ON WORLD FOOD SECURITY

20-24 OCTOBER 2025

SIDE EVENTS

Co-organized by:

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

Global Donor Platform for Rural Development

IFAD Investing in rural people

CFS 53 SIDE EVENT (SE32)

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

Concept Note and Agenda

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

Register now

Focal points:

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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:

Bangladesh; European Commission; Norway; UN Multi-Partner Trust Fund Office; World Food Programme (WFP)

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)	**WELCOME AND SCENE-SETTING** Agrifood systems as a top-tier investment priority	**Jim Woodhill**, Senior Advisor, GDPRD
11:50-11:55 (5 min)	**INTRODUCTORY KEY MESSAGES**	**Maurizio Martina**, Deputy Director-General, FAO
11:55-12:15 (20 min)	**INTERACTIVE DISCUSSION** **Broader context: Strategic alignment of blended public-private and multilateral investments** · 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 (virtual) **Ron Hartman**, Director, Global Engagement, Partnerships and Resource Mobilization, IFAD **Chris Isaac**, Chief Investment Officer, AgDevCo (virtual) **Mari Matsumoto**, Fund Portfolio Manager, UN Multi-Partner Trust Fund Office (virtual)
12:15-12:35 (20 min)	**PRESENTATION OF CASE STUDIES** **Examples/Solutions: Stories from the field and lessons learned** · 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	**Dom Scalpelli**, Country Director, WFP Bangladesh (virtual) **Dr. Md. Mahmudur Rahman,** Additional Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture of Bangladesh (virtual) **Paul Gulleik Larsen**, Ambassador and Special Envoy, Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs
12:35-12:50 (15 min)	**Interactive Q&A**	
12:50-13:00 (10 min)	**Reflections and closing remarks**	**Michelle Tang,** Communications Coordination Analyst, GDPRD **Corinna Hawkes**, Director, Division of Agrifood Systems and Food Safety, FAO