



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations

FAO's partnerships with non-state actors

Partnerships report 2024



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Foreword

“Dear Colleagues and Partners,

As we celebrate the 80th anniversary of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), it is imperative to reflect on the significance of our collaborative efforts. The essence of our work lies in unity – a united society, united thought and research, united entities – united nations. This unity is the cornerstone of our mission to address global challenges and achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the FAO four betters: better production, better nutrition, a better environment and a better life for all.

Partnerships are at the heart of FAO's work. The integration of partnerships with the Private Sector, Civil Society

Organizations (CSO), and Academic and Research Institutions (ARI) into the same FAO division in 2024 underscores our unwavering commitment to fostering partnerships. These collaborations are crucial in tackling the complex issues we face and in driving progress towards our shared objectives.

In 2024, achieving these objectives required collective determination. During the past year, we made significant strides forward, learning lessons along the way. We must continue to build on this experience to enhance our dialogues, increase engagements, and commit to training and capacity building.

Our focus remains on delivering improved outcomes for FAO Members and ensuring that our work – guided by FAO's four betters – centres on the beneficiaries and communities we serve, leaving no one behind. Our efforts have strengthened the Organization's partnerships, and we must continue to grow.

As we look forward, let us take inspiration from the progress made to date and the potential that lies ahead. As united entities, we can achieve our goals. Thank you for your continued dedication and support.

Sincerely,

Maurizio Martina
FAO Deputy Director-General



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“The essence of our work lies in unity – a united society, united thought and research, united entities – united nations. This unity is the cornerstone of our mission to address global challenges and achieve the SDGs and the FAO four betters.”

Maurizio Martina
FAO Deputy Director-General

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Partnerships driving food security and nutrition



Fifteen years to achieve seventeen global goals. That was the target set by the international community in 2015, when United Nations member states came together and agreed on a plan of action for people, planet, prosperity, peace and partnership through the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

The challenges of attaining the 2030 Agenda's Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are heavily interlinked and have been compounded by more than one global crisis since 2015. With some five years left to achieve them, a reinvigorated, collective global drive with an all-of-society approach and partnerships across the board is needed.

In today's interconnected world, partnerships are more than just alliances; they are the vehicle for the journey.

Agrifood systems face complex challenges. Vulnerable populations,

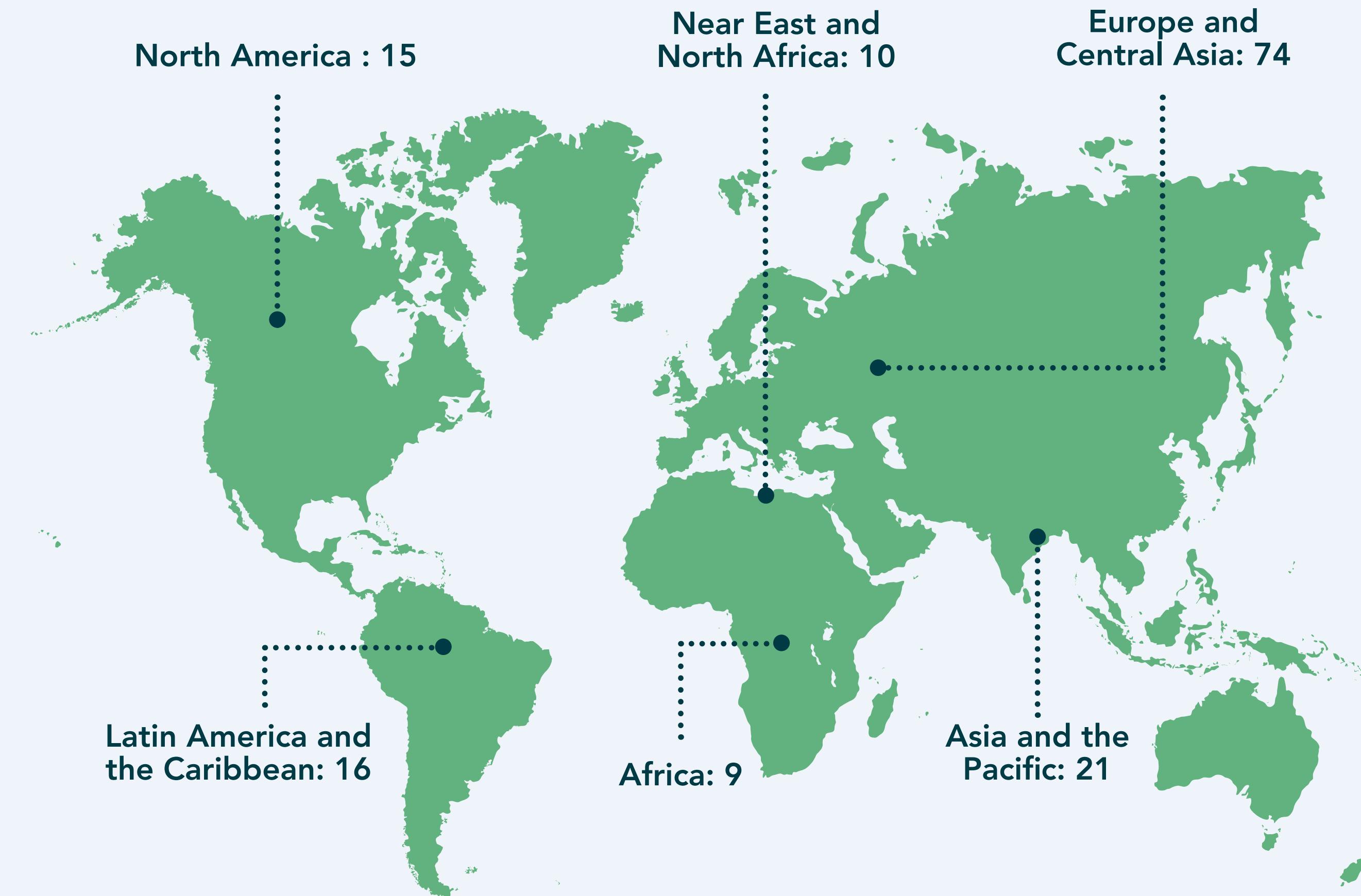
especially youth and women in rural areas, face uneven barriers both to accessing food and to helping solve the problems.

In 2024, FAO built and cultivated strategic, transformative partnerships, developing innovative solutions and implementing roadmaps that would be unattainable acting alone. FAO's commitment to the four betters – better production, better nutrition, a better environment, and a better life for all – guides its efforts and underscores the importance of these collaborations.

Throughout the year, FAO engaged with a wide range of Non-State Actors (NSAs), including Academia and Research Institutions (ARIs), Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) and the Private Sector, with each bringing its own set of advantages and opportunities. Read on to find out more about some of these collaborations.

Global distribution of partners

FAO partners with entities all over the globe in pursuit of its vision for a world in which there is food security and nutrition for all, leaving no one behind. The map on this page shows where FAO's NSA partners are registered.

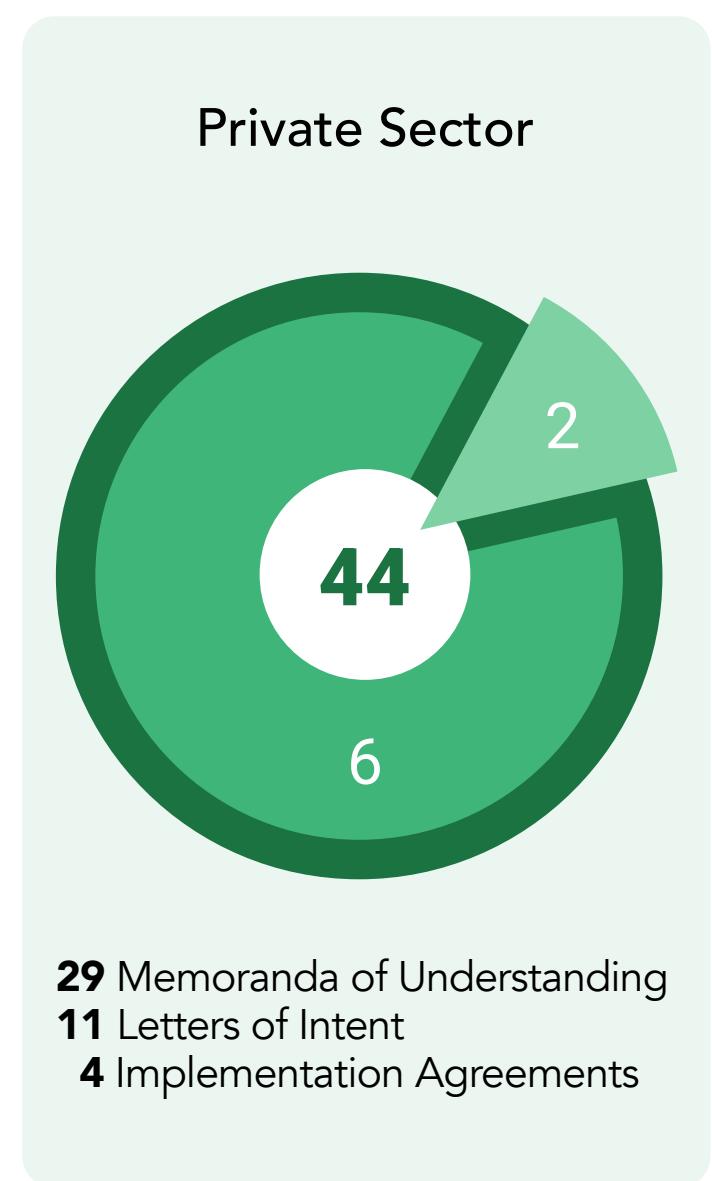
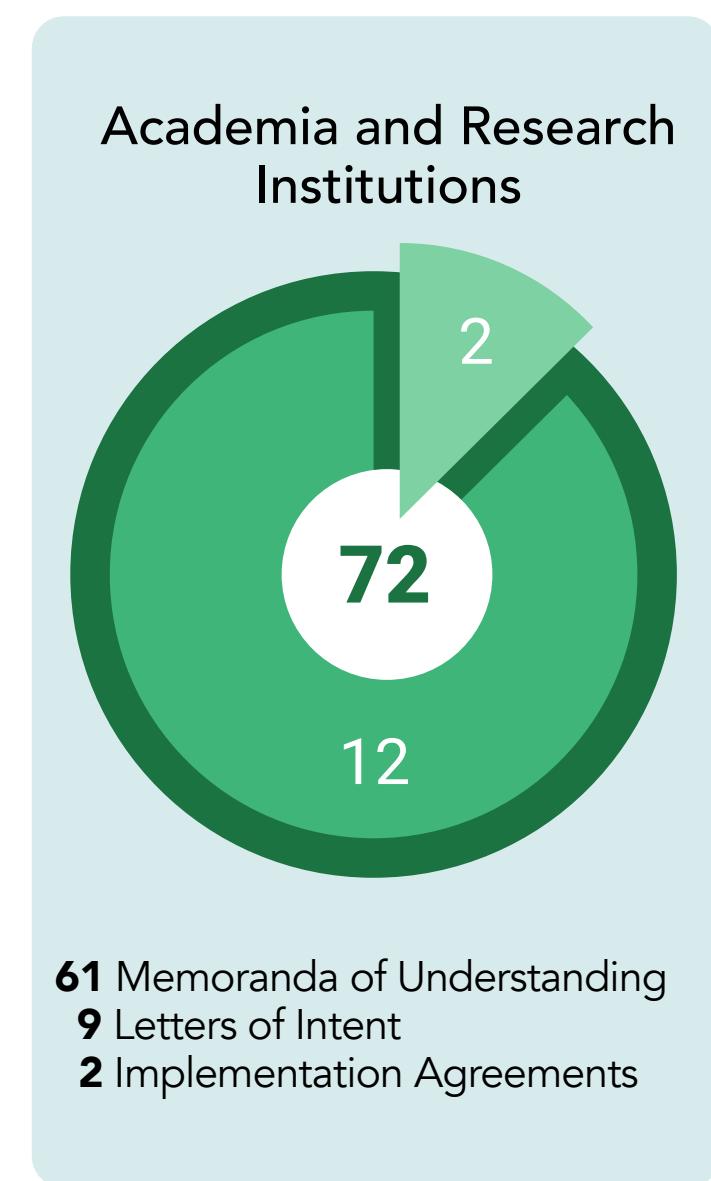
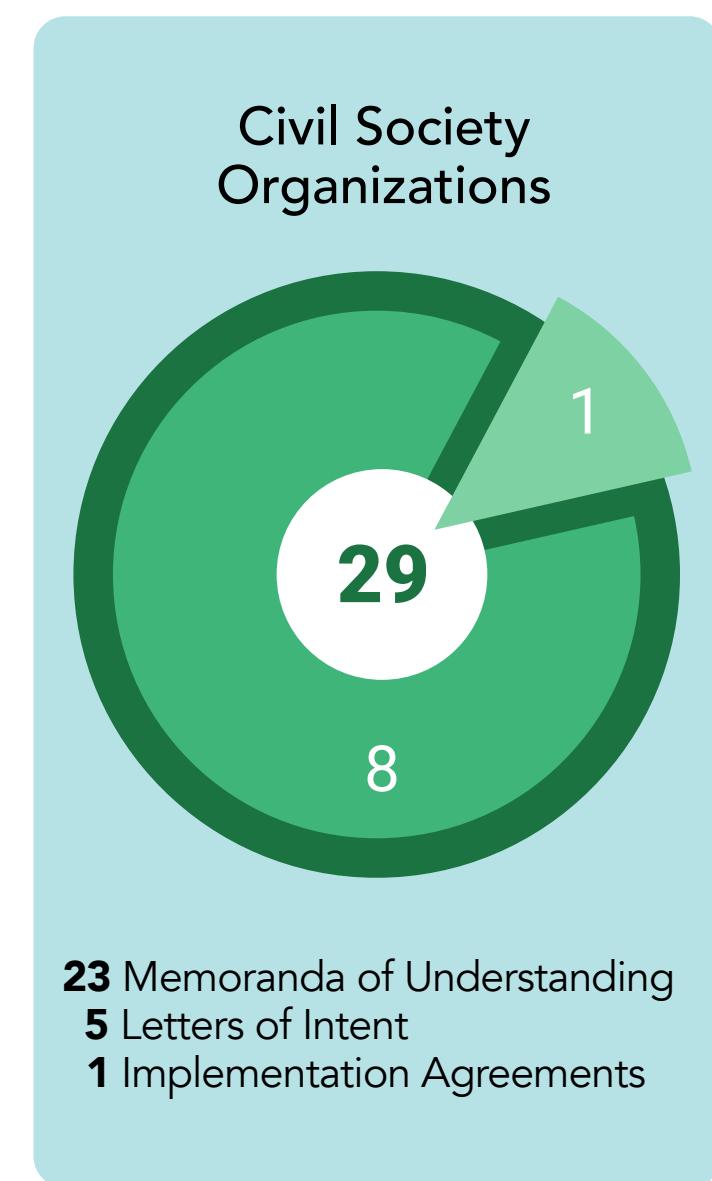


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A snapshot of 2024

Number of partnerships

- New partnerships signed in 2024
- Renewed partnerships signed in 2024
- Total number of partnerships

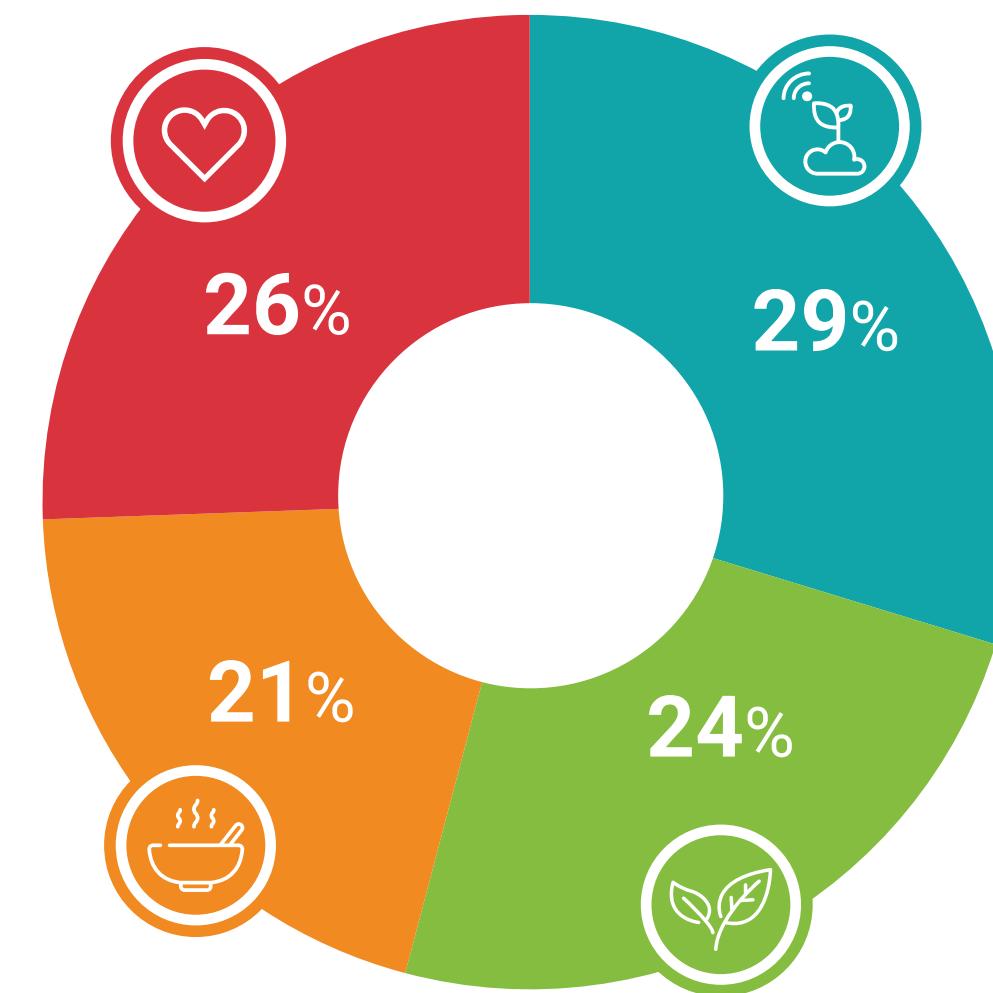


Partnerships contributing to FAO's four betters

- Better environment
- Better production
- Better nutrition
- Better life

**Better production (BP); better nutrition (BN); better environment (BE); better life (BL)

Source: Author(s) own elaboration based on FAO Partnerships Database and annual survey



Stories of impact

FAO's transformative partnerships are helping to shape a more sustainable and efficient future. This section highlights key success stories, demonstrating innovation, strategic collaboration and measurable results. Through dedication and forward-thinking approaches, we are overcoming challenges, driving meaningful change and striving for increased impact. The stories in the following pages are just a sample of how FAO and partners work together for transformative outcomes with an unwavering commitment to progress, guided by the framework of FAO's four betters.

Partner success stories highlighted in this report, in alphabetical order:

Appui au développement autonome

Google LLC

China Chamber of International
Commerce

HELP Logistics (Kühne Foundation)

Confederazione Nazionale Coldiretti

Luiss University

Consumers International

Mabunduka Agro Farmers Association

Danone

Mississippi State University

European Agricultural Machinery
Industry Association

Shanghai Ocean University

Federation of Food and Drink Industry
Associations of Türkiye

Slow Food

Forum for Agricultural Research in Africa

The Agriculture and Forestry University

Global Dairy Platform

Universidad Politécnica de Madrid



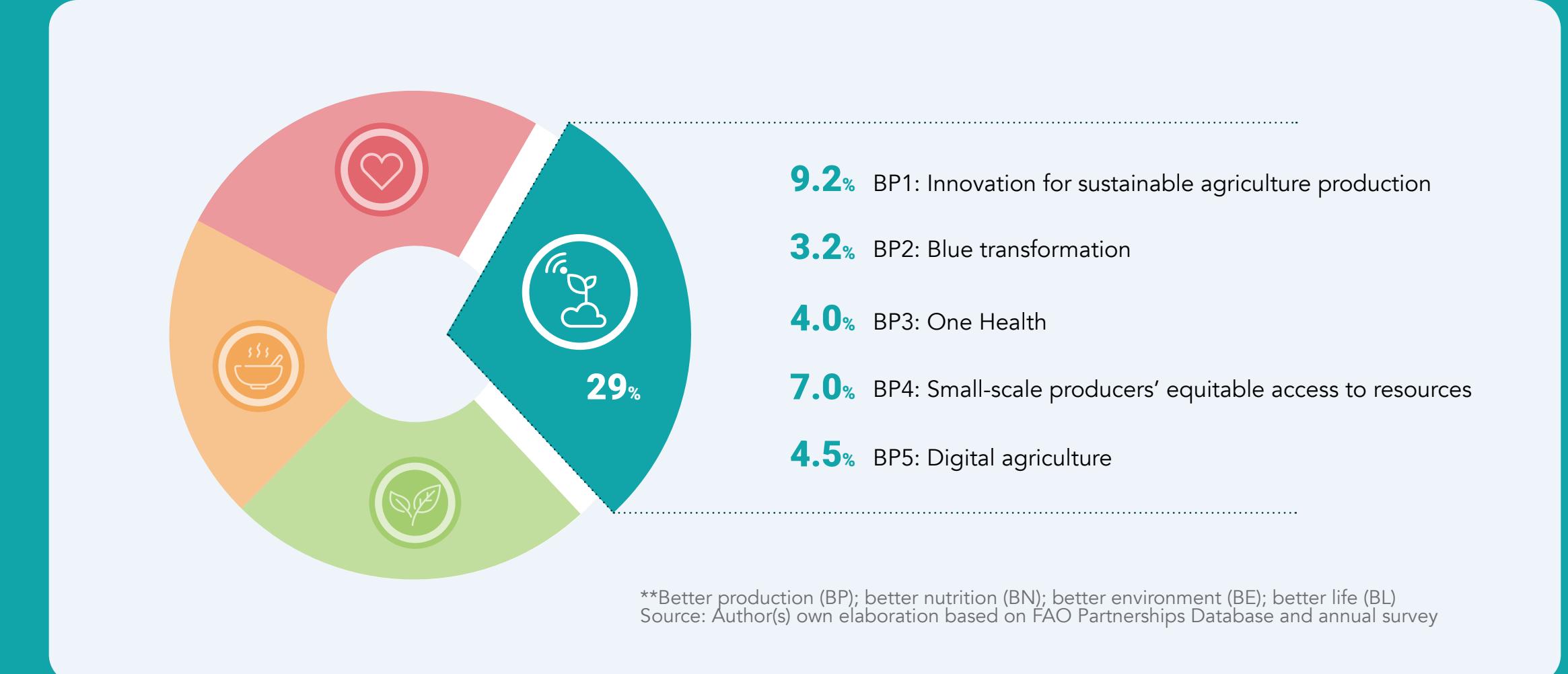
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BETTER PRODUCTION



FAO's partnerships focusing on better production seek to ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns, by way of efficient and inclusive food and agriculture supply chains at the local level and beyond. In doing so, FAO promotes resilient and sustainable agrifood systems in a changing climate and environment.





Appui au développement autonome

Civil Society Organization



FAO and Appui au développement autonome (ADA) have significantly advanced agricultural finance in Africa through the Rural and Agricultural Finance Training Programme (FAR), contributing to FAO's objectives of better production, environment and life.

Through innovative training, peer learning and access to updated educational resources, the FAO–ADA partnership is helping individuals and institutions to make informed agrifood finance decisions.

In 2024, the FAR programme provided managers and executives from financial service providers (FSPs) across anglophone and francophone Africa

with training including a week-long in-person session in Nairobi. High demand for the programme demonstrates the urgent need for improved financial services in agriculture, and over the past three years, the initiative has trained more than 600 people, enabling some 1 500 farmers to gain access to crucial financial resources.

Through the FAO–ADA partnership, 13 new financial products and two fintech solutions have been developed or supported, significantly enhancing farmers' access to finance. By combining FAO's expertise with ADA's extensive network of financial institutions, the partnership has driven vital policy dialogue, with landmark events including the African Microfinance Weeks in Rwanda and Togo serving

as key platforms for discussions on sustainable investment, strengthening food security and economic stability across the continent.

Strengthening agricultural finance across Africa, the FAO–ADA partnership is providing training, fostering policy dialogue, and enhancing farmers' access to financial solutions.



Danone



FAO and Danone's collaboration on innovative research and strategic partnerships has significantly advanced food safety foresight and climate resilience in agrifood systems.

FAO and Danone have been closely collaborating to develop a modern food safety foresight framework. FAO and Danone have jointly worked on emerging issues in food safety, including new trends in food allergens and food contact materials. A report on food contact materials was published in 2024 by Comprehensive Reviews in Food Science and Food Safety.

A sustainable livestock sector and climate change mitigation and adaptation are two further areas of prominent work under this partnership. FAO and Danone have worked together on livestock priorities in National Climate Plans (NDCs), sharing their insights on soil carbon sequestration,

improved feed practices, and manure management at the World Dairy Summit.

In Egypt, FAO and Danone have aligned with Egypt's national climate priorities by exploring joint implementation opportunities for climate-smart dairy practices under the Scaling up Climate Ambition on Land Use and Agriculture through the Nationally Determined Contributions and National Adaptation Plans (SCALA) Programme.

Through pioneering research and strategic collaborations, FAO and Danone are helping build climate resilience for agrifood systems, driving a new frontier of food safety foresight.

Private Sector



European Agricultural Machinery Industry Association

Private Sector

In pursuit of better production, FAO and the European Agricultural Machinery Industry Association (CEMA) joined forces to hold the Consultation on Sustainable Agricultural Mechanization and Digitalization. Reviewing collaborative progress, FAO and CEMA further identified joint actions for the implementation of key takeaways from the FAO Global Conference on Sustainable Agricultural Mechanization (GAMC).

The partnership focuses on promoting sustainable and inclusive agricultural mechanization, and increasing accessibility of agricultural machinery services, including for small-scale farmers, particularly from Africa.

A database to track activities by CEMA member companies in developing countries is being built, while FAO is reviewing how its projects could informally align with CEMA members' field activities.

In July, CEMA participated in FAO's Empowering Tomorrow's Leaders: The Role of Youth in Agrifood Systems Transformation webinar, which increased awareness on the role and potential of youth in agrifood systems, with special emphasis on youth employment opportunities in agrifood systems. The event fostered technology transfer and innovation, helping equip young people with valuable tools and knowledge. Discussions also explored the role of technology

in modernizing agrifood systems and improving productivity, with firm emphasis on youth participation in sustainable practices and environmental stewardship.



"The partnership with FAO is mutually beneficial and has, in my view, helped both FAO and CEMA gain a deeper understanding of the complexities surrounding the appropriate use of agricultural equipment and machinery in developing countries. In this context, the challenges facing the African continent are particularly intricate, but through collaboration, we can more effectively address some of these issues."

Jelte Wiersma; Secretary-General, CEMA



Mississippi State University



© FAO / Saikat Majumder

FAO and Mississippi State University (MSU) support better production by leveraging science, technology and innovation for a sustainable, food-secure world.

MSU is an FAO Reference Centre on antimicrobial resistance and aquaculture biosecurity, providing world-class technical support to improve outcomes in these two areas. In 2024, experts from MSU provided valuable analyses on disease burden and biosecurity strategies for aquaculture, supporting development of guidance documents and toolkits for the Progressive Management Pathways (PMP/AB) technical working group. Supporting digital agriculture, MSU made significant contributions to FAO's Global Agro-Ecological Zones (GAEZ) modelling framework and the optimization of Python-based Analysis of Agro-Ecological Zones (PyAEZ),

providing vital resources and expertise in High-Performance Computing (HPC). HPC powers a wide spectrum of research activities, including weather and climate modelling, autonomous systems, materials science, cybersecurity and computational modelling. MSU strengthened FAO's use of this cutting-edge technology by providing specialized training on analysing complex agricultural datasets, helping drive sustainable land and water management solutions. MSU has also collaborated with FAO on digital extension and advisory services to improve uptake, adoption and scaling-up of technologies and innovations for smallholder farmers.

Academia and Research Institutions

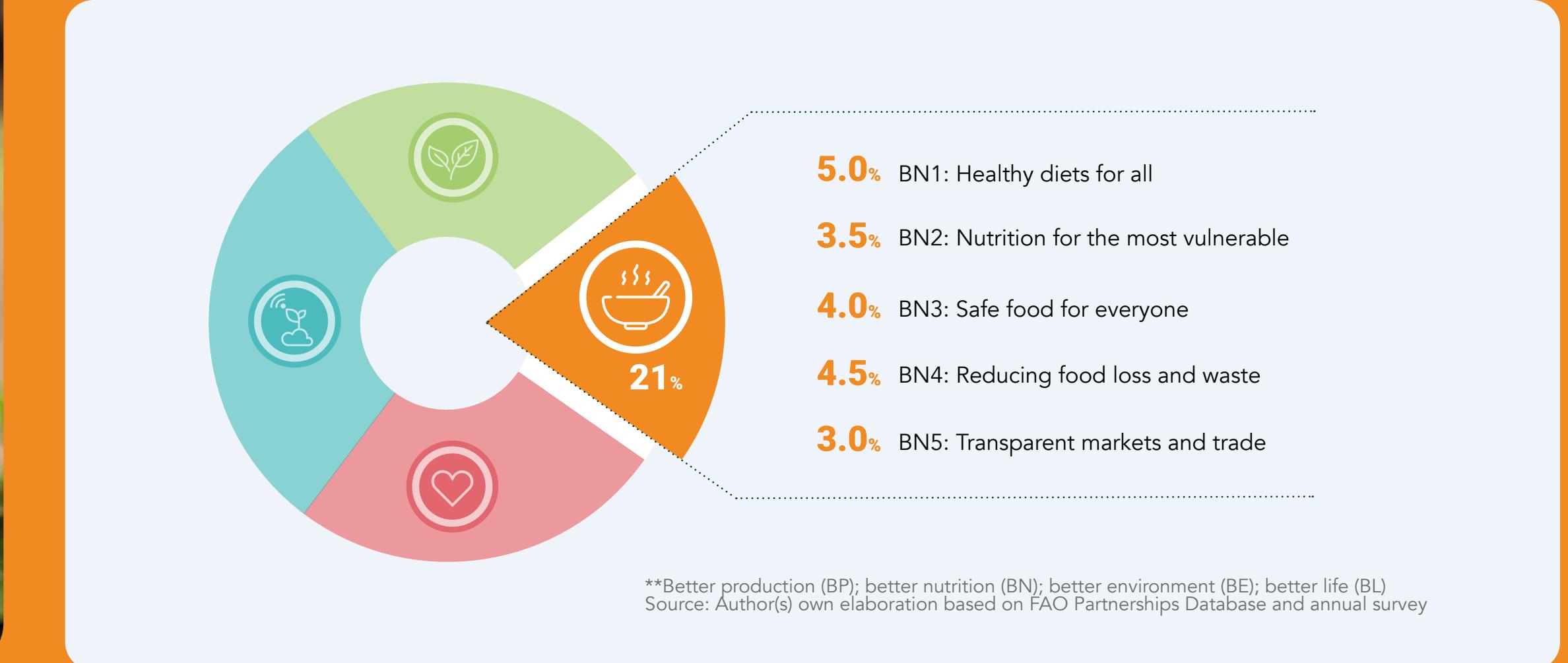
By giving FAO a new level of computational power and specialized training, MSU has strengthened FAO's ability to use technically advanced data in assessing climate change impacts on land suitability and crop productivity, ensuring sustainability and resilience to climatic variability.



BETTER NUTRITION



Better nutrition aims to end hunger, achieve food security and improve nutrition in all its forms. FAO partnerships seek to decrease undernourishment, ensure healthy food supply, increase food security, improve food safety and promote better food distribution.





Consumers International



FAO and Consumers International work together to promote sustainable agrifood systems and consumer rights, empowering consumers to shape healthier food systems through advocacy and dietary guidelines.

In 2024, FAO and Consumers International renewed their partnership to strengthen consumer-driven transformation of agrifood systems, focusing on improving food security and nutrition through consumption-related actions. This included the development of comprehensive food-based dietary guidelines to help guide individuals and communities towards healthier eating choices and better public health outcomes.

The partnership also promoted the Right to Food – ensuring access to safe,

diverse and nutritious food for all. By engaging local consumer organizations in national agrifood dialogues, FAO and Consumers International amplified grassroots voices in policymaking, fostering inclusive and equitable food environments. At the heart of this approach was capacity building, empowering consumer organizations to advocate for sustainability and ethical practices in food production and distribution. More details are available in the Consumers International [partnership brief](#).

All of these efforts contribute to more resilient urban food systems and responsible value chains, reinforcing the role of consumers as key agents in achieving better nutrition globally.

Promoting sustainable agrifood systems globally, the FAO–Consumers International partnership empowers consumers, advances the Right to Food, and drives healthier diets through advocacy and guidelines.



Federation of Food and Drink Industry Associations of Türkiye

Private Sector



The Federation of Food and Drink Industry Associations of Türkiye (TGDF) and FAO have engaged industry leaders in shaping FAO's regional priorities for food systems transformation, focusing on resilient agrifood systems, sustainable urban food systems and transparent markets and trade to promote FAO's goals for better nutrition, as well as a better environment and a better life.

The partnership between FAO and TGDF seeks to advance food security, promote sustainable production and drive private sector engagement in agrifood systems transformation.

In April 2024, FAO and TGDF held a private sector pre-consultation meeting bringing together key private sector representatives and FAO's regional leadership to discuss challenges and opportunities in food and agriculture.

Providing a valuable platform to align FAO's regional work and private sector perspectives, the discussions aimed to ensure that the industry plays a vital role in advancing sustainability and resilience in agrifood systems.

TGDF's participation in World Food Day 2024 highlighted its commitment



"Our partnership with FAO has enabled us to convene a broad spectrum of private sector stakeholders, fostering a collective drive toward the transformation of food systems and the advancement of sustainable practices across Türkiye's food industry. We take pride in contributing to high-level policy dialogues that will shape the trajectory of food security and sustainability for the future."

Demir Sarman; Chair, Federation of Food and Drink Industry Associations of Türkiye



HELP Logistics (Kühne Foundation)

Private Sector



In 2024, FAO and HELP Logistics achieved significant progress in supply chain management, helping improve humanitarian response capabilities to ensure efficient delivery of humanitarian aid.

In May, FAO and HELP Logistics held a pivotal logistics and supply chain management workshop in Türkiye, as part of wider efforts to bolster operational preparedness. With participants from Afghanistan, Pakistan, Tajikistan and Central Asia, the workshop aimed to harmonize supply chain processes, build logistics capacity, and enhance preparedness for emergencies. Building on this success, additional workshops are planned in Ethiopia, Malaysia and Senegal, reinforcing FAO

and HELP Logistics' role in improving FAO's logistics framework and ensuring the rapid, reliable delivery of humanitarian assistance.

FAO and HELP Logistics' focus on strengthening supply chains and logistics functions is helping ensure optimized delivery of humanitarian aid.



Luiss University



In 2024, FAO and Luiss joined forces to conduct a United Nations Model Programme (UNMP) on "The True Cost of Food Security", part of the partnership's overall objective to engage young people worldwide on innovative, actionable solutions for sustainable agrifood systems.

The UNMP brought together a carefully selected group of 50 students from all regions of the world, each with early professional or academic backgrounds in agriculture, food or nutrition security.

Covering themes central to food security such as nutrition, international environmental law, agrifood systems, and environmental protection and

sustainability, the student-delegates participated in 30 hours of virtual lectures, gaining valuable insights into the role of youth in agrifood system transformation, FAO's history and initiatives, as well as diplomacy and public speaking.



"The collaboration with FAO is particularly important for Luiss. The UNMP represents the importance we both attach to two fundamental issues: helping youth to think critically and engage for a better world and working all together to achieve the SDGs where nobody is left behind."

Professor Antonio Majocchi; Deputy Rector for Internationalization, Luiss University

Academia and Research Institutions

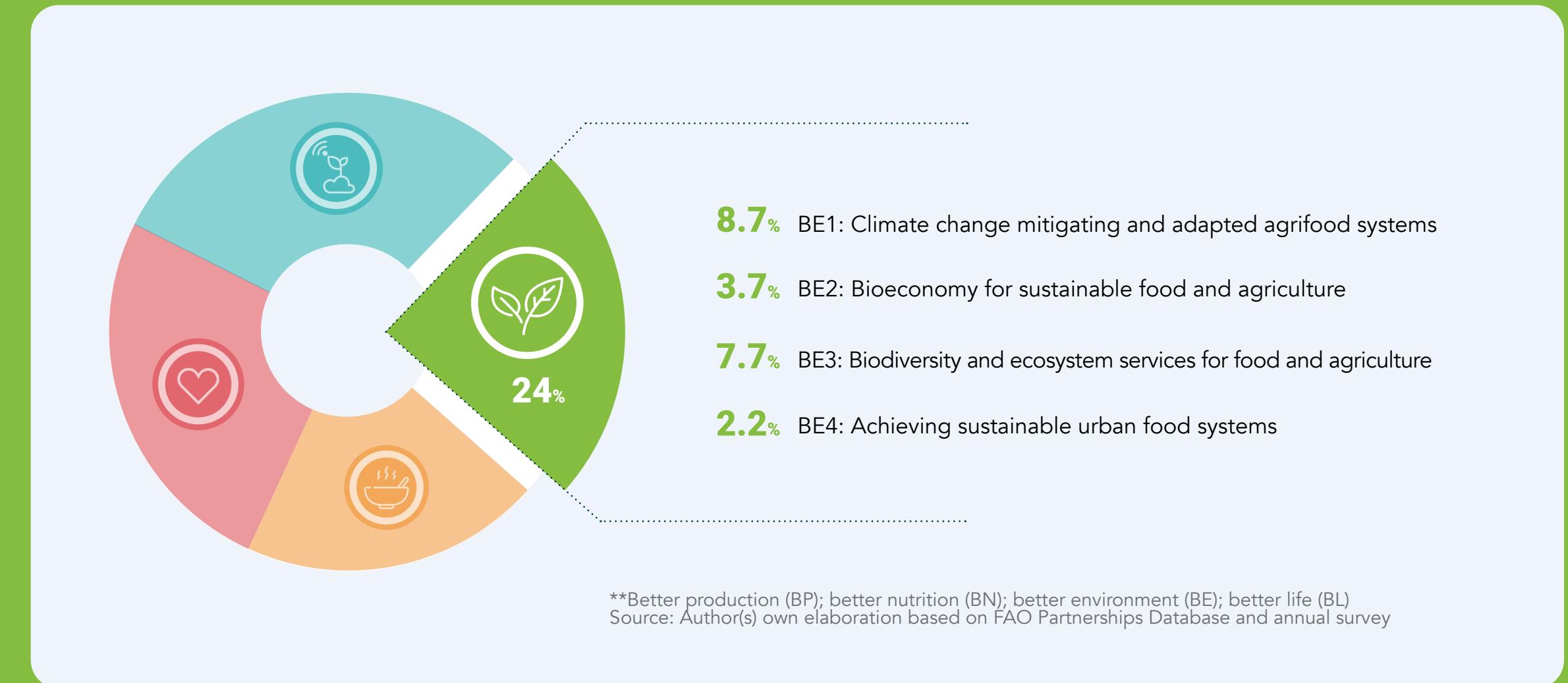


BETTER ENVIRONMENT



© FAO / Jan Martin Rossi

FAO's partnerships focusing on better environment include protecting, restoring and promoting sustainable use of terrestrial and marine ecosystems and combating climate change through more efficient, inclusive, resilient and sustainable agrifood systems.





Forum for Agricultural Research in Africa



In 2024, FAO and the Forum for Agricultural Research in Africa (FARA) put the spotlight on forgotten foods in Africa. Bringing widespread attention to these traditional food sources, the FAO–FARA partnership has simultaneously helped improve dietary diversity and economic opportunities for smallholder farmers while also supporting biodiversity and climate change mitigation, contributing to FAO's goals for a better environment and better nutrition.

They have made significant strides in increasing awareness and adoption of Africa's forgotten foods – nutrient-rich locally adapted crops that have long been overlooked. The joint publication, Integrating Africa's Forgotten Foods

for better nutrition, companion to the Compendium on Forgotten Foods in Africa, highlights more than 100 promising forgotten foods and their nutritional and economic potential.

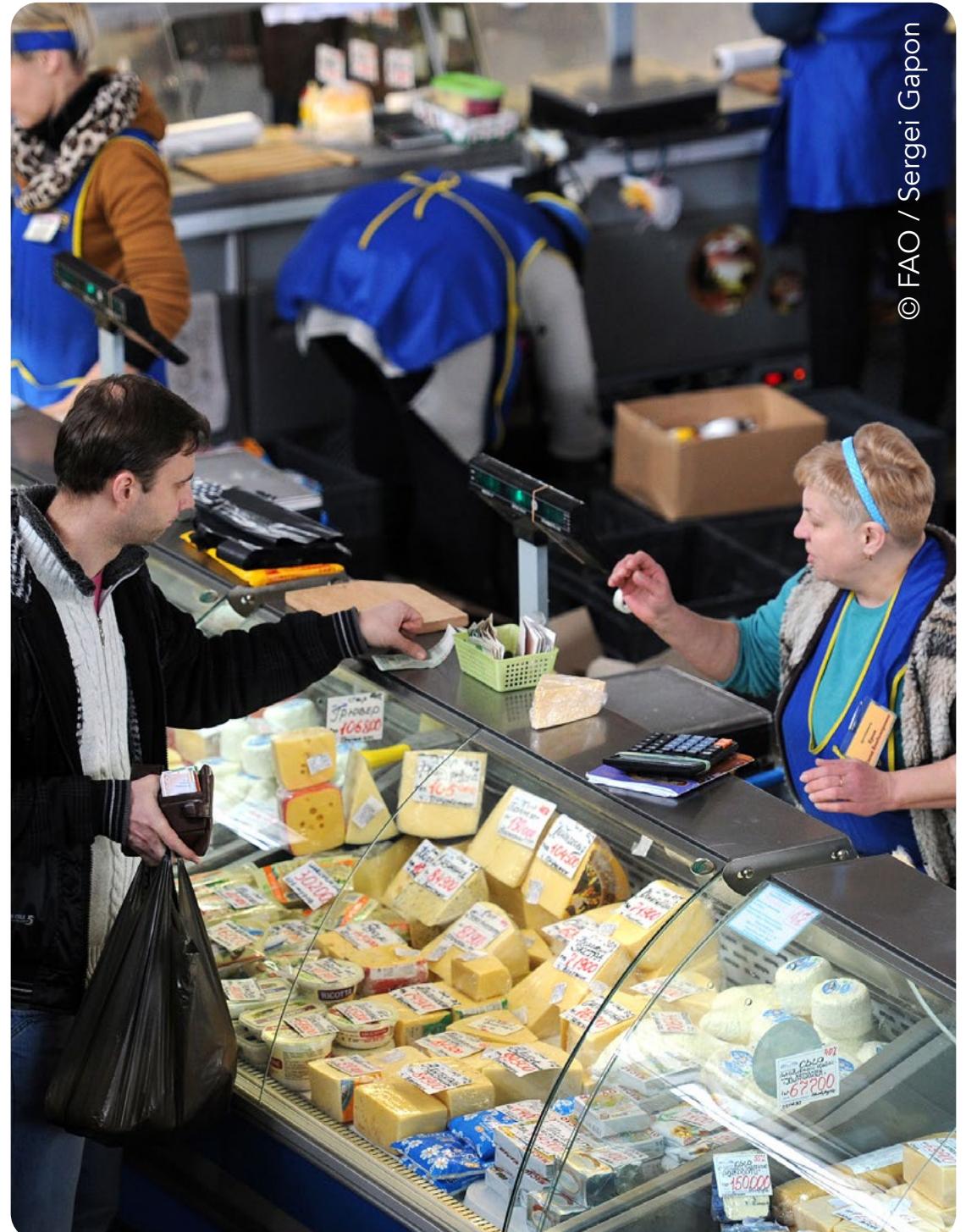
As a result, these crops have been more widely included in national food policies in Africa, providing greater market access for smallholder farmers and enhanced dietary diversity across communities. More than 5 000 stakeholders, including policymakers, researchers and farmers, have engaged with FAO and FARA's advocacy efforts, leading to policy integration in at least five African countries. The success of this initiative underscores the power of research-driven collaboration in transforming food systems for better nutrition and livelihoods.

Together, FARA and FAO are driving agricultural innovation and food security across Africa.



Global Dairy Platform

Private Sector



In 2024, FAO and the Global Dairy Platform (GDP) achieved significant advances in dairy sustainability, focusing on strategic collaborations for impact.

The Global Dairy Impact Report, *Dairy and Socio-economic Development – What Evidence does the Data Hold?* provides deep insights into the socio-economic benefits of dairy development across 187 countries cover four social domains: livelihoods, employment, consumers, and governments.

The second phase of the Dairy Impact Methodology tool, developed in conjunction with FAO and GDP, features a socio-economic database with over

37 000 observations, enabling the recognition of correlations between dairy sector growth and social factors.

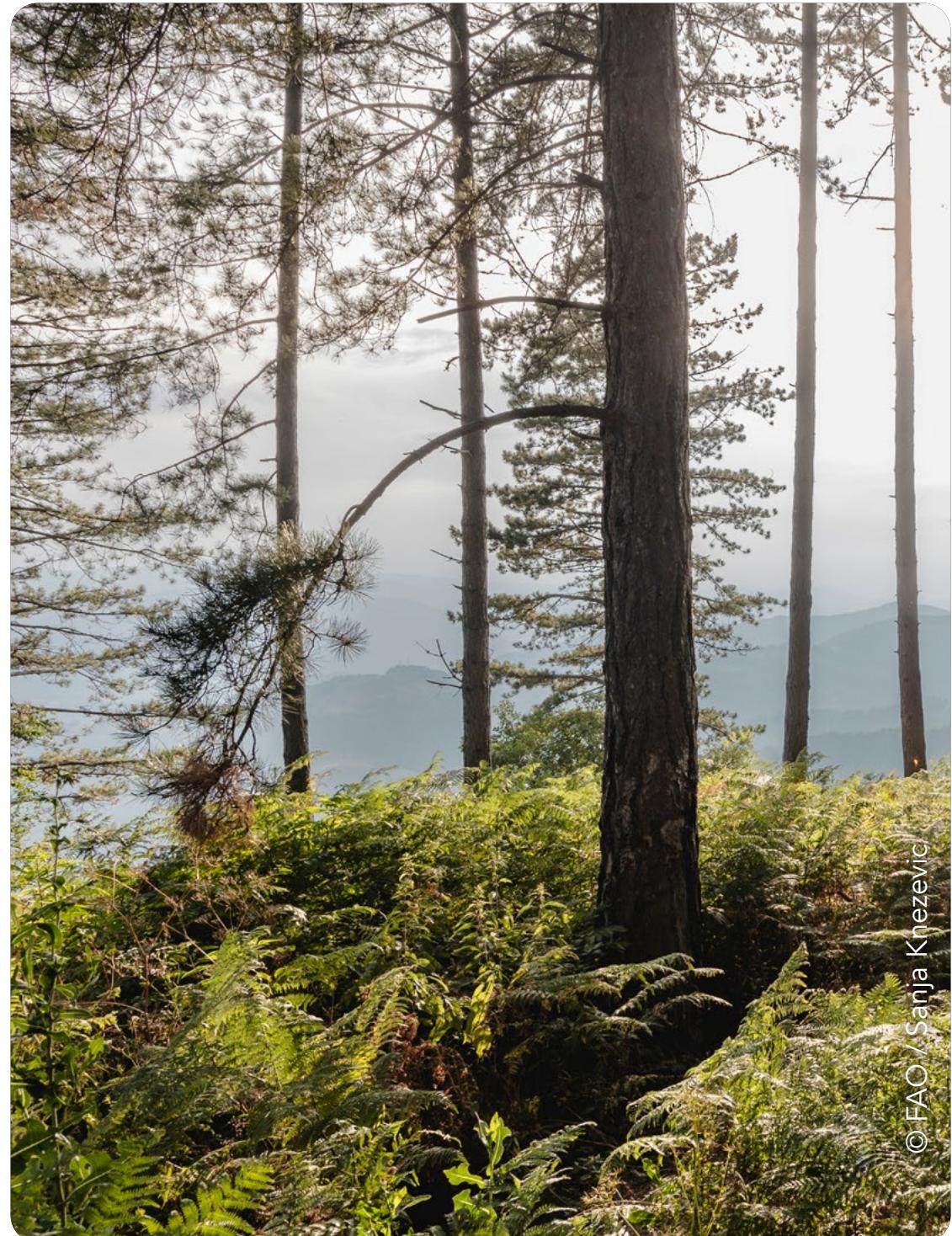
Progress on climate and natural resource use through the Pathways to Dairy Net Zero project, particularly in East Africa, Latin America and Pakistan, strengthened national capacities for low emission, climate-resilient dairy sectors. The impact of the partnership between FAO and GDP touches many stakeholders, including farmers, local institutions and large agribusinesses, fostering sustainable development in the global dairy industry.

Aiming to enhance the sustainability of dairy systems through strategic collaborations, FAO and the GDP have developed key resources that address social, developmental and climate challenges and support sustainability of the livestock sector.



Google LLC

Private Sector



FAO and Google LLC focus on leveraging technology to monitor and protect forests globally. In 2024, they renewed their MoU with the goal of enhancing forest monitoring and environmental protection through innovative tools and platforms.

Amidst groundbreaking advancements in forest monitoring and environmental protection, FAO and Google LLC's collaboration has significantly enhanced FAO's ability to track and protect forests using Google Earth Engine (GEE).

FAO has launched dashboards to track submissions to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and supports deforestation-free commodity value

chains, both of which rely on GEE for data analysis. Most countries that have submitted information to the UNFCCC used GEE via FAO platforms to generate statistics and datasets. Through their partnership, FAO and Google LLC have conducted capacity-

building workshops, training people globally to utilize GEE tools. This has enabled countries to better monitor carbon stocks, forest areas and deforestation rates, of great benefit to climate change mitigation and adaptation strategies.



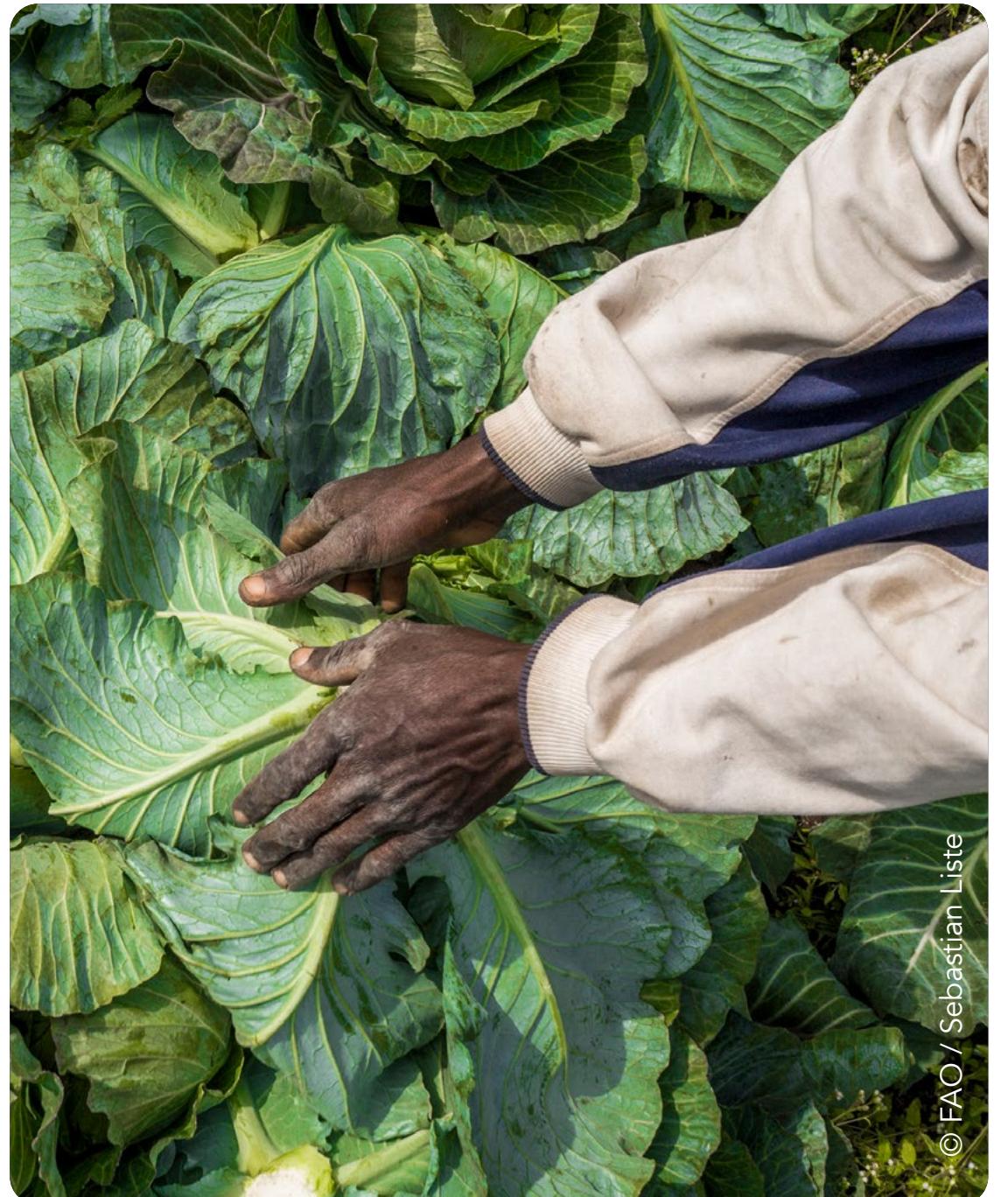
"This partnership harnesses the complementary strengths of both organizations: Google's technical expertise, data, and AI capabilities, combined with FAO's deep knowledge of development, sustainability, and grassroots networks."

Gino Miceli; Senior Software Engineer, Google LLC



Mabunduka Agro Farmers Association

Civil Society Organization



FAO and the Mabunduka Agro Farmers Association empower rural youth in Sierra Leone through green jobs, collaborating to create sustainable employment opportunities in agriculture that focus on organic horticulture and apiculture.

Through the Green Jobs for Rural Youth Employment (GJ4RYE) project, FAO and the Mabunduka Agro Farmers Association are equipping young people with valuable skills for decent employment in the agrifood sector, while enhancing the ability of public and private stakeholders to support green economy policies and entrepreneurship.

© FAO / Sebastian Liste

The story of Betty Serai Sam, a 34-year-old mother of three, epitomizes the work of the GJ4RYE project in 2024. Following the training she received as part of the initiative, she was selected as a farm representative. With new leadership skills in sales and bookkeeping, Betty was able to open a small shop, increasing her financial autonomy.

Betty's training in organic farming, from soil preparation to sustainable fertilization, boosted her confidence and economic stability. Now a respected figure in her community, she aims to train other young people and establish herself as a leading producer of organic fruits and vegetables in Sierra Leone.



© FAO / Danièle Epifanio

"Through the training, I discovered how to prepare beds, plant seeds, and apply dung as fertilizer... I'm an empowered woman now."

Betty Serai Sam, Green Jobs for Rural Youth Employment project beneficiary



Shanghai Ocean University



Advancing ecosystem-based aquaculture and climate-resilient rice–fish systems for a better environment.

In 2024, FAO and Shanghai Ocean University (SHOU) deepened their collaboration to promote environmentally sustainable aquaculture and integrated agriculture–aquaculture systems, delivering tangible benefits for ecosystems and communities worldwide.

Through large-scale knowledge sharing, field demonstrations and South–South cooperation, the partnership achieved significant environmental impact. A highlight was the 3rd International Symposium on Integrated Agriculture and Aquaculture (IAA), which convened experts from 27 countries to exchange solutions on ecosystem-based water

management, ecological intensification and biodiversity enhancement in rice–fish systems.

Capacity building was another cornerstone. The Lancang–Mekong Rice–Fish Training Programme engaged 54 participants from 22 countries, strengthening regional ability to adopt climate-resilient rice–fish practices that reduce agrochemical use, improve soil and water quality and enhance carbon sequestration.

Field-level results revealed significant environmental benefits. In Myanmar, the introduction of upgraded rice–fish systems enhanced ecological functions, reduced the need for external inputs, and strengthened resilience to climate variability when compared to traditional

rice monoculture. Similarly, in Cape Verde, two seaweed demonstration sites delivered nature-based solutions for nutrient recycling and coastal ecosystem restoration. This also included training for 30 local stakeholders in sustainable seaweed farming practices.

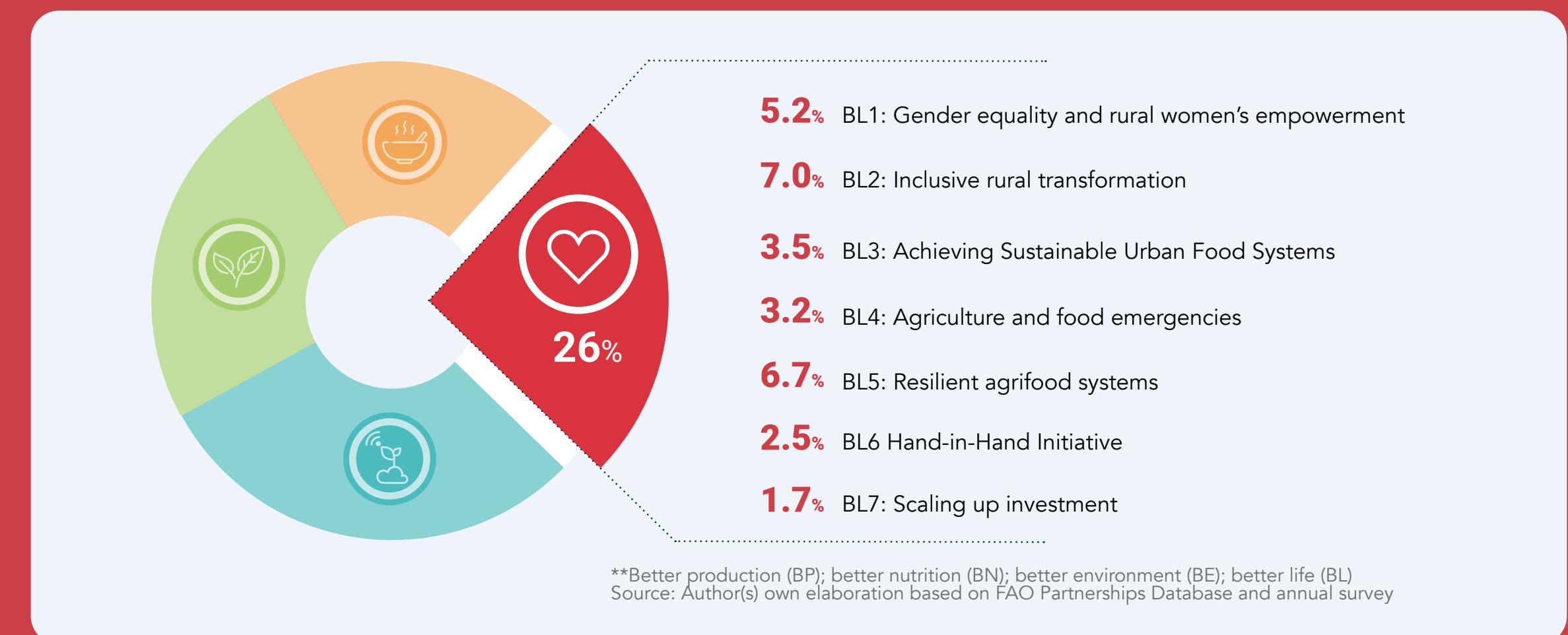
The FAO–SHOU partnership accelerates innovation in environmentally sound aquaculture, contributing to healthier, more resilient ecosystems globally.

BETTER LIFE



© FAO / Johanna Alarcón

The concept of a better life promotes inclusive economic growth by reducing inequalities – between urban and rural areas, rich and poor countries, men and women. FAO's partnerships might aim to help increase the income of small-scale food producers, guide government expenditures towards the agricultural sector, help secure land tenure, or help ensure women's rights to land ownership and control.



**Better production (BP); better nutrition (BN); better environment (BE); better life (BL)
Source: Author(s) own elaboration based on FAO Partnerships Database and annual survey



Agriculture and Forestry University

Academia and
Research Institutions



Together, FAO and the Agriculture and Forestry University (AFU) are enhancing urban food security in Nepal, strengthening urban and peri-urban linkages, optimizing food distribution, and empowering local farmers, contributing to FAO's vision for a better life.

AFU plays a leading role in agricultural research and education in Nepal and is a key partner to FAO, bringing vital technical expertise, research capacity and access to a vast network of students, academics and agricultural professionals.

In 2024, FAO and AFU led the City Region Food System Assessment in Lalitpur, Pokhara and Bharatpur as part of the FAO Green City Initiatives. Aimed at enhancing urban food resilience and ensuring better access to nutritious food, the initiative helps connect local farmers with urban markets, seeking to optimize food distribution and reduce post-harvest losses.

Capacity building workshops supported sustainable urban farming policies, engaging over 1 000 stakeholders and fostering valuable knowledge exchange.

FAO has also collaborated with AFU under the Emergency Centre for Transboundary Animal Diseases (ECTAD) programme, supporting specialized training in veterinary science and livestock health. Contributing to the professional development of veterinarians across Nepal, AFU participated in the development of the Field Epidemiology Training Programme for Veterinarians (FETPV) alongside FAO and Nepal's Department of Livestock Services.

"Through our partnership with FAO, Agriculture and Forestry University (AFU) is proud to contribute to strengthening urban food systems and building resilience in Nepal. By integrating local farmers into urban markets and supporting sustainable agriculture policies, we are creating long-term solutions for food security. Our joint efforts in education and training also ensure that the next generation of agricultural professionals is prepared to tackle the challenges of climate change and sustainable food production."

Professor Sharada Thapaliya; Vice Chancellor,
Agriculture and Forestry University



China Chamber of International Commerce

Private Sector



FAO's partnership with the China Chamber of International Commerce (CCOIC) made significant strides in advancing inclusive agricultural trade and economic cooperation in 2024, in close alignment with FAO's objective for a better life.

Together, FAO and CCOIC promote sustainable agricultural practices, striving to enhance food security and facilitate international trade for development.

In 2024, the collaboration centred on an MoU, with a text exchange ceremony held at FAO headquarters in March, setting out an in-depth cooperation between the two sides.

In June, CCOIC held the 2024 China Agricultural Conference for International Economic and Trade Cooperation in Beijing. FAO reinforced its support in a speech at the opening ceremony, encouraging businesses to invest in sustainable agriculture. The conference brought together representatives from 27 countries, with over 70 percent from developing nations in Africa and South America, fostering strong global participation and inclusivity in agricultural trade.

At the Hand-in-Hand Investment Forum, part of the World Food Forum hosted by FAO, a CCOIC delegation of Chinese entrepreneurs explored investment opportunities in several countries, laying a solid foundation for cooperation.

Closely aligning on the objective for a better life, FAO and the CCOIC have worked together to facilitate international trade for development, in support of sustainable agricultural practices.



Confederazione Nazionale Coldiretti

Private Sector



In the context of the Food Coalition's Global Network of Farmers Markets, FAO and Confederazione Nazionale Coldiretti have partnered to develop a methodology that explores the contribution of farmers markets to rural transformation and a better life.

Joining forces to strengthen small-scale producers' engagement in agrifood systems, FAO and Coldiretti seek to reinforce the connection between farmers and consumers.

FAO and Coldiretti developed Methodological Guidelines and Tools for the Mapping of Farmers Markets, designed to deepen understanding of farmers market models and their role in agrifood systems transformation.

Shaped by extensive technical consultations, the guidelines incorporate insights from international experts, including scholars, practitioners and members of the World Farmers Markets Coalition. Through these discussions, experts also exchanged on good practices and research approaches for analysing farmers markets across countries of the Global North and South.

The mapping guidelines will be piloted in Ghana and Tanzania in collaboration with local research institutions and farmer organizations. More countries in the Global South will follow suit, where this pivotal study will bridge critical knowledge gaps, drive engagement and shape policy and practical support to strengthen farmers' markets worldwide.



"Farmers markets contribute to local food economies by benefitting producers, consumers and communities."

Carmelo Troccoli; Executive Director of Coldiretti Campagna Amica Foundation, General Director of the World Farmers Markets Coalition



Slow Food

Civil Society Organization

FAO's Mountain Partnership has joined forces with Slow Food to increase mountain and island communities' resilience, making progress towards FAO's vision for better production, a better environment and a better life through the Business Incubator and Accelerator (BIA) for Mountains and Islands.

FAO and Slow Food are supporting mountain and island communities through targeted capacity development activities on agroecological practices, connecting smallholder mountain farmers to Fondazione Slow Food's networks and promoting resilience through innovative agricultural and textile value chains.

In 2024, FAO and Slow Food provided tailored technical assistance to producer organizations in the Dominican Republic, Guatemala and Uganda. Following needs assessments to identify challenges in production, processing and sustainability for a range of products – including coffee, mushrooms, bananas, honey and cacao – in-person, context-specific training was provided on topics including agroecological practices, product quality improvement, soil management, sustainable tourism and cooperative governance.

These activities helped drive greater adoption of agroecological practices, supporting sustainability and improving market access. Several producer

organizations are now taking steps to join Slow Food's Coffee Coalition, Slow Food Travel and Slow Food Farms.



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"The ongoing collaboration between Slow Food and FAO to advance ecological food systems is very important in empowering small-scale farmers by strengthening sustainable food value chains, preserving local food cultures, and enhancing biodiversity. It is a clear sign that when we work together, we champion food sovereignty and resilient livelihoods, ensuring that traditional knowledge and sustainable practices shape the future of our food systems."

Edie Mukabi; President, Slow Food



Universidad Politécnica de Madrid



Through its collaboration with FAO, Universidad Politécnica de Madrid (UPM) has developed innovative tools to support sustainable agricultural development in Latin America, contributing to FAO's goals for better nutrition, a better environment, and a better life.

FAO and UPM collaborate on research, capacity development and policy innovation to enhance sustainable agrifood systems. One of the most significant achievements in 2024 was the application of an agricultural trade analysis tool, developed by FAO and UPM, to assess Ecuador's cacao sector. Integrating governance, health and nutrition variables, it provides policymakers with a comprehensive decision-making framework. Measures are underway to extend the tool's

application to Ecuador's coffee sector, while a comparative study is being formulated for Colombia.

UPM leads a network of 45 universities and business organizations in 12 countries across Latin America and the Caribbean, and FAO and UPM continue to work with the Spanish Federation of Food Banks (FESBAL) to strengthen agrifood governance in the Dominican Republic.

Beyond research, UPM empowers youth to help shape the future of agrifood systems. Fellows supported by UPM led more than 15 policy dialogues on biodiversity, climate and food security at the 2024 World Food Forum, which was attended by students from UPM, further strengthening the role of academic networks in global agrifood systems governance.

Academia and Research Institutions

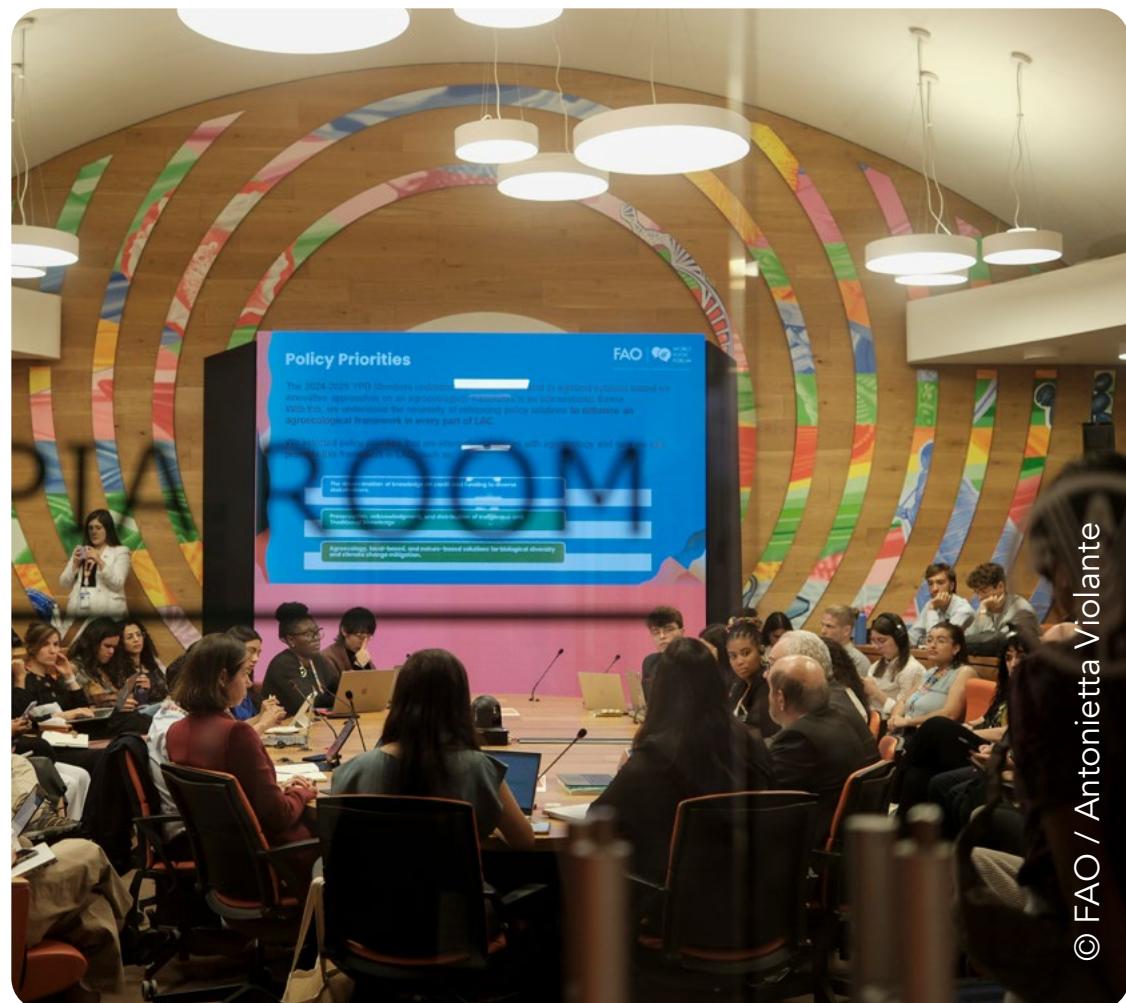
"For us, the collaboration between FAO and UPM is key, as it allows us to complement our expertise to promote sustainable agrifood systems through research, capacity development, and policy innovation. The tools and frameworks we have developed are tailored to specific contexts, supporting better decision-making, strengthening governance, and enhancing food security. At UPM, we see this partnership as strategic, aligning with our mission to drive impactful initiatives that foster international cooperation, sustainability and youth engagement in global agrifood governance."

Óscar García Suárez, Rector of the Universidad Politécnica de Madrid



Unlocking synergies

Events



© FAO / Antonietta Violante

Engaging with our partners through events is a key element of our strategic approach to knowledge sharing, learning and strengthening collaboration. These initiatives complement our broader partnership activities.

Below are some of the key moments from 2024:

Partnership Dialogue

FAO convened academic experts from across the globe for a Partnership Dialogue session focused on FAO's roadmap to achieving SDG 2 without breaching the 1.5°C threshold. The event drew contributions, observations and suggestions from academic and research institutions and reinforced their commitments to achieving the objectives.

Academia Roundtable

Cultivating the next generation of leaders for agrifood systems transformation is an important topic and FAO facilitated discussions with academic representatives and students on using FAO's Four Betters Courses

Initiative to help nurture and build these skills. Panellists from Luiss University, Cornell University, the Regional Universities Forum for Capacity Building in Agriculture (RUFORUM), the Union of Universities of Latin America and the Caribbean (UDUALC) and the FAO elearning Academy contributed their insights.

Civil Society Consultations in the framework of FAO Regional Conferences

Ahead of the FAO Regional Conferences, civil society consultations across all FAO regions ensured that the voices and priorities of grassroots organizations were reflected in the policy dialogues. The outcomes – presented at each conference – reinforced participatory decision-making. CSOs shared their perspectives on agrifood systems transformation, climate resilience, youth engagement and the right to food, reaffirming their role in shaping regional priorities and advancing FAO's mandate at country level.

Private Sector Advisory Group

The Private Sector Advisory Group (PSAG) is a platform for exchange between FAO and the private sector, enabling a select group of private sector stakeholders to provide essential guidance and feedback on FAO's expanding engagement with private sector partners. In 2024, its three meetings focused on private sector collaboration to achieve the SDGs, integrating climate actions within agrifood systems, innovation, regulatory coherence and de-risking mechanisms to encourage private sector investment. Discussions also covered the FAO Science and Innovation Strategy, the Global Dairy Impact report, and the Pathways to Dairy Net Zero projects. With the aim of strengthening FAO's private sector engagement, PSAG members have contributed to the development of analytical tools and engaged in training sessions, as well as to the renewal of the FAO Strategy for Private Sector Engagement (2026–2030).

Unlocking synergies

Internal events and capacity building



As needs and demands evolve, FAO is committed to building and strengthening internal capacities to drive progress on global objectives. Here are some of the key initiatives FAO undertook in 2024:

Leadership Webinar on Transformative Partnerships

As part of efforts to deepen understanding and engagement around FAO's strategic shift to transformative partnerships, FAO hosted a high-level internal leadership webinar that convened senior leaders and managers from across the organization. Facilitated by The Partnering Initiative (TPI), the session explored the added value of transformative partnerships, introducing a Transformative Partnerships Guidance Note and emphasizing the importance of shared language and mindset in driving systemic change.

Transformative Partnerships Workshops Series

In collaboration with TPI, FAO held a series of five technical workshops to equip FAO personnel with tools and understanding on how to engage

in transformative partnerships. The sessions provided insights into the Transformative Partnerships Guidance Note and corresponding eLearning course, equipping participants with actionable insights on how to initiate, manage and sustain transformative partnerships aligned with FAO's Strategic Framework 2022–31. With the emphasis on real world application, the sessions offered a dynamic and interactive learning environment, combining expert input with peer-to-peer exchange.

Partner Relationship Management System

To strengthen collaboration and foster a more integrated approach to partnership management, FAO has expanded its partner relationship management system to encompass the full spectrum of FAO partnerships, including the private sector, civil society, academia, resource partners, UN agencies and intergovernmental organizations (IGOs). This development reinforces FAO's ongoing commitment to engaging a diverse network of stakeholders, streamlining interactions, and driving

more meaningful connections that support long-term success.

In an ever-changing landscape, ensuring a strong organizational culture, fostering skills and driving continuous improvement are essential

New FAO International Non-Governmental Organization Portal

As part of FAO's reinvigorated business model, it has revamped the formal status application process for International Non-Governmental Organizations (INGOs). A new INGO Portal allows INGOs to submit their requests for formal status and monitor their ongoing engagement with FAO, delivering a

more transparent accreditation process and promoting a harmonized approach to FAO-INGO engagement.

Private Sector Inter-Departmental Working Group

The Private Sector Inter-Departmental Working Group (PS IDWG) is an internal FAO forum for the exchange of views, conversations and updates on FAO private sector engagement, as well as a space to provide feedback. Driven by FAO's collaborative approach to partnership with the private sector, this ongoing dialogue allows colleagues to share knowledge and strengths between Offices, Centres and Divisions.

Participants have engaged in meetings and training sessions, and contributed to the development of analytical tools, strengthening FAO's engagement with the private sector. Driving more cohesive and informed decision-making processes, the PS IDWG's continuous exchange of ideas has also fostered innovation and improved cross-sectoral collaboration.

Python Courses

FAO is strengthening its collaboration with academic institutions to build digital capabilities for sustainable agricultural practices. In 2024, Mississippi State University (MSU) loaned an expert to propose improvements for land evaluation and agroecological zoning, leading to new training modules and courses on Python. This collaboration is an example of technology capacity building through partnership, equipping FAO employees with Python data processing and analysis skills, essential for modern agricultural research and decision-making. As a result, FAO Members benefit from advanced digital tools, improving extension services and providing farmers and communities with timely, accessible insights to improve productivity, resilience and food security.

Transformative Partnerships Guidance

Unlocking synergies

Communications and outreach

Enhancing the visibility of our partnerships and sharing information on our objectives and results are important to ensure transparency, build understanding and help multiply impact. This section highlights a selection of the key tools we used in 2024 to show how our targeted efforts are delivering on global objectives.

Partnership Briefs

FAO has developed a set of partnership briefs, designed to summarize partnership collaborations, key results and future objectives. Examples include:

[International Society for Horticultural Science](#)

This brief illustrates how the application of horticultural science through the

exchange of knowledge, expertise and experience contributes to food safety, food and nutrition security, as well as sustainable food production systems.

[Asian Partnership for the Development of Human Resources in Rural Areas \(AsiaDHRRA\)](#)

This brief focuses on the joint work by FAO and AsiaDHRRA on strengthening the capacities of farmers, women and youth in building sustainable agrifood systems.

[Apimondia](#)

This brief highlights how FAO and Apimondia disseminate information on the importance of protecting bees and other pollinators, and on the contribution of beekeeping to addressing challenges in rural communities.

Partnership Newsletters

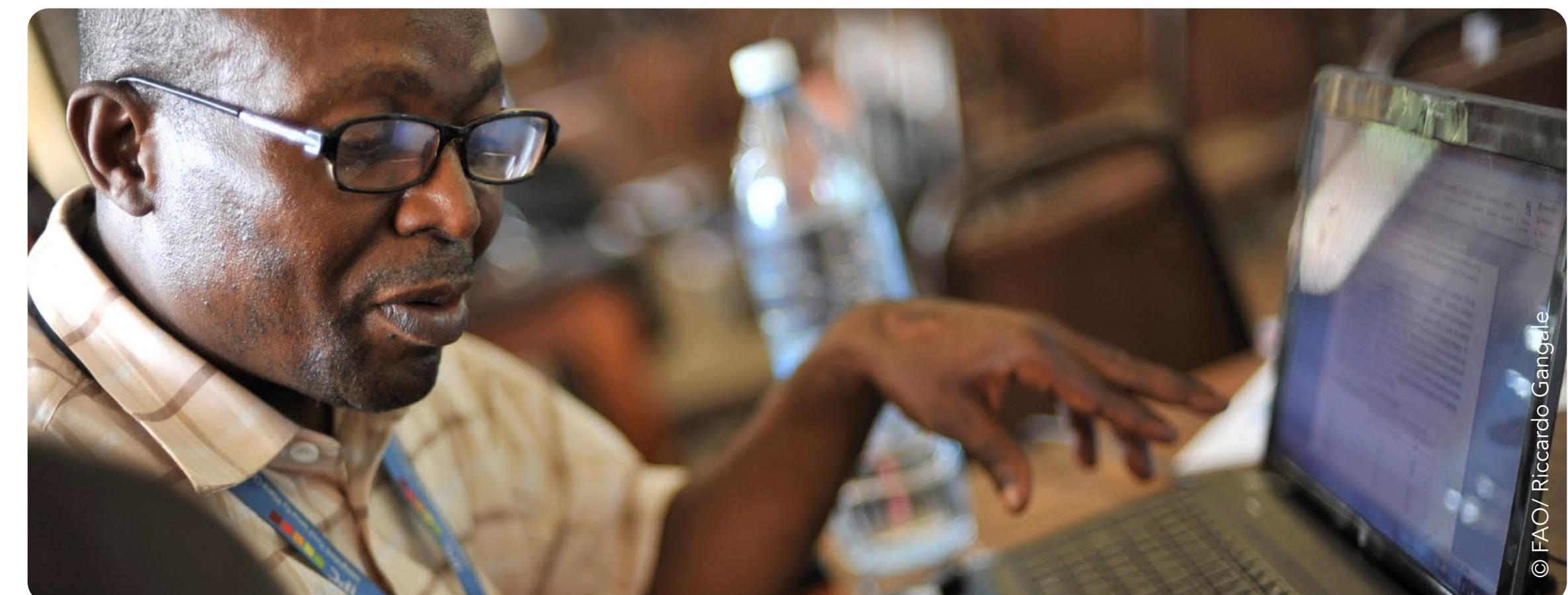
Activities, collaborations and key developments in FAO partnerships in 2024 were highlighted in newsletters

shared throughout the year, showcasing the latest stakeholder engagement, internal capacity-development efforts and progress in digital tools. The updates featured events, roundtables, workshops and leadership webinars, as well as partnership briefs, annual reports, and news stories on FAO's ongoing work.

News Articles

FAO shared insights on its latest developments through news articles on topics such as its expanded collaborations with academic and

research institutions, highlighting its building of new partnerships and renewal of existing ones across multiple regions. Drawing attention to FAO's emphasis on engaging youth in discussions on food security and sustainable development through initiatives such as the Model UN and the Bhutan-SDGs Action Card Game X (Cross), FAO continues to promote the dynamic involvement of young people in shaping the future of agrifood systems.



The future of FAO partnerships



FAO continues to forge partnerships that harness diverse expertise and resources across sectors and stakeholders. As this report has set out, these relationships are essential for addressing interlinked global objectives and achieving the SDGs.

We recognize the importance of different types of partnerships and engagements in achieving our goals. Behind the scenes, our recently expanded partner relationship management system is bolstering our internal capabilities in managing this range of partnerships, from the largest to the smallest.

Our commitment to transparency is unwavering, and the FAO Connect Portal remains our foremost resource for information on our private sector engagements. As our partnerships with civil society organizations, academia,

research institutions and the private sector have been unified under one FAO division, so too you can expect an upcoming expansion of the Connect Portal.

We have strengthened our collaborations with International Non-Governmental Organizations (INGOs) through the development of the INGO Portal and the revamp of the formal status process. FAO's participation in the UN Partner Portal further underscores our dedication to harmonized and transparent partnership opportunities. While short-term gains may deliver fast results, our focus remains on long-term sustainability and resilience for agrifood systems, food security and nutrition. We aim to create efficient, inclusive, resilient and sustainable agrifood systems that address inequalities and leave no one behind.

The traditional partnership model often treated partnerships as an "add on". FAO has moved beyond this and towards a transformative approach that harnesses the resources, expertise and innovative potential of all sectors of society to achieve systemic and transformational impacts.

In 2025 and beyond, FAO will continue to prioritize transparency, innovation and multistakeholder engagement in our partnerships, working to ensure that all sectors and stakeholders benefit equitably. Building global consensus and organizational resilience and adaptability in a rapidly changing world, our focus remains on food security and nutrition for all, leaving no one behind.

FAO recognizes many different types of partnerships, central both to the FAO Strategic Framework 2022-2031 and the United Nations 2030 Agenda, embodying one of its '5 Ps' for sustainable development – people, planet, prosperity, peace and partnership.



List of partners (as at December 2024)

Academia and Research Institutions

Academy of Agricultural Sciences of the Tajikistan

Academy of Scientific Research and Technology

American University of Beirut

Ankara University

Asian Institute of Technology (AIT)

Asia-Pacific Network for Sustainable Forest Management and Rehabilitation (APFNet)

Asociación de Universidades Grupo de Montevideo (AUGM)

Azerbaijan State Agricultural University (ASAU)

Bahçeşehir University

Beijing Forestry University (BFU)

Brazilian Agricultural Research Corporation (embrapa)

Chinese Academy of Agricultural Sciences (CAAS)

Chinese Academy of Fishery Sciences (CAFS)

Chinese Academy of Tropical Agricultural Sciences (CATAS)

Cornell University

DivSeek International

Forum for Agricultural Research in Africa (FARA)

French Research Institutions: Cirad, INRAE, IRD

Gansu Academy of Agricultural Sciences (GAAS)

Geneva Graduate Institute

Hungarian University of Agriculture and Life Sciences, Research Center for Fisheries and Aquaculture (HAKI)

IHE Delft Institute for Water Education

Institute of Geographical Sciences and Natural

Resources Research, Chinese Academy of Sciences (IGSNRR)

Instituto de Pesquisa Econômica Aplicada (IPEA)

International Center for Agricultural Research in the Dry Areas (ICARDA)

International Center for Biosaline Agriculture (ICBA)

International Centre for Advanced Mediterranean Agronomic Studies (CIHEAM)

International Society for Horticultural Science (ISHS)

Italian Research Institutions: CNR; CREA; ENEA; ISPRA

Japan International Research Centre for Agricultural Sciences (JIRCAS)

Jiangsu Academy of Agricultural Sciences (JAAS)

L'Université Mohammed Premier and L'Institut National De Recherche Halieutique

Leibniz Centre for Agricultural Landscape Research (ZALF)

LUISS - Libera Università Internazionale degli Studi Sociali Guido Carli

M.V. Lomonosov Moscow State University (MSU)

Michigan State University

Mississippi State University

Natural Resources Institute Finland - LUKE

Politecnico di Milano (PoliMi) - Italian Society of Silviculture and Forest Ecology

Russian State Agrarian University – Moscow Timiryazev Agricultural Academy

Ryan Institute - University of Galway

Sapienza University of Rome

Shanghai Ocean University (SHOU)

Slovak University of Agriculture in Nitra

Strategic Alliance of Catholic Research Universities (SACRU)

Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences (SLU)

Texas A&M University System

The Africa Rice Centre (AfricaRice)

Tajik Agrarian University named Shirinsho Shotemur (TAU)

The Agriculture and Forestry University

The International Maize and Wheat Improvement Center (CIMMYT)

Unión de Universidades de América Latina y el Caribe (UDUALC)

Union for the Mediterranean (UFM) and International Centre for Advanced Mediterranean Agronomic Studies (CIHEAM)

Università degli Studi Sassari

Universidad Politécnica de Madrid

Universidade Aberta of Portugal

Universidade De Sao Paulo

Universidade Federal do Paraná

Università degli Studi di Torino

Universitat Politecnica de Valencia

Universite Laval

University of California Los Angeles

University of Freiburg

University of Naples

University of Reading

University of the Western Cape

University of Tsukuba

Wageningen University and Research

World Maritime University

Zhejiang University

United Arab Emirates

University (UAEU)

Universidad del Bío-Bío

Civil Society Organizations

Action Aid (AA)

African Conservation Tillage Network (ACT)

Agencia Española de Economía Agroalimentaria (AEEA)

Appui au Developpement Autonome (ADA)

Arbor Day Foundation

Asian Farmer's Association for Sustainable Rural Development Inc. (AFA)

Asian Partnership for the Development of Human Resources in Rural Asia (AsiaDHRRA)

Cesvi

Confederación de Organizaciones de Productores Familiares del MERCOSUR Ampliado (COPROFAM)

Consumers International

Development Association World Rural Forum (WRF)

Egyptian Food Bank

European Conservation Agriculture Federation (ECAF)

Farm Radio International

IFOAM Organics International

International Federation of Beekeepers' Associations (Apimondia)

International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC)

International Science Council (ISC)

La Via Campesina

Mabunduka Agro Farmers Association

OceanCare

Pan-African Farmers' Organisation (PAFO)

Rikolto International S.O.N.

Serviço Brasileiro de Apoio às Micro e Pequenas Empresas (SEBRAE)

Slow Food

The Nature Conservancy (TNC)

World Farmers' Organization (WFO)

World Obesity Federation

Private Sector

Agrarco LLC

Agricycle Global Inc.

Alpina Productos Alimenticios S.A./Tetrapak

Asociación Latinoamericana de Instituciones Financieras para el Desarrollo (ALIDE)

Azersun Holdings

Banco Nacional de Desenvolvimento Econômico e Social (BNDES)

Biodiversity Partnership Mesoamerica (BPM)

Brave Blue World Foundation

CARICOM Private Sector Organization (CPSO)

Cassa Depositi e Prestiti (CDP)

China Chamber of International Commerce (CCOIC)

Coldiretti

Comité de Liaison Entrepreneuriat-Agriculture-Développement (COLEAD)

Danone S.A.

European Agricultural Machinery Industry Association (CEMA)

Extreme Tech Challenge (XTC)

Federation of Food and Drink Industry Associations of Türkiye (TGDF)

Global Alliance for Trade Facilitation

Global Dairy Platform (GDP)

Global Pulse Confederation (GPC)

Google LLC

Grow Asia Partnership Ltd

Guangfa Securities

International Cooperative Alliance (ICA)

International Chamber of Commerce (ICC)

International Feed Industry Federation (IFIF)

International Fertilizer Association (IFA)

IKEA of Sweden AB

International Biocontrol Manufacturers Association (IBMA)

Kühne Foundation (HELP Logistics)

La Asociación Española de Mayoristas, Importadores, Transformadores y Exportadores de Productos de la Pesca y Acuicultura (CONXEMAR)

Le Fonds Burkinabé de Développement Économique et Social (FBDES)

Mars Incorporated

Oman India Fertilizer Company S.A.O.C.

Paradise Foods Ltd

Pew Charitable Trusts

Pinar Dairy (Pinar Süt)

Rabobank

Swiss Contact/SIPPO

Swiss Food & Nutrition Valley (SFNV)

The Global Alliance for Improved Nutrition (GAIN)

World Economic Forum (WEF)

World Union of Wholesale Markets (WUWM)

Zubair Small Enterprises Centre (SEC)

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