



WEBINAR

AI for Healthy Diets: Applying AI in agrifood systems – Lessons from GAIN

Thursday 16 July 2026 | 15:00–15:45 CEST

Zoom registration link:

https://ifad.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_glw5B8IAQHCaEFwTigAleA

Concept Note

Background and rationale

The Donor Platform's new focus area on *AI and Data for Agrifood Systems* responds to growing interest among members in understanding how artificial intelligence (AI) can support food security, nutrition, and rural development. AI is already being applied across agrifood systems—from predictive analytics and early warning systems to digital advisory services and market intelligence—offering new opportunities to improve decision-making and outcomes.

At the same time, donors face key challenges: ensuring responsible data governance, avoiding fragmentation, addressing inequalities in access, and identifying practical entry points for investment and collaboration.

As highlighted in recent Donor Platform discussions, there is strong demand among members for concrete examples, practical learning, and peer exchange to translate AI from theory into implementable approaches. The workstream aims to provide a dedicated space for coordination, dialogue, and knowledge exchange among donors and development partners on the use of AI in food security, rural development and agrifood systems.

Webinar objectives

This first webinar in the knowledge exchange series aims to:

- Showcase a practical, real-world example: Global Alliance for Improved Nutrition (GAIN)'s Strategy for Harnessing AI in Programmes
- Illustrate how AI can be applied across food systems to improve diets and nutrition outcomes
- Highlight concrete case studies, partnerships, and lessons learned
- Identify entry points and implications for donors, including opportunities for coordination and scaling
- Foster interactive discussion among Platform members

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Expected outcomes

Participants will gain:

- A clear understanding of how AI can be operationalized in nutrition and food systems programming
- Insights into enabling conditions (data, partnerships, governance) for successful AI use
- Practical ideas for integrating AI into donor strategies and programmes
- Opportunities for collaboration within the Platform's workstream

Provisional Agenda

Time	
15:00–15:05 (CEST) (5 min)	Welcome and scene setting • Michelle Tang, GDPRD Secretariat • Alessandra Roversi, Programme Officer, Food Systems Section, Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation
15:05–15:25 (20 min)	Introduction: <i>GAIN's AI Strategy in Practice</i> <i>Brief overview of GAIN's AI Strategy</i> • Ty Beal, Senior Technical Specialist and global nutrition scientist, Global Alliance for Improved Nutrition (GAIN) <i>Concrete case studies</i> • Stella Nordhagen, Research Lead, Food Environments and Supply Chains, GAIN (TBC) <i>Implications for donors</i> • Mduduzi Mbuya, Director, Knowledge Leadership, GAIN
15:25–15:40 (15 min)	Interactive Q&A with the audience
15:40–15:45 (5 min)	Closing and key takeaways <i>Main takeaways</i> • Mduduzi Mbuya <i>Engagement opportunities and next webinars</i> • Alessandra Roversi