



Youth and agriculture: Accelerating a Just Transition towards food security

Time and date: 15 February 2023, 9.45 – 10.45

Overarching theme: Leveraging youth in agriculture for climate action and a Just Transition

Context

As producers and consumers of food, potential innovators and entrepreneurs, and policy actors, young people are key stakeholders and potential agents of change to transform food systems and accelerate a “Just Transition” – greening economies in a way that is fair and inclusive, creating decent work opportunities in agrifood systems and leaving no one behind. Young people play a vital role in achieving a Just transition and food systems transformation through their fresh perspectives, innovation, dynamism and energy to spur inclusive green employment opportunities in food systems and enhance food security. The recent ILO Global Employment Trends for Youth (2022) report unpacks the vast potential for green, orange and blue economies to be sectors that provide decent jobs for young people. Yet, within the agricultural sector, young people are three times less likely to find a job and are often underemployed. Rural youth lack access to key assets/productive resources, services and skills. In addition, the increasing trend in natural resource degradation, loss of agrobiodiversity and climate vulnerability is exacerbating food insecurity and making the outlook bleak for young people’s career paths. To ensure that the key preconditions of protecting and fulfilling food security are satisfied and to reimagine future jobs for the growing youth bulge, the innovation and dynamism, perspectives and energy of young people are needed. Now more than ever, sustainable production practices, connectivity and technology uptake are urgently needed to make agriculture an attractive career prospect for rural youth.



Event objective and format

The session will feature an interactive discussion with an important demographic of IFAD’s target group: young people. The discussion will cover youth engagement in relation to food security and a Just Transition and how young people can enhance collective action to integrate green economy principles into the heart of the youth employment agenda as part of global effort towards the sustainable transformation of food systems.

The event will provide Member State delegations with an insight into the youth advantage in climate action and its potential as a catalyst for a more productive, sustainable, innovative, and economically reliable agriculture sector. Participants will look at the barriers and bottlenecks faced in achieving a Just transition for rural young women and men. The event will also highlight the various green jobs that young people are engaged in across the food system and focus on innovative elements that have been adopted.

This side event is organized in three parts:

Part 1 - Setting the stage: A multimedia introduction to IFAD’s work with rural youth will be followed by a short presentation on youth employment trends and young people’s potential to thrive in the green economy.

Part 2 - Panel discussion: Panellists will discuss their work in making green agribusinesses economically viable, beneficial and inclusive, and in adopting innovative agricultural practices.

Part 3 - Interventions by Member States and audience: Selected Member States will speak about investments in on-, off- and non-farm employment opportunities for rural youth in food systems, and the importance of an inclusive approach for a green transition.

BOX 1. Run of Show

'2 mins	<p>Setting the Stage</p> <p>A brief introductory video on IFAD's work in engaging youth in its projects.</p>	Video
'7 mins	<p>Introduction to youth employment trends through an interactive quiz</p>	Moderator and audience



<p>'30 mins</p>	<p>Panellists will discuss their work in making green agribusinesses an economically beneficial and inclusive career. The contribution of various stakeholders in bringing more young people on board will be highlighted.</p> <p>Moderator</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Qasa Alom, BBC Journalist <p>Panellists</p> <p>Global advocate (not leaving young people behind):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Elizabeth Wathuti, Green Climate Fund Youth Champion, Kenya <p>IFAD Slow Food Indigenous Youth Network Grant</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Dali Nolasco Cruz, young Indigenous woman from the Nahua tribe, Mexico <p>IFAD youth programme:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Fatima Amaguar, Youth Grass-Roots Approach, Morocco <p>Farmers' organizations and the private sector:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Acherif Hamid Zagalo, Technical Secretary of Professional Organizations, Chad Pastoral Platform 	<p>Moderator, and Panellists</p>
<p>'13 mins</p>	<p>Q&A</p>	<p>Moderator, panellists, and audience</p>
<p>'3 mins</p>	<p>Closing session</p>	<p>Moderator</p>



Panel Composition:

Young farmers, with different profiles, doing impressive work in using agriculture to transform their lives and impact their communities, while also contributing to the global efforts of a just transition.



International Fund for Agricultural Development
Via Paolo di Dono, 44 - 00142 Rome, Italy
Tel: +39 06 54591 - Fax: +39 06 5043463
Email: ifad@ifad.org
www.ifad.org

[facebook.com/ifad](https://www.facebook.com/ifad)
[instagram.com/ifadnews](https://www.instagram.com/ifadnews)
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