



## Mainstreaming youth at the forty-sixth session of IFAD's Governing Council: Accelerating Action for Food Security

In line with Youth 2030, the United Nations Youth Strategy, and the IFAD Rural Youth Action Plan 2019–2021, IFAD is committed to empowering young people's participation in decision-making processes and facilitating their voices and strengthening agency through global engagement and partnership-building. The forty-sixth session of IFAD's Governing Council offers a unique opportunity to recognize the importance of building and safeguarding participatory spaces for youth, and by youth, to ensure that young people are formally engaged in IFAD's management and operations. Youth representatives from all regions of the world who are leading the transformation of their local food systems will be making an active contribution to this year's overarching theme: Accelerating Action for Food Security.

**Governors are encouraged to include young representatives in their delegations** (as members of staff and delegations, national leaders, champions and role models) and to actively participate and engage with the young people present at the session.

### Overview of youth engagement at the forty-sixth session of the Governing Council

IFAD has invited young women and men to deliberate on their role as key players in the sustainable transformation of food systems. The **youth delegation** will be composed of a diverse group of 10 young people who will participate as speakers in interactive sessions and side-events: and will complement other youth-related exhibits.

Youth viewpoints will be brought to the fore, highlighting their fresh perspectives, dynamism and commitment to the well-being of rural communities. A collection of video-stories, combining the voices of youth from the field and IFAD's young professionals, will be showcased throughout the session. A dedicated **interactive session** on "Youth and agriculture: Accelerating a Just Transition towards food security" will be held on 15 February, during the second day of the Governing Council session. The interactive session will feature a discussion with four young people who are transforming their own lives and those of their communities in contributing to an inclusive and green transition. The discussion will cover youth engagement in relation to food security and reveal how young people can



enhance collective action to integrate the principles of a Just Transition at the core of the youth employment and sustainable food systems agenda. Young people will also take active roles as speakers across other interactive sessions organized during the Governing Council (Indigenous Peoples' session and IFAD13 Launch) and read the synthesis of deliberations of the Indigenous Peoples' Forum.

The Governing Council will also host an **immersive and interactive experience** to share the stories of rural young people and the produce they grow. Through a variety of sound installations, visitors will experience an “interactive pantry” where food items will tell the story behind the food products, narrated by young voices. Listening to stories from everyday life will give visitors a closer look at the rural realities and lifestyles of young farmers, entrepreneurs and local champions in different countries. The experience will encourage visitors to contemplate and reflect on the key challenges and opportunities facing young people in building resilient food systems. It will also demonstrate the power of innovative and youthful perspectives in addressing challenges and taking advantage of opportunities.



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