



Date
11 February 2026

Time
15.50-16.50

Info
Plenary Hall, open to all delegates

Moderator
Pieternel Boogaard
Managing Director
Office of Technical Delivery
IFAD

GOVERNORS' DIALOGUE WITH THE PRIVATE SECTOR

Smallholder agriculture and rural enterprise represent one of the world's largest undercapitalized investment opportunities. This high-level plenary session reframes rural transformation through a market and investment lens, demonstrating how targeted public and private capital can unlock productivity gains, income growth, jobs, and resilient food systems, while generating strong economic and long-term asset value.

Grounded in real-world experience and results from IFAD-private sector collaboration, the session explores how structured partnerships bring smallholders into competitive value chains at scale. It will focus on the investment logic, leverage and risk-sharing approaches that are making rural markets bankable and scalable. All panellists represent private companies.

Event Highlights

The session will share practical insights from private sector operations on how agricultural markets can be organized and financed to deliver sustainable growth for smallholder producers and agribusinesses alike. It will highlight how inclusive value chains are designed to manage risk, ensure reliable supply, and build durable commercial relationships with smallholders. Participants will gain a clearer understanding of the conditions that enable private investment in rural contexts, and how IFAD will support these efforts under IFAD14 by strengthening market systems and innovations, sharing risk, and partnering with the private sector to scale inclusive and resilient food systems.

The session will also feature Ms Sabrina Ounis Faiza, Founder and Manager of Desert Fish (Algeria), a pioneering agripreneur leveraging smart aquaponics and climate-resilient aquaculture to scale sustainable food systems and inclusive rural enterprises across the MENA region.

Panellists

Mr Ryo Satomi, Executive Officer for Sustainable Business Practices of **UCC Japan Co. Ltd**

Mr Ramesh Moochikal, CEO, **Africa Improved Foods (AIF)**, Rwanda

Mr Juan Antonio Rivas, Senior Vice President and Global Head – Sustainable Business Development, **Olam Food Ingredients (OFI)**

Mr Patrick Ungaro, Managing Director, **Bonifiche Ferraresi International**, Italy

Ms Sabrina Ounis Faiza, Founder and Manager of **Desert Fish**, Algeria