



Date
10 February 2026

Time
16.00–17.00

Info
Plenary Hall, open to all delegates

Moderator
Meike van Ginneken, Water Envoy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands

LEADERS' DIALOGUE

From Farm to Market: Investing in Water Security

Climate change is intensifying water-related shocks and undermining food systems worldwide. Smallholder farmers are among the most exposed to droughts, water scarcity and erratic rainfall. Global water demand is projected to increase by 50 per cent by 2050, while around 80 per cent of global farmland remains dependent on rainfed systems. This pressure is particularly acute in regions such as the Middle East and North Africa, where 83 per cent of the population live under extreme water stress and agriculture accounts for over 80 per cent of water withdrawals.

The session will highlight the urgency of advancing climate-resilient water and food security approaches, mobilizing smart and blended finance, and promoting cross-sector and public–private partnerships for transformative agricultural water solutions. It will also underscore the need to strengthen innovative ecosystems that scale water-efficient and climate-adaptive technologies, reinforcing IFAD's leadership as the Chair of UN-Water and contributing to the global momentum towards the 2026 United Nations Water Conference and Sustainable Development Goal 6.

Event Highlights

- Opening remarks by the IFAD President, framing water security as a cornerstone of climate-resilient food systems, followed by welcoming remarks by the moderator Meike van Ginneken, Water Envoy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands.
- High-level panel discussion with government leaders, development finance institutions and global adaptation experts.
- Exchange on innovative financing, policy solutions and partnerships to scale resilient water–agriculture investments.
- Interactive discussion with participants, followed by closing reflections and key takeaways.

Panellists

The session will open with remarks by Alvaro Lario, President of IFAD and UN-Water Chair.

This will be followed by a panel discussion featuring:

- H.E. Dr Rania A. Al-Mashat, Minister of Planning, Economic Development and International Cooperation, of the Arab Republic of Egypt
- H.E. Saeb Khraisat, Minister of Agriculture, Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan
- H.E. Tokaibure Rabaua Minister for Environment, Lands and Agricultural Development of the Republic of Kiribati
- Ms Ruth Davis, UK Special Representative for Nature
- Mr Antón Leis García, Director of the Spanish Agency for International Development Cooperation (AECID). Following the panellists' interventions, the floor will be opened for an interactive discussion with participants. The session will conclude with closing reflections.