



DRAFT CONCEPT NOTE

44th Session of the FAO Conference – Side event

**FAO's report on
The Status of Youth in Agrifood Systems
Global Launch Event**

*Hybrid event: FAO headquarters and online (webcast)
3 July 2025 | 12:30 – 14:00 hours (CEST)*

Background

The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) is launching a report on ***The Status of Youth in Agrifood Systems*** which provides comprehensive knowledge and evidence on how youth engage with, benefit from and contribute to agrifood systems on a global scale. The report analyzes how transforming these systems can create decent job opportunities and enhance food security for youth, positioning them as drivers of change. It further explores the resilience of rural youth to economic and natural shocks, their adaptive strategies, and their role in mitigating these shocks. It also examines how youth engagement in agrifood systems intertwines with migration and climate change, considering factors like gender and socioeconomic status. These findings are used to derive policy recommendations that foster more equitable and sustainable agrifood systems.

This event aims to present the report and emphasize its relevance for policymakers, youth organizations, development actors, research and financial institutions, and the private sector. Co-developed with youth champions actively engaged in agrifood systems, the event ensures their voices are at the center of its planning and execution. The launch will increase the global impact of the report's findings and catalyze action through meaningful youth participation.

The event will also provide opportunities for stakeholders to share insights from their own work on engaging and empowering youth in agrifood systems, as a key element for the realization of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

A light lunch will be offered before the event.

Target audience

The global launch event will target FAO Members, including those attending the 44th Session of the FAO Conference, as well as policymakers, youth, and representatives of multilateral organizations, businesses, NGOs, research institutions and foundations.



Agenda

| Time | Session |
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| 5 min | Welcome and introduction <i>Young moderator: Fabiana De Giorgio, Communication Specialist, FAO</i> |
| 10 min | Opening Remarks QU Dongyu , Director-General, FAO |
| 10 min | Keynote statements: The role of youth in agrifood systems <i>The keynote statements will be delivered by a young Head of State from a country with strong youth policies.</i> H.E. Bassirou Diomaye Faye , President of the Republic of Senegal (TBC) <i>OR</i> H.E. Gabriel Boric Font , President of the Republic of Chile (TBC) |
| 5 min | Launch video <i>2-min curtain raiser video highlighting the role of youth as drivers of agrifood system transformations</i> |
| 10 min | Technical Presentation of the Report Lauren Phillips , Deputy Director, Rural Transformation and Gender Equality Division, FAO |
| 10 min | Response to the key messages (in person or virtually) <ul style="list-style-type: none">• H.E. Femke Wiersma, Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries, Food Security and Nature, Kingdom of the Netherlands (TBC)• Felipe Paullier, UN Assistant Secretary-General for Youth Affairs (TBC) |
| 35 min | Policy pitches: Promoting youth empowerment and inclusion in agrifood systems <i>Format: Four youth representatives from different backgrounds and regions will each deliver a three-minute pitch, focused either on relevant policy options or key policy gaps from the Report. They will present their insights directly to two policymakers – respectively from Global North and Global South.</i> <i>Online participants can submit their questions via the dedicated Q&A chat, where FAO staff will respond in real time.</i> Moderator: Fabiana De Giorgio , Communication Specialist, FAO Policy makers: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• H.E. Ayodele Olawande, Minister for Youth Development, Federal Republic of Nigeria (TBC) |



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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• H.E. Franklin Danilo Palacios Márquez, Minister for Agriculture and Livestock of Ecuador (<i>TBC</i>) <i>OR</i> H.E. Victor Carvajal Porras, Minister of Agriculture and Livestock, Costa Rica (<i>TBC</i>) <p>Youth representatives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Isnawati Hidayah, Director, Institute for Rural Development and Sustainability (ROTASI) and member of the World Food Forum Young Scientists Group• Taily Terena, International Indian Treaty Council, Brazil – Youth Representative to the Civil Society and Indigenous Peoples' Mechanism (CSIPM) for relations with the UN Committee on World Food Security (CFS)• Vivian J. Joseph, UN Youth Fellow 2024 and Executive Director of the Watoto Africa Initiative• Pablo Russo, National Chapter Leader of Argentina, World Food Forum |
| 5 min | <p>Closing remarks</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Máximo Torero, Chief Economist, FAO• <i>Young moderator: Fabiana De Giorgio</i>, Communication Specialist, FAO |