

## **CFS side event: Innovation as a force for good in the fight against climate change and malnutrition**

The side event allowed for a fruitful discussion to explore opportunities to achieve joint outcomes for climate change and nutrition and the role of innovation in delivering joint outcomes, and to describe opportunities to advance efforts through the Global Action Agenda for Innovation in Agriculture.

The discussion addressed CFS policy recommendations on food security and climate change, the voluntary guidelines on 'Food Systems and Nutrition', and the findings on the 2021 Food Security and Nutrition report. The side event was organized by the CGIAR Research Program on Climate Change, Agriculture and Food Security ([CCAFS](#)), Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations ([FAO](#)), the UK Government's Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office ([FCDO](#)), the Global Alliance for Climate-Smart Agriculture ([GACSA](#)) and Italy's Ministry for Ecological Transition ([MITE](#)).

The event, which attracted about 200 people, was moderated by Zitouni Ould-Dada, Deputy Director of the Office of Climate, Biodiversity and Environment at FAO. In his opening remarks, he highlighted the importance of agri-food system transformation in addressing climate change, biodiversity loss and malnutrition. He emphasized that agriculture innovation has a key role to play not just for being a force for good but it is also a fundamental part of the solution to these challenges. He added that CFS offers a great opportunity to step up our efforts in investing in agriculture innovation that helps us to deliver on climate change and nutrition in the lead up to COP26 and beyond.

The introduction was followed by reflections from two keynote speakers and short presentations by three panelists. Audience questions were answered in the chat box and during the Q&A session.

At the end, the speakers identified some key messages:

- We need to make sure that when we talk about climate change, agriculture and small-scale farmers are at the very center of the discussion. – *Tom Kelly, UK Ambassador and Permanent Representative to the UN Food and Agriculture Agencies in Rome*
- We need to break down the silos between agriculture, climate change and nutrition. We need to bring farmers in the middle of the processes, and make sure that they get what they need to be the agents of change. – *Hans Hoogeveen, Co-Chair, GACSA*
- If we are to reach our goals in terms of transforming our food systems, we need to close the innovation gap; we need methods of producing food, to protect nature and protect livelihoods and human health. And to do that, we need to take a systems approach and we need to do systemic innovation. – *Philip Thornton, Flagship Leader, Priorities and Policies for CSA, CCAFS*
- We have the global policy products (CFS products) but now we need action on the ground to create the impacts on the country, regional and global levels. – *Thanawat Tiensin, Chairperson, CFS and Permanent Representative of Thailand to the UN Agencies in Rome*

- Diversification of everything; nature is full of diversity, we need to have our agri-food system diversified, in terms of everything: actors, productivity, systems, markets, everything. – *Ismahane Elouafi, Chief Scientist at FAO*
- We need to make innovations successful and accessible to farmers, they need to be accompanied with training and knowledge and not just hard technology. – *Zitouni Ould-Dada, Deputy Director of the Office of Climate, Biodiversity and Environment at FAO*

Watch the recording here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QE2FTPSwP3Y>