

In this hybrid side event “Youth-Led Solutions from the Leaders of Today: Solutions and Partnerships for Accelerated Action”, was held under the premise of the CFS Guidelines on Promoting Youth Engagement in Food Systems, showcasing five youth-led solutions on-the-ground. The examples covered a variety of countries, specifically Canada, Peru, Nigeria, Sri Lanka, and Colombia. The panelists and their projects included:

- Juan David Caro Alvarez - [Rural School for Young People](#), Peru, in building capacities of rural youth in the design of agrarian development projects
- Ebunoluwa Ajobiewe - Maximillian Project, Nigeria - providing training with smart modern farming skills to incarcerated persons, empowering them to become financially independent after release
- Samara Polwatta - [School meets the Reef](#), Sri Lanka, Winner of the nature based solutions hosted by Wageningen University - working on the rehabilitation of coral reefs in the Kayaker Coral Cove by building in situ coral nurseries
- Intervening remotely, the Government of Quebec presented an example of youth-led project supported by LOJIQ – Les Offices jeunesse internationaux du Québec, a government board representing international youth mobility organizations. The project is led by Ms Claudia Ondo, and develops a hydroponic farm in Gabon.
- Leonardo Umaña comes as Youth Analyst for Environment, Climate, Gender and Social Inclusion Division in Latin America (UNV) at IFAD. He showcased some examples on how IFAD takes into the account the youth perspective in their grassroots approach.

Intervening from the floor, institutional representatives - Gerda Verburg, UN Assistant Secretary General and coordinator of the Scaling Up Nutrition Movement, Mr Peter Schmidt, president of the NAT section of the European Economic and Social Committee and Audrey Lord, Human rights advisor to the Ministry of international relations and francophonie of Quebec, provided their insights from the panel discussion and on the role of youth in policy-making spaces.

The discussions proved the necessity, not only of policies **for** youth but of policies **by** youth. Highlighted by the CFS policy guidelines on promoting youth engagement and employment in agrifood systems, young changemakers face a series of barriers to effectively deliver these solutions to our food systems. However, despite these challenges, young people are still leading and catalyzing the way forward for their communities. With the endorsement of the guidelines, both policymakers and young people can utilize this as a tool to support and reduce the barriers in youth participation, in their efforts to transform our food systems, and be engaged as a key stakeholder

Watch the session here (Passcode: CFSSE09+):

https://fao.zoom.us/rec/play/CwI2aEiNhKrAvT7ynVob9ruH5IkKYIQPCJXNeqOcasHJoUj0zWAH FqUiElxgOMBvdm1mxRAJ_0C5pe4h.k_1dNjG35ONOAFeJ

Read the CFS guidelines on promoting youth engagement here: https://www.fao.org/fileadmin/templates/cfs/Docs2122/Youth/CFS_Policy_Recs_Youth_Final_Agreed_Version_July2022.pdf