

Side event 23 | Investing in youth to reduce inequalities – implementing CFS guidelines on engaging youth in agriculture and food systems

Organized by:

- Canada
- International Agri-Food Network
- Next Generation Agricultural Impact Network (NGIN)
- Nuffield International
- Global Alliance for Climate Smart Agriculture (GACSA)
- International Association of Students in Agricultural and Related Sciences (IAAS)

Thursday, 26 October; 8.30 – 9.45 (UTC+2)
Sheikh Zayed Center & via Zoom

[Register here](#)

Abstract

Following the endorsement of the CFS Policy Recommendations on Promoting Youth Engagement and Employment in Agriculture and Food Systems for Food Security and Nutrition during CFS's 50th Plenary session in 2022, the time has now come to ensure effective implementation of those policy recommendations.

Investing in Youth through education, capacity development and academic programs on a scale that transcends national and regional boundaries, has incredible potential to reduce inequalities, accelerate economic development in rural areas, transform our food systems and ensure the next generation of food producers and food system professionals inherit more equitable, sustainable, and resilient food systems.

Many programs currently exist to precisely do this yet lack the necessary financing and resources to expand their reach and grow their participation beyond the countries that they were established or traditionally operate within. This event intends to showcase these programs and link them to international funding and development organizations they can work with to achieve scalability on a global level.

Recognizing that the youth of today inherit the success or failure of our global food systems, ensuring increased access to opportunities for youth can be the greatest driver to reduce inequalities in the future.

Objectives

- To showcase existing programs that focus on education, capacity development and academic opportunities for youth engaged in agriculture and food systems that require additional investments to be scaled to a global level;
- Through targeted invitations and promotion, our intention is to link representatives from these youth organizations with international funding and donor organizations to scale these programs in ways that align with CFS's policy recommendations;
- By beginning a process at CFS51 that targets investment in the type of youth focused programs that CFS's policy recommendations call for, our intention is to develop ways to track progress on their implementation.