

SE16: Good food for all, for today and tomorrow

– Inclusive youth engagement and empowerment for agrifood systems transformation

Organized by: World Food Forum (OYW), Indonesia (Member State) and United Republic of Tanzania (Member State)

Summary of the side event

SE16: Good food for all, for today and tomorrow – Inclusive youth engagement and empowerment for agrifood systems transformation

As part of the 52nd session of the Committee on World Food Security (CFS), the World Food Forum (WFF)'s Global Youth Action hosted a hybrid side event titled "Good food for all, for today and tomorrow – Inclusive youth engagement and empowerment for agrifood systems transformation" on 23 October at the headquarters of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) in Rome, Italy. Moderated by Victor Muiru, Head of [Local Action](#) at the WFF, the session focused on advancing youth empowerment in agrifood systems transformation through inclusive engagement, exploring how young people can drive meaningful change in global food security, and connecting the impactful results of the 2024 WFF flagship event to the work of the CFS.

The session began with opening remarks from Hon. Gerald Geoffrey Mweli, Tanzania's Permanent Secretary of Agriculture, who presented an overview of Tanzania's youth-focused initiatives. He shared insights into the "Building a better tomorrow" project that aims to integrate youth into the agricultural sector by addressing core challenges like financial access, modern technology and appealing career prospects. Through initiatives like a digital platform that connects farmers with young advisors and an agricultural tech incubation center, Tanzania is making agriculture a more appealing and viable career for youth.

The event also included youth voices including Audrey Wong of the WFF [Youth Policy Board](#) (YPB), who linked the session's themes to the CFS youth policy

recommendations, underscoring the importance of aligning youth initiatives with global policy. She outlined the YPB's efforts toward actionable strategies which are highlighted in the [Global Youth Action Plan](#), which was launched at the 2024 WFF. This plan identifies regional priorities, from supporting small holder farmers in Africa to food waste reduction in North America.

Celia Burgaz, a member of the WFF [Young Scientist Group](#) (YSG), shared insights from the recently released [YSG report](#) on digital technology's role in multidimensional youth engagement. The report highlighted how artificial intelligence and digital tools offer new opportunities and challenges, shaping the future for young agrifood entrepreneurs and advocates.

During the panel discussion, Leticia Tanchella Niehues from the WFF Education programme, Celeste Macilwaine, Head of WFF Innovation Lab, and Stephanie Cabovianco, WFF Argentina [National Chapter](#) lead, shared diverse approaches to empower youth in agrifood systems through education, innovation and local action. The event also fostered interactive discussions with the audience, allowing for an exchange of ideas on promoting youth-led solutions in agriculture.

In her closing remarks, Erma Rheindrayani, Indonesia's Alternate Permanent Representative to the United Nations in Rome, highlighted the shared responsibility of all stakeholders in transforming agrifood systems inclusively. The event concluded with reflections on the pathways for enhancing youth engagement and empowerment by mainstreaming these efforts globally.

Linking to the CFS policy recommendations on *Reducing inequalities for food security and nutrition* and on *Promoting youth engagement and employment in agriculture and food systems*, key takeaways from this side event included the importance of addressing technological and financial challenges faced by young people in the agrifood sector, as well as fostering multi-stakeholder partnerships for scaling up impactful youth initiatives.