SE33: Building Bridges – Strengthening Partnership to Deliver Global Food Security

Organized by: GAFSP; UK FCDO; WFP; IFAD; Réseau des Organisations Paysannes et des Producteurs de l'Afrique de l'Ouest (ROPPA); Asian Farmers' Association for Sustainable Rural Development (AFA); Spain; Cambodian Agriculture Cooperative Corporation (CACC)

Summary of the side event

The recent GAFSP side event held on the margins of the Committee on World Food Security (CFS) brought together an inspiring diversity of voices to underline the transformative potential of multistakeholder partnerships in enhancing food security and nutrition worldwide. This side event served as a platform for donors, civil society, farmer organizations, and United Nations Rome-Based Agencies (RBAs) to showcase the tangible impacts of collaborative efforts in advancing food security, especially through partnerships that foster inclusive, transparent, and accountable governance.

The event opened with remarks from key figures, including Evelyn Ashton-Griffiths, UK Ambassador and Permanent Representative to the UN who highlighted the importance of flexible, innovative financing models, such as GAFSP's Business Investment Financing Track (BIFT), in supporting smallholder farmers with adaptive solutions. She also highlighted how the partnership-driven nature of GAFSP allows it to evolve effectively to address emerging needs. Ambassador Jezile, CFS Chair, underscored GAFSP's alignment with the CFS model, reinforcing the role of partnerships in delivering impactful food security outcomes.

The event's roundtable discussion featured insights from prominent leaders in food security and agriculture, including Saskia de Pee of WFP, who shared on-the-ground successes from Cambodia, where the 4P (public-private-producer-partnership) model has significantly strengthened nutrition and community resilience. This model's collaborative approach was shown to be crucial in linking producer organizations, government entities, and the private sector, demonstrating how nutrition and livelihoods are both fortified through inclusive partnerships.

Similarly, Enika Basu and Sisovath Phandanouvong from IFAD spotlighted GAFSP's work in Laos, illustrating how collaboration with local

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governments and producer organizations has effectively bolstered food security efforts in rural regions. By prioritizing country-led initiatives, the multistakeholder approach ensures that the solutions are contextually relevant and sustainably impactful, allowing local voices to shape outcomes directly.

Sessi Rostaing Akoha, representing the CSO perspective from ROPPA, stressed the importance of a human rights-based approach in food security initiatives. He emphasized that CSOs and producer organizations play an indispensable role in elevating community voices, ensuring that programs like GAFSP are designed with inclusivity and equity at the forefront. This theme of inclusivity was echoed throughout the event, highlighting how GAFSP's model empowers marginalized communities to be at the heart of decision-making processes.

The event concluded with closing remarks from Ambassador Gabriel Ferrero, Spain's Ambassador at Large for Global Food Security. Ambassador Ferrero reaffirmed Spain's commitment to the GAFSP and to inclusive governance in food security, noting that platforms like GAFSP are crucial for empowering communities to directly influence food security policies.

This side event was a testament to the collective strength of multistakeholder partnerships in driving food security initiatives that are inclusive, impactful, and sustainable. By sharing experiences from various projects across Asia and Africa, the event demonstrated how collaborative approaches are not only improving food and nutrition security but also paving the way for future GAFSP initiatives. The commitment of diverse stakeholders—donors, civil society, RBAs, and governments—to continue working together in tackling food insecurity was clear, underscoring a shared vision of resilience, equity, and innovation in food systems.