

# Building economic resilience for smallholder farmers

## Leveraging living income to transform agrifood systems

24 October 2025 | 11.45-13.00

FAO Headquarters, Rome Italy or [REGISTER ONLINE](#)



The topic of living income is highly relevant to the work of the Committee on World Food Security (CFS), because it directly supports the Committee's mission to promote food security and nutrition for all in a sustainable and inclusive manner. Many of the CFS Policy Recommendations to reduce inequalities for food security and nutrition are closely related to the "mix" of strategies that governments, private sector and other actors are using to close income gaps but need scaling up. Transforming agrifood systems requires responsible agricultural investment and decent livelihoods for all, especially smallholders who depend on agriculture for income.

This session explores the **concept of living income**-defined as the net annual income required for a household to afford a decent standard of living-and its critical role in building resilient and sustainable agrifood systems. We will examine how incomes of smallholders often fall below the threshold of living income, perpetuating poverty and undermining sustainability. Participants will explore strategies to measure and close living income gaps, such as value chain interventions and policy development. Case studies from various stakeholders will show how living income approaches inform government budget, corporate sourcing, investments in production, environmental stewardship, and food security. Ensuring smallholders earn enough to live with dignity is key to resilient agrifood systems and equitable rural development.

### OBJECTIVES

- Raise awareness of living income as a tool for resilience.
- Highlight efforts by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the Living Income Community of Practice (LICOP) in helping close smallholder income gaps.
- Foster collaboration to align efforts, reduce fragmentation, and scale solutions.

### SPEAKERS

**Welcome remarks** by **David Laborde**, Director, Agrifood Economics and Policy Division (TBC)

**Opening remarks** by **Paul Garaycochea**, Director, Sustainable supply chains, agricultural and food systems, BMZ

**Opening remarks** by **Sandy McCleery**, Deputy Permanent Representative to FAO, UK Permanent Representation to the United Nations Agencies for Food and Agriculture in Rome

### PANELISTS

**Dr. Andreas Schaumayer**, Head of Division for Food Security and Fisheries, BMZ Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development

**Yann Wyss**, Global Head for Social Impact and Human Rights, Nestlé

**Yves-Pascal Suter**, Sustainability, Global Head Social Impact, Olam Food Ingredients (OFI)

**Vaibhav Panpaliya**, Better Income Senior Innovation Manager, The Sustainable Trade Initiative (IDH)

**Miguel Zamora**, Coffee Public-Private Task Force Coordinator, International Coffee Organisation (ICO)

**Jose A. Hidalgo**, Executive Director of Association of Banana Producers and Exporters of Ecuador (AEBE), World Banana Forum

### FACILITATORS

- **LICOP:** Sheila Senathirajah and Christina Archer
- **FAO:** Stepanka Gallatova and Ny You

## AGENDA

TIME (CET)	KEY POINTS	SPEAKERS
11.45–11.50	<b>WELCOME</b>  <b>Introduction by co-host</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Welcome guests and panellists.</li> <li>Highlight purpose of this partnership and why we are here today</li> </ul> <b>Welcome remarks from FAO</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Relevance of living income to food security, nutrition and resilient agrifood systems</li> <li>FAO–LICOP collaboration</li> </ul>	FAO/LICOP   FAO
11.50–12.00	<b>OPENING REMARKS</b>  <b>Living income provides a practical pathway for governments and partners to reduce inequalities, strengthen livelihoods, and turn CFS policy commitments into tangible action</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Examples</b> how government is supporting work on income improvement through national and international work (policy, programmes, partnerships with other governments).</li> <li>How living income can be a <b>practical tool</b> to implement CFS policy recommendations on reducing inequalities and advancing equitable livelihoods.</li> <li><b>CFS's role</b> as the leading global platform for inclusive dialogue and policy convergence on food security and nutrition.</li> </ul>	Paul Garaycochea (Germany) Sandy McCleery (UK)
12.00–12.10	<b>WHAT IS LIVING INCOME</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Outline of living income</b></li> <li><b>Movement of living income</b></li> <li><b>Application of living income approach</b></li> </ul>	Moderator
12.10–12.25	<b>WHY AND HOW DO GOVERNMENTS ENGAGE WITH LIVING INCOME</b>  <b>Panel question 1:</b> How can living income frameworks help governments <b>design policies and investments</b> that close income gaps while advancing national goals on food security, decent livelihoods, and human rights?  <b>Panel question 2:</b> Living income offers a common, practical framework for action — how can it help both producing and consuming countries <b>work together</b> to create fairer value chains and shared benefits across the agrifood system?	LICOP FAO Germany UK
12.25–12.35	<b>APPROACHES USED BY PRIVATE SECTOR ON LIVING INCOME</b>  <b>Panel question 1:</b> How does adopting a living income approach strengthen companies' ability to secure sustainable supply chains – ensuring farmers earn a decent living while maintaining quality and long-term supply stability?  <b>Panel question 2:</b> In what ways can living income frameworks help companies meet due diligence and human rights obligations, manage reputational risks, and align business practices with CFS principles for responsible investment?	Moderator Nestlé Olam Food Ingredients (OFI)

TIME (CET)	KEY POINTS	SPEAKERS
12.35–12.45	<p><b>HOW ARE MULTI STAKEHOLDER INITIATIVES ENGAGING WITH LIVING INCOME</b></p> <p><b>Panel question 1:</b> How is your multi-stakeholder initiative leveraging the living income framework to coordinate action across producers, buyers, and other stakeholders, and ensure everyone is working toward shared goals?</p> <p><b>Panel question 2:</b> What lessons have emerged from your collaborative work – for example, on data transparency, sector-wide strategies, or shared investments – that could help scale living income efforts across other commodities?</p>	<p>World Banana Forum (WBF)</p> <p>The Sustainable Trade Initiative (IDH)</p> <p>International Coffee Organization (ICO)</p>
12.45–12.55	<b>DISCUSSION WITH AUDIENCE</b>	Moderator
12.55–13.00	<p><b>WRAP UP</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Closing message</li> <li>▪ Next step and follow up actions</li> </ul>	Moderator

## CONTACTS

### FAO

Stepanka Gallatova [Stepanka.Gallatova@fao.org](mailto:Stepanka.Gallatova@fao.org)  
Ny You [Ny.You@fao.org](mailto:Ny.You@fao.org)

### LICOP

Christina Archer [carcher@sustainablefood.org](mailto:carcher@sustainablefood.org)  
Sheila Senathirajah [sheila@isealalliance.org](mailto:sheila@isealalliance.org)