

**Side Event Concept Note**  
***Accelerating Food Systems Transformation: Why and How***

**Date & Time:** 29 July 2025 | 7:45 – 9:00 AM

**Venue:** Conference Room CR-3

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**Organizers**

- Global Alliance for Improved Nutrition (GAIN)
  - Government of Mozambique
  - Government of Rwanda
  - Government of Somalia
  - AKADEMIYA2063
  - GIZ: Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (German Agency for International Cooperation)
  - International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD)
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**Background and objectives**

Transforming food systems is critical to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), but the pace of change remains insufficient. Many countries are facing challenges in translating national food systems transformation pathways into coherent, investible actions that effectively engage governments, development finance institutions (DFIs), and the private sector.

This side event will:

1. Highlight key barriers and enablers to accelerating food systems transformation (FST) at the country level.
2. Introduce the idea behind Accelerator, a multi-partner initiative to accelerate food system transformation in up to 50 countries by 2030.
3. Build awareness of the Accelerator's offer to countries seeking to turn priorities into concrete, investible initiatives.
4. Engage participants to gather insights on how to strengthen the Accelerator's approach and partnerships.

The FST Accelerator seeks to deliver three interlinked objectives:

- Support countries in converting pathway priorities into investible actions that mobilize the private sector.

- Work with businesses to align commercial goals with food systems transformation objectives.
- Collaborate with DFIs to ensure the availability of appropriate financing tools for these investible actions.

By convening governments, DFIs, business leaders, and operational partners, the event aims to foster alignment and catalyze investment in inclusive and sustainable food systems transformation.

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## **Run of show**

### **Opening remarks:**

- H.E. Amina J. Mohammed, Deputy Secretary-General of the United Nations (*to be confirmed*)
- Dr. Lawrence Haddad, Executive Director, GAIN
- Dr. Máximo Torero Cullen, Chief Economist, FAO

### **Panel 1: Government perspectives – barriers and enablers to acceleration**

*Moderator to be confirmed*

#### **Panelists:**

- Hon. Ali Imam Majumdar, Adviser of the Ministry of Food, Government of Bangladesh
- Abdihakim Ainte, Director, Food Security and Climate Change, Prime Minister's Office, Government of Somalia
- Hon. Dr. Mark Cyubahiro Bagabe, Minister of Agriculture and Animal Resources, Government of Rwanda
- A speaker from the Ministry of Social Development and Fight Against Hunger, Government of Brazil
- *Additional speakers to be confirmed*

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## **Bridging government priorities and partnership opportunities**

Dr. Ousmane Badiane, Executive Chairperson, AKADEMIYA2063

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## **Panel 2: Development finance and operational partnerships – catalyzing action**

*Moderator:* Andreas Schaumayer, Head of Division for Food Security and Fisheries, BMZ

Panelists:

- Federica Diamanti, Associate Vice President for External Relationships, IFAD
- Takashi Yamano, Principal Economist, Asian Development Bank
- Nicole Metz, Senior Knowledge Broker, Netherlands Food Partnership (NFP)
- Stephanie Sargeant, Youth Advocate, Act4Food

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## **Expected outcomes**

The event seeks to:

- Raise awareness about the FST Accelerator and its potential to drive transformation at the country level.
- Build a shared understanding of the critical factors enabling or hindering acceleration.
- Elicit feedback and ideas to refine and strengthen the Accelerator's offering to governments and partners.

Medium-term impacts include:

- Greater policy coherence to support FST objectives.
- Enhanced capacity to develop bankable, high-impact food systems initiatives.
- Increased financing from DFIs to leverage private sector engagement for sustainable transformation.

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### **For more information**

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