

UN Food Systems Summit +4 Stocktake

SIDE EVENT REPORT

Partnerships that Deliver: Unlocking Investments for a Resilient and Climate-Smart Agrifood Systems in Ethiopia

28 July 2025 | 14:15 - 15:30

Organizers and partners: Ministry of Agriculture of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia; Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO); Ethiopian Agricultural Transformation Institute (ATI)

Side event overview (50-100 words): Ethiopia has made notable progress in transforming its food systems. Substantial production increases have resulted in increased dietary diversity, improved health outcomes, expansion of food markets and enhancement in livelihoods. The event focused on the discussion of policies, innovative solutions, and evidence on partnerships, investment, and financing schemes that have significantly unlocked climate-smart agribusiness and improved nutrition and rural livelihoods towards a resilient food system transformation in Ethiopia

List of speakers and key messages

NAME AND TITLE OF SPEAKER	KEY MESSAGES OR/AND RESPONSES TO QUESTIONS
1.Mr. Zlatan Milisic, UN Resident Coordinator in Ethiopia a.i.	Mr. Milisic delivered the welcome remarks, where he commended the Government of Ethiopia's leadership - mainly the Ministries of Agriculture and Health - on the Ethiopian food system transformation. Mr. Milisic gave an overview of the contribution of the UN System towards the Ethiopian Food Systems Transformation process, emphasizing on the UN's long standing support to Ethiopia through a harmonized assistance framework to deliver the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), along with the national development priorities.
2.Dr. Mekdes Daba, Minister of Health, FDRE	Dr. Mekdes Daba delivered the opening remarks, highlighting the multiple efforts being conducted by Ethiopia, under the

	guidance of the Inter-Ministerial Steering Committee, to implement the Ethiopian Food Systems Transformation Roadmap.
3. Dr. Agnes Kalibata, Former CEO, AGRA	As moderator of the panel, Dr. Agnes Kalibata introduced each of the panel participants (see below) and provided a summary of the discussion at the end of the panel.
4. Dr. Sofia Kassa, State Minister at the Ministry of Agriculture of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia	Dr Sofia Kassa provided a summary of the many reforms undergoing in the country, with a focus on enhancing private sector engagement and providing improved investment opportunities in Ethiopia's Food Systems.
5. Dr. Dereje Duguma, State Minister at the Ministry of Health of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia	Dr. Dereje Duguma provided an overview of several national policies and programs that ensure an enhanced dietary diversity and address malnutrition, namely the Seqota Declaration.
6. Mr. Gunther Beger, Managing Director of the Directorate of SDG Innovation and Economic Transformation, UNIDO	Mr. Gunther Beger explained the role UNIDO has played in promoting sustainable industrial development across food value chains, namely through the promotion of investment in agro-industrial infrastructure and innovation to help reduce food loss and waste in Ethiopia. Mr. Beger has also used the occasion to officially launch UNIDO's Food Loss & Waste Action Plan, a global roadmap to cut food loss, boost sustainable industries and build resilient food systems.
7. Dr. David Laborde, Director of Agrifood Economics and Policy Division, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)	Dr. David Laborde emphasized that building a resilient and climate-smart agrifood system is necessary for achieving SDG2. Dr. Laborde presented FAO's support to the food system transformation through "FAO Global Roadmap", an approach that converges policy, finance, science-based and partnership to accelerate the market-based transformation of agrifood systems. He also outlined how global partnerships can be structured to better align with national priorities and inclusive development goals.

8. Dr. Namukolo Covic, ILRI Director General's Representative to Ethiopia	Dr. Namukolo Covic, based on her experience at ILRI/CGIAR, told the audience how partnerships between government, research institutions, and development agencies can be optimized to attract and sustain impactful investment in resilient food systems.
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Overall session summary, conclusions and recommended actions (max 300 words)

The event had the following objectives:

- (1) Showcase Ethiopia's vision and progress on the Ethiopian Food System Transformation and Nutrition while reflecting on the existing enabling environment for agro-industries as a lever of agri-food system transformation;
- (2) Discuss the importance of accessing and utilising digitalisation, climate-smart technologies and sustainable agriculture practices in enhancing value addition, competitiveness and marketability of agricultural products, while contributing to enhanced nutritional status and well-being of the Ethiopian population; and
- (3) Explore potential opportunities for investment in agri-business infrastructure, financing and insurance schemes and technologies to address challenges facing smallholder farmers and actors, with a focus on women and youth, in accessing improved inputs, information and markets.

The event was very effective in terms of promoting an elevated visibility of Ethiopia's leadership in leveraging partnerships and investment for agro-industries as a lever for food system transformation.

Furthermore, it also enabled a set of stronger multi-stakeholder alliances among governments, UN agencies, the private sector, and financiers to drive innovative approaches for a resilient and sustainable food systems transformation.

Finally, it raised awareness and highlighted a set of key investment recommendations of finance and partnership approaches among diverse actors in the agro-industry sector to enhance food security and economic development.