



# FOOD SYSTEMS SOLUTIONS WEBINAR 2026

*Farmer cooperatives as catalysts for food system transformation*

Thursday, 21 May 2026, 14:00 – 15:30 (CEST) | Virtual

## Background

During 2026, the Hub will host a series of Food Systems Solutions Webinars (FSS Webinars) open to the public, with the aim of fostering broader engagement on critical issues related to food systems transformation. Each webinar will focus on a different theme, addressing emerging challenges, innovative pathways, and actionable solutions that can accelerate the global food systems agenda across diverse contexts. The webinars build upon the global commitments and outcomes of the outcomes of the UN Food Systems Summit (2021), the global Stocktakes in Rome (2023) and Addis Ababa (2025), including the UN Secretary General's Call to Action and the Hub's 2025 country needs assessment survey. The webinars are part of the Hub's outreach activities with the public and interested food systems stakeholders and serve as a platform to increase public awareness about various food systems related topics.

## Purpose of the Webinar

This webinar will explore the role of farmer cooperatives as key drivers of food systems transformation. It will build on the *Food Producers' Declaration For the United Nations 2021 Food Systems Summit*, which recognizes food producers as the backbone of society and calls for their inclusion as equal partners in food systems transformation, bringing forward solutions developed through collective global engagement and dialogue among producers. In this context, farmer cooperatives play a critical role in strengthening inclusive, resilient, and sustainable food systems by organizing smallholder producers and enhancing access to markets, finance, technology, and knowledge, while increasing farmers' bargaining power and income security and supporting local value chain development. The session will bring together practitioners, policymakers, development partners, and cooperative leaders to share practical experiences and lessons learned from cooperative-led initiatives, examine how cooperatives enhance smallholder inclusion in food systems, and identify policy, institutional, and investment pathways to strengthen cooperative models, as well as opportunities to scale cooperative-driven solutions across diverse contexts, ultimately generating actionable insights on how to effectively support cooperatives in accelerating food systems transformation at both national and global levels.

## Agenda

Time	Session
5 min	<b>Welcoming remarks</b>
10 min	<p><b>Keynote presentation</b></p> <p>Ms <b>Luisa Volpe</b>, Advocacy, Policy &amp; Partnerships Lead, World Farmers' Organization providing a global perspective on farmer cooperatives, focusing on their role in shaping international policy and enabling cooperative-led food systems transformation.</p>
40 min	<p><b>Panel of stakeholders</b></p> <p>Panellists present global and country-level examples of farmer cooperative-led initiatives, highlighting their role in advancing inclusive, sustainable, and resilient food systems and sharing lessons on scaling solutions.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ms <b>Elizabeth Nsimadala</b>, President of Eastern African Africa Farmers Federation (EAFF), Board Member of Pan Africa Farmers Organisation (PAFO) on the role of farmer cooperatives in advancing inclusive, resilient, and sustainable food systems</li> <li>• Mr <b>Umberto Di Pasquo</b>, Director of Cooperative affairs COPA-COGECA, on the European cooperative model, EU Common Agricultural Policy Frameworks and cooperative governance</li> </ul> <p>Moderator: <b>Mia Madsen</b>, Policy Officer, UN Food Systems Coordination Hub</p>
5 min	<p><b>Reflecting remarks</b></p> <p>Mr <b>Marco Camagni</b>, Lead Global Technical Specialist in Producers Organizations and Rural Development, International Fund for Agricultural Development</p>
25 min	<b>Q&amp;A from audience</b>
5 min	<b>Closing</b>

Registration link: <https://bit.ly/FSSW2105>