

2nd UN Food Systems Summit Stocktake (UNFSS+4)

Concept Note for Session Co-leads

July 27-29, 2025 – Africa Hall
Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

1. Title of the session:

ACCELERATE INVESTMENT THROUGH INNOVATIVE FINANCE

2. Type of the session:

Choose the typology of the session from the drop-down list below.

Investment Dialogue

3. Date and time of the session:

Monday 28 July 2025, from 15.00 to 16.20hrs

4. Session background (max 300 words):

The session will build on the outcomes of the United Nations Food Systems Summit (UNFSS) 2021 and the UNFSS +2 Stocktaking Moment in 2023, underscoring the vision of the UN Secretary-General and his call to action to optimize assistance from the Ecosystem of Support and further leveraging innovative financing, multi-stakeholder partnership and multisectoral platforms. Organized in the context of the Business Engagement Group of the UNFSS+4, the session aims to bring together different key stakeholders across agrifood systems, promoting a concrete discussion around increasing and accelerating the pool of investments and innovative financial tools and instruments including risk-management mechanisms, risk-reducing or risk-sharing financial structures, as investment is an indispensable driver of achieving SDG2, Zero Hunger and SDG1 Zero Poverty.

5. Context (max 300 words):

The financing gap for agrifood systems transformation is estimated at around USD 680 billion a year until 2030 (Laborde & Torero 2023). Increased public debt and limited fiscal space hinder countries from channelling funds for agrifood system transformation. The private sector also faces challenges in attracting investment. For example, in Sub-Saharan Africa, three out of four agri-SMEs struggle to access adequate finance, limiting their ability to grow (Aceli 2020). Innovative finance can help fill the financing gap faced by farmers and agri-Small and Medium Enterprises.

6. Session objectives:

The session aims to discuss innovative financial mechanisms and instruments that can mobilize increased, targeted and better investment for agrifood systems transformation. It aims to highlight the current state of financing for agrifood systems, innovative solutions, new mechanisms, opportunities and challenges to mobilize targeted investment with impact at scale. It will further discuss the importance of how to increase and accelerate access to the pool of existing investment and innovative financing, and risk-sharing financial structures to ensure mobilization of investment, where it is most needed.

7. Link UNFSS+4 objectives

Please complete at least one of the three sections below. Feel free to fill in more than one where relevant.

a. Reflecting on Progress

b. Partnerships and Tracking Commitments

enhancing a flexible approach to partnership based on challenges and implementation of innovative solutions. This High-Level session will bring together member countries, international financial institutions (IFIs), the private sector, Foundations and all relevant stakeholders for a stronger and more strategic partnership in support of our Members in their journey for agrifood systems transformation.

c. Unlocking Finance and Increasing Investments

Ensure increased and targeted investments through innovative financing, blended public-private investment, by de-risking private sector investment and creating an environment for mobilizing investment based on solid data and evidence, where highest impact could be achieved in terms of reduction of hunger and poverty.

8. Key message(s) of the session:

- 1) *Existing public and private finance are not enough to achieve agrifood systems transformation.*
- 2) *Innovative tools, such as blended finance (fund structures, guarantee schemes), debt swaps, digital warehouse receipts, digital finance, sustainability linked loans and outcome bonds, hedging (namely for local currency financing) and insurance schemes can contribute to mobilizing capital for agrifood systems transformation.*
- 3) *Private Sector and Development Partners can play an important role in de-risking investments through these tools and strengthening local capacities and knowledge to access investment.*
- 4) *De-risk private investment through guarantees, concessional loans and first-loss capital is vital.*
- 5) *Enhance and strengthening innovative financing and collaboration to build capacities and knowledge to facilitate access to investment.*

9. Session format (max 100 words):

High-Level Opening followed by technical presentation and a Roundtable panel discussion, concluded by high-level closing remarks.

10. Guiding questions for speakers:

- 1) *What innovative financial mechanisms hold most promise to achieve scale and mobilize large amounts of financing for agrifood systems transformation, particularly in a context of limited public resources?*
- 2) *How can innovative financing approaches help financial institutions in low- and middle-income countries increase financing to the agrifood sector?*
- 3) *What role can private sector and development finance institutions play in scaling up specific innovative finance approaches to address the financing gap?*

11. Desirable outcome:

The session will summarize the role of innovative finance for agrifood systems, emphasizing specific instruments that have the potential to channel investment at scale

12. List of speakers:

High-Level Opening Remarks

Ms. Amina J. Mohammed, Deputy Secretary-General of the United Nations

Technical Presentation

Mr. Máximo Torero Cullen, FAO Chief Economist

High-Level Panel

- *H.E. Reuben Phiri Mtolo, Minister for Agriculture, Zambia*
- *H.E. Mark Cyubahiro Bagabe, Minister for Agriculture and Animal Resources, Rwanda*
- *Ms. Jen Haugen, Deputy Director of Global Food Security Hub, FCDO*
- *Ms. Alice Ruhweza, President, AGRA*
- *Mr. Matthias Berninger, Executive Vice President, Bayer*
- *Ms. Shobha Shetty, Global Director, Agriculture and Food Global Practice, the World Bank*
- *Mr. Jacob Oduor, Lead Economist, West Africa Region, African Development Bank*
- *Mr. Giulio Dal Magro, Head of Funding, International Development Cooperation, Cassa Depositi e Prestiti of Italy*

- *Ms. Ana Herrera, Director of Inclusive Investment, Technoserve*

High-Level Closing Remarks by

Mr. Máximo Torero Cullen, FAO Chief Economist

13. Additional links/documents:

Include any reference documents or links relevant to the session.

14. Contact information of the session leads and co-leads:

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