

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

Concept Note for Session Co-leads

July 27-29, 2025 – Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

1. Title of the session:

Increased and targeted investment through public-private partnerships

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:

Tuesday, 29 July from 09:00-10:50am.

4. Session background (max 300 words):

Recent deteriorating trends in development finance is compromising the potential of agrifood systems to respond to complex systemic challenges such as food insecurity and malnutrition; climate change; freshwater use; natural resource depletion and biodiversity loss. Increasing financing and investments in agrifood systems will accelerate the sector's ability to generate jobs, reverse inequalities and create sustainable social, environmental and economic benefits for people and the planet.

Financing and investing in agrifood systems face many challenges. Research has shown that agrifood systems lag behind other sectors in terms of innovation in types of financing, and there are inequalities in the distribution of that financing, as these financing flows often fail to reach smallholder farmers, women, youth and disadvantaged or marginalized people in rural areas who are most dependent on agrifood systems for their livelihoods and are most likely to be affected by food insecurity and nutrition crises.

Public-Private Partnerships (PPPs) remain a critical but poorly developed channel for accelerating the transformation of agrifood systems. By combining the financial resources, technical expertise, and innovative approaches of the private sector with the policy, regulatory, and social objectives of the public sector, and the sharing of risk, PPPs can enable large scale transformation across the agrifood system that can put the world back on track to achieving the SDGs and the 2030 Agenda.

The current funding pressures of the development finance landscape is placing a renewed spotlight on the potential of PPPs as a driver of systemic change across the agrifood system. PPPs will need to evolve and adapt if they are to meet this potential and support the transformation of agrifood systems to deliver the 2030 Agenda.

5. Context (max 300 words):

Financing in agrifood systems, especially in low-income countries, remains persistently inadequate and inefficient due to fragmentation. Limited fiscal space, due to increasing public debt, is negatively impacting public spending. Private sector investments are well below required levels, with the share of development finance sourced through private grants remaining at around 5% despite absolute increases. This financing challenge is being exacerbated by dramatic reductions in Official development Assistance (ODA) globally.

These trends in agrifood systems financing and investment are taking place despite the sector's potential to generating global economic benefits estimated in the region of 5 trillion USD per year, while providing employment for more than 1 billion people and contributing to the fight against global hunger and malnutrition. Agrifood systems remain a key enabler for the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), as well as an important opportunity to address the current polycrisis putting the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development at risk.

In order to deliver agrifood systems transformation at the scale and pace necessary to positively impact the SDGs and meet our shared ambitions set out in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, there will need to be both a dramatic increase in the amount of financing and investment directed to agrifood systems transformation, as well as a shift in the way in which these investments are conceived and implemented. Well structured, innovative multistakeholder PPPs can be an effective mechanism for delivering targeted, coherent investment portfolios to the agrifood sector that can drive positive system-level change

6. Session objectives:

The session will explore the evolution of PPPs in development finance, in particular the trends emerging from PPPs in the agrifood system since the UN Food Systems Summit 2021. The session will consider the role of PPPs within the context of today's development and agrifood systems finance landscape and discuss their future potential and application as a mechanism for accelerating finance and investment in system-wide transformation to deliver the SDGs, including both opportunities as well as persistent and new challenges.

The session will also discuss how PPPs can be effectively scaled up and out to maximise resource use efficiency, share risk, and deliver greater impact by delivering multiple objectives and co-benefits at the same time, achieving economic and financial viability, socially inclusive as well as environmentally sustainability.

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.

- **Reflecting on Progress**

The world is not on track to achieve SDG 2 Zero Hunger by 2030. Recent evidence across multiple indicators, including the prevalence of chronic and acute food insecurity, indicates minimal progress in agrifood system transformation despite strong political commitment and comprehensive scientific evidence to support the systems potential to address many of today's challenges. Increased financing and investment is essential for accelerating this progress and achieving the multiple benefits of a transformed agrifood system.

- **Partnerships and Tracking Commitments**

PPPs are an effort to promote and build efficient and effective partnerships between public and private stakeholders to accelerate transformational change in the agrifood system by pooling resources and expertise, and sharing risk.

- **Unlocking Finance and Increasing Investments**

Financial innovations that leverage the potential of PPPs are increasingly needed to transform agrifood systems. Current evidence clearly showcases that the agrifood system has not benefited from financial innovations available in other sectors. Various tools and mechanisms ranging from grants and concessional loans, coupled with technical supports, blended finance, debt swaps, green, social and sustainability-linked bonds and de-risking instruments such as insurance and guarantees have promise for reducing fragmentation and addressing the quantity and quality of financing and investments for agrifood systems.

Member governments have a critical role to play in promoting PPPs, from committing public contributions, as feasible, to establishing an enabling environment for investments to take place in their national agrifood systems. Similarly, alignment of priorities between stakeholders, can improve focus in derisking investments and incentivize private actors including through non-financial interventions.

8. Key message(s) of the session:

PPPs must continue to evolve and adapt from supporting single-point solutions towards broader systems change that intentionally prioritizes sustainable, inclusive investments, through integration and collaboration across the public and private sectors. Well structured, effective Public-Private Partnerships can be a way of achieving the increase in financing and investment in agrifood systems transformation necessary to deliver the 2030 Agenda. All agrifood investors have a role to play and must collaborate effectively in order to achieve this system-level change

9. Session format (max 100 words):

- Moderator to open the session and welcome the audience.
- Session begins with a 10min keynote to set the scene and frame the discussion – using latest data and evidence.
- Keynote will be followed by a cross-sectoral, multistakeholder panel discussion involving agrifood investors (Governments; IFIs; Private Sector; Foundations/Impact Funds; Primary Producers) from public and private sectors.
- Panel discussion will lead to an inclusive and dynamic open-floor Q&A session where live questions will be taken from the audience.
- The session will conclude with a second ‘closing’ panel (max 3 persons from the key agrifood investor groups) to summarize the key points and condense the diverse discussion into 2/3 key messages for the Stocktake Report.
- Moderator to close the session

10. Guiding questions for speakers:

- How has the Public-Private Partnership approach evolved over recent years, in

particular since the UN Food Systems Summit in 2021?

- How are Public-Private Partnerships promoting win-win solutions and delivering co-benefits for multiple stakeholders in agrifood systems in terms of social, environmental and economic sustainability that leaves no one behind?
- What are the main positives of this partnership approach for your stakeholder group?
- What are the key challenges, and how can these be overcome?
- What do you see as the next steps in the evolution of Public-Private Partnerships to maximize their effectiveness in responding to the many complex global challenges that we are facing, including reductions in ODA?

11. Desirable outcome:

The session ends with a clear set of key messages for all agrifood investors, summarized by a high-level panel selected from among the agrifood investor groups (max 3), and calls for a more coherent, integrated and systemic approach to financing and investing in agrifood systems transformation to deliver the SDGs

12. Tentative run of show

Provide a high-level outline of the session flow — e.g.:

- *Opening remarks (5 min)*
- *Keynote speech (15 min)*
- *Panel 1 discussion (45 min)*
- *Audience Q&A (30 min)*
- *Summary and key messages (10 minutes)*
- *Closing (5 min)*

13. List of speakers:

(Kindly note whether confirmed or not)

Name	Affiliation/Title	Country/ Region	Gender	Contact Information (email/phone /WhatsApp)
Mr Brendan Gleeson	Gov 1: Secretary General, Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine, Ireland	Ireland/Europe	Male	Brendan.Gleeson@agriculture.gov.ie Copy: Maria Dunne maria.dunne@agriculture.gov.ie Peter Cleary peter.cleary@dfa.ie Sean Bell sean.bell@agriculture.gov.ie Harry O'Crowley harry.ocrowley@agriculture.gov.ie

Senator Abubakar Kyari	Gov 2: Federal Minister of Agriculture and Food Security, Nigeria	Africa	Male	abukyari@gmail.com
Mr Desiré Jean- Marie Vencatachellum	DFI 1: Senior Director Country Economics Department African Development Bank	Africa	Male	D.VENCATACHELLUM@AFDB.ORG Copy: Eugenia Nyankwa Grant E.GRANT@AFDB.ORG
Mr Samuel Kamau Nganga	DFI 2: IFC regional manager	Africa	Male	snganga@ifc.org
Mr Ramesh Moochikal	PS 1: Managing Director and CEO of Africa Improved Foods (SME)	Africa/Rwanda	Male	
TBC	PS 2: Nestle			
Ms Emeline Fellus	PS 3: Senior Director, Agriculture and Food & Member of the WBCSD Extended Leadership Group	Global	Female	Fellus@wbcsd.org Copy: lucie.smith@wbcsd.org rita.lousa@wbcsd.org
Mr Ishmael Sunga	PP: CEO Southern Africa Confederation of Agricultural Unions (SACAU)	Southern Africa	Male	
Ms Lois Bruu	FD: Vice President, Public Private Partnerships at Mastercard	Americas	Female	Lois.Bruu@mastercard.com
Ms Gina Belle	Moderator: CEO, Chora Foundation		Female	
Ms Marianna Mazzucato	Keynote: Professor in the Economics of Innovation and Public Value	Italian- American-British	Female	

- **Additional links/documents:**

Benni, N., Campolina, A. & Phillips, L. 2025. *Financing food for a better future – Financing agrifood systems transformation to increase resilience, and prevent and mitigate food crises*. Rome, FAO. <https://doi.org/10.4060/cd5178en>

FAO, IFAD, UNICEF, WFP & WHO. 2022. *The State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World 2022 – Repurposing food and agricultural policies to make healthy diets more affordable*. Rome. <https://openknowledge.fao.org/items/ebe19244-9611-443c-a2a6-25cec697b361>

FAO, IFAD, UNICEF, WFP & WHO. 2024. *The State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World 2024 – Financing to end hunger, food insecurity and malnutrition in all its forms*. Rome. <https://openknowledge.fao.org/items/ebe19244-9611-443c-a2a6-25cec697b361>

FAO. 2022a. *A Global Food Import Financing Facility (FIFF): Responding to soaring food import costs and addressing the needs of the most exposed*. Rome. <https://openknowledge.fao.org/items/e64301b2-ff4f-488d-8e42-4245b5d34e00>

FAO. 2022b. *Unlocking public expenditure to transform agrifood systems in sub-Saharan Africa*. FAO Agricultural Development Economics Policy Brief, No. 57. Rome. <https://openknowledge.fao.org/items/06b6a9a4-3fe9-422e-93dc-4a57e80ba60b>

FAO. 2023a. *The State of Food and Agriculture 2023 – Revealing the true cost of food to transform agrifood systems*. Rome. <https://openknowledge.fao.org/items/1516eb79-8b43-400e-b3cb130fd70853b0>

FAO. 2023b. *The status of women in agrifood systems*. Rome. <https://openknowledge.fao.org/items/1b87f67b-57b2-4951-903f-b872f0ef021c>

FAO. 2024a. *The State of Food and Agriculture 2024 – Value-driven transformation of agrifood systems*. Rome. <https://openknowledge.fao.org/items/65139780-d06c-4b7c-a2cd3ed4256eaa1c>

FAO. 2024b. *Repurposing domestic public support to agriculture. Policy brief*. Rome. <https://openknowledge.fao.org/items/10efdcec-e4da-4bf3-be65-0ed421ecc6d3>

FAO. 2025a. *Innovative finance for agrifood systems transformation*. Rome. <https://openknowledge.fao.org/items/87ad91de-eda8-4010-b33d-60e642616bf0>

FAO. 2025b. *Development finance for gender equality and women's empowerment in agrifood systems*. Rome. <https://openknowledge.fao.org/handle/20.500.14283/cd5017en>

Global Steering Group for Impact Investment. 2023. *Financing SDGs in emerging markets – The role of green, social, sustainability and sustainability-linked (GSSS) bonds*. London. <https://www.gsgimpact.org/resources/gsg-impact-publications-and-reports/financing-sdgs-in-emerging-markets/>

OECD. 2024b. *Development finance for gender equality and women's empowerment*. Paris. <https://web.archive.org/temp/2024-03-07/73550-development-finance-for-gender-equalityand-women-s-empowerment.html>

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

<i>Paul Kiernan</i>	<i>Co-Lead</i>	Paul.Kiernan@fao.org +353 87 244 6992
<i>Panagiotis Karfakis</i>	<i>Co-Lead</i>	Panagiotis.Karfakis@fao.org +393 49 311 6034