

UN Food Systems Summit +4 Stocktake

SESSION REPORT

All session recordings will be available after the conclusion of the session. Please send the report of your session to your focal point at the UN Food Systems Coordination Hub.

Type (click one):

- ☐ Plenary
- ☐ Ministerial Roundtable
- ☐ High-level Panels
- ☐ Featured Event
- ☐ Investment Dialogue
- ☒ Stakeholder Action Session

Food Producer-led Session

28 July 2025 | 15:00 - 16:20

Name of note-taker: N/A

Session lead/co-lead: Agroecology Coalition, Asian Farmers Association (AFA) and Eastern Africa Farmers Federation (EAFF)

E-mail of note-taker: N/A

List of speakers, in all segments, and key messages

NAME AND TITLE OF SPEAKER	SEGMENT (opening, panel, closing, etc.)	KEY MESSAGES OR/AND RESPONSES TO QUESTIONS
1. Oliver Oliveros (Moderator, Agroecology Coalition)	Opening	Oliver framed the session around how farmers' organizations are key enablers of food systems transformation. He highlighted the shift needed from consultation to co-creation, ensuring equitable access to resources and accountability. The session sought actionable strategies to institutionalize farmer participation, amplify their solutions

		(like agroecology), and improve access to finance.
2. Ivan Emmanuel Pineda (Asian Farmers Association, Philippines)	Panel	Ivan emphasized the urgent challenge of declining youth engagement in agriculture. Many young people are leaving farming due to low income, insecure land tenure, poor infrastructure, limited government support, and unfair trade. He proposed five key solutions: secure long-term land rights, create integrated youth-focused programs (training, finance, insurance), prioritize young women in rural development, support youth organizing, and improve rural infrastructure and protection from trade imbalances. He underlined that youth cooperatives and associations are pillars for a just and sustainable food future.
3. Elizabeth Nsimadala (Eastern Africa Farmers Federation, Uganda)	Panel	<p>Elizabeth stressed that underinvestment is a major barrier, highlighting that since the last 20 years since Maputo, agricultural investments from most national governments are less than 5%, reports from the African Development Bank indicates that lending portfolio to the agricultural sector is less than 5%, yet, lending rates to agriculture sector is more than 20%. She called for breaking silos, scaling successful farmer-led initiatives beyond pilots, and ensuring direct access to climate finance for smallholders (currently less than 1%). She argued for formal partnerships and for moving from “islands of success” to systemic scaling. EAFF has identified 52 climate adaptation cases, however due to limited resources are only able to profile 8 cases.</p> <p>EAFF is a regional body that brings together national farmer associations and cooperatives in the 10 Eastern African countries representing over 20 million smallholder farmers.</p>

4. Luz Haro Guanga (Network of Rural Women of Latin America & the Caribbean)	Panel	Luz highlighted the structural inequalities rural women face, particularly land tenure (often below 30% ownership), credit access, illiteracy, and lack of connectivity. She emphasized the importance of collective women's organizations to amplify voices, push for dignified livelihoods, and co-create solutions with governments. She championed policies investing in women's education, leadership, human talent, and soft credit to enable sustainable, GMO-free, community-led food production.
5. Andrea Porro (World Farmers Organization)	Panel	Andrea provided the global perspective, stressing that farmers are expected to produce more while reducing emissions, but cannot succeed without enabling environments. He identified three global priorities: producing sustainably with access to innovation and markets, prioritizing nutrition over volume, and tackling food loss and waste across the value chain. He insisted on meaningful farmer participation in governance and co-design processes, and reminded that climate goals cannot be achieved without ensuring economically viable farms.
6. Kalyan Seik (AFA Regional Women Farmers Committee, Cambodia)	Panel	Kalyan shared her perspective as a woman farmer, underlining the need for spaces where women farmers can voice their challenges and influence programs. She called for recognizing national farmer organizations as legitimate partners in policy design, allocating resources for farmer dialogue, and ensuring women (who make up 40% of the sector) are meaningfully included in decision-making.
7. Amb. Gabriel Ferrero, Strategic Advisor, Global Agriculture & Food Security Program (GAFSP)	Panel	Gabriel reflected on farmers' priorities, noting the urgency of youth empowerment, women's voices, and scaling beyond pilots. He explained that financing often fails to reach farmers because systems see them as "the last mile" rather than the "first mile." He presented successful institutional models,

		such as the UN Committee on World Food Security and the Global Agriculture and Food Security Program, which demonstrate that institutionalized farmer participation leads to better-designed financing mechanisms.
8. Irish Baguilat, AFA	Closing	Irish reminded participants that family farmers are <i>“not just food producers but also knowledge producers and solutions providers.”</i> She emphasized that farmers’ organizations are platforms for collective action—improving livelihoods, strengthening rural economies, and shaping decision-making. Importantly, she closed on two hopeful messages heard throughout the session: <i>“it is possible”</i> and <i>“farmers’ organizations are the mechanisms to reach millions of farmers worldwide.”</i>

Interventions from the floor

SPEAKER	QUESTION OR KEY POINT OF INTERVENTION
1. Phiipp Limbery (Compassion in World Farming International)	How best can we build strategic alliances for enabling environment?
2. Francisco Rosado May (Mexico)	How can we access further information regarding the funding mechanism presented by Mr. Ferrero?
3. Agnes Kirobo (Uganda)	We should stop talking about issues on farmers, women and youth. We need the investments!
4. Arturo Condo (Costa Rica)	Universities should get involved
5.	

Overall session summary, conclusions and recommended actions (max 250 words)

The producer-led session, *“Farmers Organizations: Key Enablers in Transforming Food Systems,”* convened farmer leaders from Asia, Africa, Latin America, and global networks alongside policymakers and financing experts. The discussions highlighted shared priorities: empowering youth and women in agriculture, scaling farmer-led innovations, securing fair

access to land, finance, and markets, and embedding farmers in governance and co-creation processes.

Speakers stressed that current financing systems fail to adequately reach farmers, particularly women and smallholders, and called for institutionalized mechanisms to ensure meaningful farmer participation at all levels—from national policy design to global climate and trade negotiations. The session underscored that farmers are not only food producers but also knowledge and solution providers, ready to lead transitions towards sustainable, resilient, and inclusive food systems—if adequately supported.