



2026 GAFSP Knowledge Forum

Agenda

Rome, Italy | FAO Headquarters | May 5–7, 2026

Hybrid Option for Plenary Sessions:

<https://fao.zoom.us/meeting/register/eJXHPJzQuqygL3vwo5eqg>

DAY 1 – The GAFSP Knowledge Exchange

Plenary: Sheikh Zayed Centre (SZC)

<p>08:30 – 09:30</p>	<p>Registration & Breakfast (Outside SZC)</p>
<p>09:30 – 10:00</p>	<p>Session 1: Opening & Introduction</p> <p><i>Objectives:</i> Set strategic context and forum objectives.</p> <p>9:30 – 9:45: Opening Remarks</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agnes Kalibata, GAFSP Steering Committee Co-Chair (virtual) • Maximo Torero, Chief Economist, FAO (recorded) <p>9:45 – 9:50: Welcome and AgriConnect overview: Shobha Shetty, GAFSP Program Head</p> <p>9:50 – 9:55: Overview of Strategic Outlook/Vision 2030: Gabriel Ferrero, GAFSP Senior Strategy Advisor</p> <p>9:55 – 10:00: Knowledge Forum Objectives & Agenda Overview: Francesca D'Emidio, Facilitator</p>
<p>10.00 – 10:45</p>	<p>Session 2: How Well Do You Know GAFSP?</p> <p><i>Objectives:</i> Align understanding of GAFSP mandate and governance</p> <p>10:00 – 10:15: Session objectives & Peer Introduction</p> <p>10:15 – 10:40: Myth or fact?</p> <p>Led by GAFSP Coordination Unit (CU) & Private Sector Window Teams:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kunda Ng'andwe, GAFSP Deputy Program Manager • Alberta Guerra, GAFSP CSO Liaison Officer • Zanele Hlatshwayo, Deputy Program Manager, GAFSP Private Sector Window

	10:40 – 10:45: Wrap-up
10:45 – 11:15	Coffee Break (Outside SZC)
11:15 – 12:30	<p>Session 3: GAFSP Fundamentals</p> <p><i>Objectives:</i> Clarify processes, roles, and compliance requirements.</p> <p>11:15 – 11:20: Opening & Framing</p> <p>11:20 – 11: 50: Navigating the GAFSP Project Lifecycle Rufiz Vakhid Chirag-Zade, GAFSP CU</p> <p>11:50- 12:20: Q&A and Wrap-up</p> <p>12:25- 12:30: Closing</p>
12:30 – 14:00	<p>Group Photo</p> <p>Lunch (Restaurant, Open Buffet, 8th Floor)</p>
14:00 – 15:00	<p>Session 4: Measuring What Matters – M&E Challenges</p> <p><i>Objectives:</i> Distil practical learning to improve results measurement</p> <p>14:00 – 14:15: Opening & Framing Presentation – Francesca D’Emidio and Yurie Hoberg, GAFSP CU</p> <p>14:15 – 14:35: Project representatives sharing challenges</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Salum Ramadhani, African Development Bank - Tanzania TANIPAC • Victoria Traverso, World Bank - Honduras ACS PROSASUR • Tawanda Mashonganyika, World Food Programme - Somalia SMAPIEH <p>14:30 – 14:55: Reverse panel: audience engages with panelists</p> <p>14:55 – 15:00: Closing</p>
15:00 – 15:30	Coffee Break Outside SZC
15:30 – 16:30	<p>Session 5: From Fragility to Opportunity</p> <p><i>Objectives:</i> Share FCS Cross-Portfolio Evaluation findings and enhance delivery in FCS countries</p> <p>Moderator: Joanne Gaskell, GAFSP CU</p> <p>15:40 – 15:55: Independent cross-portfolio evaluation highlights Yurie Hoberg, GAFSP CU</p> <p>15:55 – 16:15: Project panel</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Faiza Hesham Hael Ahmed, World Bank -Yemen Food Security Response and Resilience Project

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Peter Mazed, IFAD - South Sudan Livelihoods and Resilience Programme • Mathabo Tsepa, GAFSP CSO Steering Committee Representative for Africa • Tint Khine, FAO - Myanmar Climate-Friendly Agribusiness Value Chain Sector Project <p>16:15 – 16:25: Structured Q&A Moderator: Joanne Gaskell, GAFSP CU</p> <p>16:25 – 16:30: Wrap-up</p>
16:30 – 17:00	Session 6: Day 1 Wrap-Up
17:00 – 19:00	Welcome Dinner Reception FAO Terrace

DAY 2 – Public–Private Partnership Knowledge Exchange

Plenary: Sheikh Zayed Centre (SZC) | **Breakouts:** Malaysia Room, Kazakhstan Lounge

09:00 – 09:30	Breakfast Outside SZC
09:30 – 09:45	Session 7: Introduction to Day 2
09:45 – 10:45	<p>Session 8: Breaking Silos – Coordinating GAFSP Projects</p> <p>Moderator: Shijie Yang, GAFSP CU</p> <p><i>Objectives:</i> Identify barriers and enablers to coordination through the lenses of Rwanda country portfolio</p> <p>09:50 – 10:10: Speaker Lightning Talks</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sarah Nyiramutangwa, World Bank - SAIP II • Zanele Hlatshwayo, IFC Private Sector Window Advisory Project • Frank Rubio, IFAD - Business Investment Financing Track (BIFT) Financing to Farmers Cooperative (FOFP-R) project • Francois Mbabazi, IFAD PO project- Ingabo Farmers Syndicate (virtual) <p>10:10 – 10:30: Facilitated Discussion</p> <p>10:30 - 10:45: Q&A</p>
10:45 – 11:15	Coffee Break Outside SZC
11:15 – 12:30	<p>Session 9: Mobilizing Private Capital for Smallholder Agriculture</p> <p>Moderator: Gabriel Ferrero, GAFSP Senior Strategy Advisor</p> <p><i>Objectives:</i> Showcase models and incentives for private investment.</p>

	<p>11:15 – 11:25 Objectives and framing</p> <p>11:25 – 11:45: Lightning Talks:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Amit Sagar, Pearl Dairy/IFC Investee, Uganda • Chanthou Hem, ADB Rice SDP, Cambodia • Beatrice Githinji, Credit and Rural Finance Specialist, FAO Investment Centre • Donaldo Zuniga, IDB Dry Corridor/Red Comal PO, Honduras <p>11:45 – 12:15: Roundtable Discussion</p> <p>12:15 – 12:25: Audience Discussion</p> <p>12:25–12:30: Closing</p>
<p>12:30 – 14:00</p>	<p>Lunch Restaurant, Open Buffet, 8th Floor</p>
<p>14:00 – 15:15</p>	<p>Session 10: Parallel Breakout Sessions</p> <p>10A: Role of Producer Organizations in Empowering Farmers</p> <p>Moderator: Shijie Yang, GAFSP CU</p> <p>Speakers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mohammad Asaduzzaman, FAO Bangladesh ACCESS PO-led Project • Teddie Nakhumwa, World Bank Malawi FSRP Country-led Project • Josefina Maiztegui, IFC Cote D’Ivoire PrSW Project (virtual) <p>Location: Kazakhstan Lounge</p> <p>10B: Role of Agribusinesses and Financial Intermediaries in Connecting Farmers to Knowledge, Finance, and Markets</p> <p>Moderator: Zanele Hlatshwayo, Deputy Program Manager, GAFSP Private Sector Window</p> <p>Location: SZC</p> <p>10C: Role of Governments in Creating an Enabling Environment for Agricultural Development</p> <p>Moderator: Kunda Ng’andwe, GAFSP Deputy Program Manager</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nabil Rahaman, IFAD - RAINS, Bangladesh • Martijn Van der Groep, FAO - RAINS, Bangladesh • Yannick Saint-Paul, IDB - PAPAIR, Haiti • Laza Razafimbelo, World Bank - HGSF, Madagascar <p>Location: Malaysia Room</p>
<p>15:15 – 15:45</p>	<p>Coffee Break Outside SZC</p>

<p>15:45 – 16:50</p>	<p>Session 11: Key Takeaways in Cross-Window & Cross-Sector Collaborations</p> <p>15:45 – 15:50: Introduction and objectives: Francesca D’Emidio</p> <p>15:50 – 16:10: Breakout session report-back: Session Moderators (5 minutes each)</p> <p>16:10 – 16:30: Keynote Reflections:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Luis Dias Pereira, Agribusiness Officer, FAO Investment Centre • Gabriel Ferrero, GAFSP Senior Strategy Advisor <p>16:30 – 16:40: Audience Q&A</p> <p>16:40 – 16:50: Wrap-up: Kunda Ng’andwe, GAFSP Deputy Program Manager</p>
<p>16:50 – 17:00</p>	<p>Session 12: Day 2 Closing</p> <p>Instructions for breakout sessions on Day 3</p>

DAY 3 – Cross-Thematic Knowledge Exchange

Plenary & Breakouts: FAO, Rome

<p>09:00 – 09:30</p>	<p>Breakfast Outside SZC</p>
<p>09:30 – 10:45</p>	<p>Session 13: Breakout Sessions – Women’s Empowerment, Climate, and Nutrition</p> <p>Session Lead: Joanne Gaskell, GAFSP CU</p> <p>13A: Climate Moderator: Lorenzo Maestriperi, FAO EX-ACT</p> <p>Location: Malaysia Room</p> <p>13B: Nutrition Moderator: Anna Law, GAFSP Supervising Entity Focal Point, World Food Programme</p> <p>Location: Kazakhstan Lounge</p> <p>13C: Women’s Empowerment Moderator: Mattia Barina, GAFSP Supervising Entity Focal Point, IFAD</p> <p>Location: Sheikh Zayed Centre</p>
<p>10:45 – 11:15</p>	<p>Coffee Break Outside SZC</p>
<p>11:15 – 12:30</p>	<p>Session 14: Exploring the Nexus – From Silos to Synergies</p> <p><i>Objectives:</i> Distil lessons for integrated project design.</p> <p>11:15 – 11:25: Synthesis of breakout outputs</p>

	<p>11:25 – 11:45: Project integration case presentations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rudaba Khondker, IFAD/Global Alliance for Improved Nutrition - RAINS, Bangladesh • Asuka Okumura, World Bank - FANSEP, Nepal <p>11:45 – 12:15: Q&A/Interactive debate</p> <p>12:15 – 12:25: Collective identification of recommendations</p> <p>Facilitators: Lorenzo Maestriperi, Celia Lopez, FAO EX-ACT</p>
<p>12:30 – 13:00</p>	<p>Session 15: Closing Remarks</p> <p>Joanne Gaskell, GAFSP CU</p> <p>Nuno Santos, Deputy Director, FAO Investment Centre</p> <p>Shobha Shetty, Program Head, GAFSP</p> <p>Renato Godinho, Director, Global Alliance Against Hunger and Poverty – Support Mechanism</p>
<p>13:00 – 14:00</p>	<p>Lunch Restaurant, Open Buffet, 8th Floor</p>