

Thursday 17 October
13.00-14.30 IRAN ROOM
FAO, Rome

Farmers driven innovation to boost food systems transformation toward global sustainable development

Innovative ways of involving farmers
in research and policy debates

Co-organized by the World Farmers' Organisation (WFO) and the Global Forum on Agricultural Research and Innovation (GFAR) with the patronage of Italy's Permanent Representation to the United Nations Agencies in partnership with Agro Camera – Rome Chamber of Commerce.

Background

The upcoming years pose many challenges to the entire humankind: climate change, including natural disasters, is increasing all around the globe, the world population is expected to grow to 10 billion by 2050, the world hunger is on the rise again after a decline registered by 2015. Furthermore, malnutrition in all its forms, whether undernourishment or obesity, affect countries simultaneously. In this frightful scenario, farmers driven innovation can play a significant role to transform food systems and achieve sustainable development for all. In particular, farmers can play a key role in tackling these challenges as they are innovators by nature: for thousands of years, they have adapted to the land, to changes in the climate, to the yield of their crops. In today's world, farmers are improving their innovation development capacity and they need to be engaged more and more in research with scientists, with private partnerships, with multilateral organisations that have the technical and financial capacity to assist in projects. Innovation is much more than mere technology: it is a process, it can be a new way of doing things and also a new way of involving farmers in global policy debates, giving them the central role they deserve to play.



Key Note Speakers

H.E. Amb. Vincenza Lomonaco
Permanent Representative of Italy
to the UN Rome-based Agencies

Dr. Theo de Jager
President
WFO

Panellists

Mr. Raffaele Maiorano
Chairman a.i.
GFAR

Mr. Michael Keller
Secretary General
ISF

Mr. Neil Watkins
Deputy Director Global Policy and Advocacy
Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation

Ms. Astrid Maria Jacobs de Padua
Senior Agricultural Specialist
World Bank

Mr. Carlo Hausmann
Director General
Agro Camera - Rome Chamber of Commerce

Moderator

Ms. Arianna Giuliadori
Secretary General
WFO