



Cultivating Solutions for a Sustainable Future

CONCEPT NOTE

*Where Innovation Meets Action
for Global Agricultural Progress*



Background: The Global Agriculture Landscape

Human progress is inseparable from the evolution of agriculture. In less than a century, humanity achieved what once seemed impossible, producing enough calories and nutrients to feed most of the planet. Yet this extraordinary achievement has come with extraordinary costs. By 2025, the world population is projected to reach 9.7 billion, requiring a 50–70% increase in food production to meet future demand. However, the global food system remains deeply imbalanced and environmentally fragile. Today, 2.4 billion people experience food insecurity, while 670 million suffer from chronic malnutrition. Paradoxically, nearly 1.3 billion tonnes of food are wasted or lost every year, representing an estimated USD 1 trillion in economic loss and contributing to rising greenhouse gas emissions.

Agriculture—employing nearly one-third of the world's workforce, has also become a major driver of environmental stress. It contributes up to one-third of global greenhouse gas emissions, consumes nearly 70% of freshwater resources, and accelerates deforestation, biodiversity loss, and soil degradation. Meanwhile, smallholder farmers and producers, who form the backbone of the global food system, continue to face limited access to finance, technology, and markets. Trade barriers costing over USD 500 billion annually further restrict opportunities for farmers, particularly in low- and middle-income economies. The world's ability to sustain itself is now under question. The past few years have exposed the fragility of global food systems, through conflict, inflation, pandemics, supply chain disruptions, and the erosion of trade and human rights. Global agriculture stands at a defining moment. Urgent and coordinated action is needed to redesign how food is produced, distributed, and consumed, ensuring a resilient, inclusive, and food-secure future for all.

The Complexity of the Modern Agricultural Challenge

The challenge of transforming global agriculture lies in its complexity and interdependence. Food systems are shaped by a web of environmental, social, and economic factors that differ across regions yet converge in their global impact. Achieving sustainable transformation therefore requires solutions that are globally coherent but locally adaptable, designed through inclusive dialogue and implemented through country-specific pathways. Governments remain central to setting policy frameworks, investing in infrastructure, and ensuring equitable access to resources. However, there is growing recognition that public action alone is insufficient. Meaningful progress depends on the active engagement of the private sector—businesses, investors, and agribusiness innovators, whose leadership and investment can drive structural and behavioural change at scale.

At the same time, consumer awareness, social movements, and digital connectivity are reshaping the relationship between producers and the planet. New technologies are creating opportunities for efficiency and transparency, but they also introduce risks related to data privacy, digital inequality, and market concentration. The intersection of globalization and protectionism, open trade and new barriers, technological advancement and digital vulnerability, has created a new era of interdependence, one where opportunities and risks are deeply intertwined. Addressing these challenges requires collaboration across sectors and geographies, guided by evidence-based dialogue, responsible innovation, and shared accountability. Only through such collective effort can global agriculture evolve into a system that nourishes people, protects the planet, and promotes lasting prosperity.

The Call for a Unified Global Platform

In this context, there is an urgent need for a dynamic and neutral global platform that can align diverse agendas, foster collaboration, and accelerate practical solutions. The World Agriculture Forum (WAF) was to respond to this need, bringing together governments, research institutions, businesses, producers, and civil society to facilitate exchange of ideas, policy dialogue, and collective innovation. WAF aims to bridge the gap between global vision and local implementation by promoting inclusive, sustainable, and resilient food systems that protect the environment, ensure equitable livelihoods, and provide affordable, nutritious food for generations to come.



The Genesis of The World Agriculture Forum

The World Agriculture Forum was born out of this imperative – to create a global platform to align collective actions. The origins of the World Agriculture Forum (WAF) can be traced back to the 2017 Global Agriculture Leadership Summit in New Delhi and further discussions at the World Food Prize Summit in Des Moines in 2018. Formally registered in 2024, the World Agriculture Forum was conceived to fill a critical global gap: the absence of a neutral, action-oriented platform where key stakeholders could co-create solutions for sustainable agriculture, food systems transformation, policy, trade and agribusiness.

Modelled upon the World Economic Forum (WEF), the World Agriculture Forum is designed to bridge the divide between high-level global dialogue and global and local implementation of solutions. It brings stakeholders together to align strategies, provide policy advice and supports, and to facilitate scaling of proven innovations. After extensive consultation with global leaders and potential stakeholders, the concept for the World Agriculture Forum developed iteratively with openness and flexibility: to create a space where ideas could be exchanged, policies could be shaped, and collaborative partnerships could be formed, ultimately driving tangible solutions and innovations across global agriculture.

About Us

The World Agriculture Forum is a global platform connecting diverse stakeholders to drive sustainable agricultural development through technology-driven solutions, policy advocacy, supporting equitable markets. By uniting and coordinating governments, farmers and producers, agribusinesses, research and development institutions, funders and investors, and civil society, the World Agriculture Forum believes the world can bridge implementation gaps and drive sustainable agriculture and food systems transformation towards a resilient, food- and nutrition-secure future. With a strong focus on collaboration, innovation all along the value chain, and public-private partnerships, the World Agriculture Forum is committed to working with stakeholders to transform agriculture worldwide and support nations to achieve their sustainable development goals.

This non-profit organisation provides an open, transparent and unbiased platform to ensure sustainable agriculture globally, improve the livelihoods of smallholder farmers around the world while improving the environment. Bringing together all the relevant stakeholders with a shared vision and focus on action, the World Agriculture Forum will facilitate the flow of innovations, technologies and successful models to reach the intended beneficiaries. The World Agriculture Forum will embrace system complexity and interconnectedness, will move beyond nation- or region-centric models, will respect neutrality and reconcile competing interests, adapt approaches across various scales and policy domains and avoid one-size-fits-all models by utilizing diverse toolkits.

Vision

The World Agriculture Forum (WAF) envisions a transformative global agricultural landscape defined by limitless innovation, sustainable growth, enhanced productivity, and resilient prosperity. WAF's vision is grounded in the belief that agriculture must harmoniously balance the demands of a growing global population with environmental stewardship and economic inclusivity, ensuring a regenerative, secure, and thriving food system for both present and future generations

Mission

To power sustainable agricultural development by:

- ✓ **Convening Stakeholders:** Creating a neutral, high-impact platform where governments, private enterprises, research institutions, and civil society organizations collaborate to co-develop sustainable solutions, drive investments, and scale transformative technologies.
- ✓ **Global Advocacy:** Promoting progressive agricultural policies and practices that strengthen food and nutrition security, champion environmental responsibility, and foster long-term growth.
- ✓ **Innovation & Collaboration:** Building strategic partnerships that accelerate the adoption of smart technologies, enhance climate resilience, reduce environmental impact on biodiversity and water, and unlock inclusive opportunities for agribusinesses.
- ✓ **Impactful Action:** Translating vision into tangible outcomes, from empowering farmers and improving value chains to shaping global trade policies that sustain and uplift the entire agricultural ecosystem.

Role of the World Agriculture Forum and Activity Areas

The transformation of global food systems is an urgent priority that affects governments, businesses, and individuals alike. The world is facing multiple, interconnected challenges, from biodiversity loss, water scarcity, poor land use, and rising greenhouse gas emissions to pollution, pandemics, and the overuse of plastics and fertilizers. As these pressures intensify, the need to sustainably nourish a growing population while upholding human rights and strengthening human capital becomes ever more critical. Addressing these complex issues requires coordinated global action and a unifying platform that can bring together diverse voices to create real impact.



The World Agriculture Forum (WAF) fills this vital gap as an independent, neutral, and action-driven global platform. It facilitates evidence-based dialogue aligned with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and beyond, engaging political leaders, businesses, researchers, media, and development institutions. By connecting governments, farmers, producers, agribusinesses, experts, and civil society, WAF aims to raise global awareness of agricultural priorities, promote shared solutions, and drive collective action toward a more sustainable, equitable, and resilient agricultural future.

Strategic Objectives

The World Agriculture Forum will facilitate evidence-based dialogue, aligned with the Sustainable Development Goals and beyond, among diverse stakeholders to raise awareness of the global agriculture agenda among political and business leaders, media, experts and development institutions. The World Agriculture Forum will, through its neutral and strong convening capacity:

- ✓ Promote knowledge sharing through collaboration among policymakers, farmer and civil society organizations, academia, international organizations, private sector, research and technology-development institutions and entities.
- ✓ Function as a global knowledge broker for best agricultural practices and agri-business models to support farmers and other entrepreneurs in the sector and guide innovations into practice.
- ✓ Provide leadership on a single platform for the public and private sectors and international agencies to contribute to a harmonised vision to feed and nourish the world while protecting the environment.
- ✓ Strive to improve agricultural returns by facilitating training for farmers and producers in essential skills, increasing access to finance and technologies, and expanding market opportunities.
- ✓ Organize the annual World Agriculture Summit and other global events, bringing together world leaders on pressing issues in agricultural policy, trade, technologies, investment and agribusiness.
- ✓ Present Global Excellence Awards for outstanding contributions that shape the future of sustainable agriculture.



The World Agriculture Forum will be a dynamic, neutral and transparent global platform for international organizations, multilateral platforms, research institutions, financial institutions, non-governmental organizations, private sector entities, farmer and producer organisations and civil society to come together under a common vision and to address the needs of sustainable agriculture globally through impactful partnerships.

The World Agriculture Forum will support the development of strong research to development to practice (R2D2P) pipelines and partnerships to accelerate the development, testing and adoption of climate-smart and productivity-enhancing solutions and will ensure robust agricultural technology innovation ecosystems.

The World Agriculture Forum will advocate evidence-based, inclusive, and climate-smart agricultural policies which will support trade, finance, innovation and development to support sustainable transformation. It will, in partnership, shape and advocate environmental policies, standards, and other mechanisms to drive climate-smart sustainable agriculture, as well as develop actionable policy advisories to reduce food loss and waste and build resilience across global agricultural value chains.

The World Agriculture Forum will, through partnerships, empower farmers, producers and actors along the value chain, supporting access to training, finance, technology, and markets. Women and youth will be empowered through inclusive initiatives and enabling environments.

The World Agriculture Forum will foster investments that enable agribusinesses and agricultural technology ventures to scale proven innovations. It will showcase and help replicate scalable agribusiness innovations and success stories.

The World Agriculture Forum will drive adoption of sustainable and regenerative agricultural practices that maintain or improve the environment while producing sufficient, affordable and nutritious food. Behavioural change at all levels is important and this will be supported through increased awareness, capacity development, and community engagement for sustainability.

The World Agriculture Forum will be a global hub for sharing information, ideas, innovations and policies, as well as scalable business models. Livelihoods will be improved through sharing, learning and collaboration to create greater synergies to help stakeholders develop a sustainable, secure, global food system. The World Agriculture Forum will help accelerate adoption of proven solutions by turning shared insights into coordinated action.

Core Areas of Focus for the World Agriculture Forum

To deliver on its objectives, the World Agriculture Forum (WAF) will focus on the following priority areas:

- 1. Driving Food Systems Transformation:** Advancing a global agenda for resilient, inclusive, and sustainable food systems, with a strong emphasis on reducing food loss and waste across value chains.
- 2. Bridging the Research-to-Action Gap:** Strengthening the continuum between science, research, innovation, and technology to accelerate adoption and implementation at scale.
- 3. Promoting Sustainable Production Systems:** Supporting the transition toward climate-smart, resource-efficient, and environmentally responsible agricultural practices.
- 4. Empowering Women and Youth in Agriculture:** Creating enabling environments and opportunities for women and youth to participate in and benefit from profitable and sustainable agricultural enterprises.
- 5. Facilitating Access to Finance and Investment:** Enhancing equitable access to finance, markets, and investments that drive sustainable practices, strengthen value chains, and improve farmers' livelihoods.



Stakeholder Engagement

The World Agriculture Forum is committed to robust stakeholder engagement, fostering inclusive dialogue among industry, government, academia, and communities, driving global sustainable agricultural development through diverse perspectives, expertise, and collective action. Our engagement strategy encompasses:

- Intergovernmental Organizations, largely inter-governmental platforms around a specific theme/area of food systems, and often policy oriented such as the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), World Food Programme (WFP), United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).
- Conventions and Treaties which are state/nation-centric platforms such as United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UN FCCC), Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UN CCD).
- International and Regional Financial Institutions focused on financial issues including World Bank, International Fund for Agriculture Development (IFAD), Global Environment Facility (GEF), Green Climate Fund (GCF).



- D. International Stakeholders Platforms which typically involve governments, businesses, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), researchers, and civil society like the World Economic Forum (WEF), Global Alliance for Improved Nutrition (GAIN), United Nations High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF).
- E. International Agricultural Research Centers such as CGIAR, Association of Independent Research and Development Centers for Agriculture (AIRCA), International Institute for Environment and Development (IIED).
- F. Private Sector Platforms including International private sector platforms and agribusinesses, input producers, traders in the agriculture and food space. Some key examples include The Consumer Goods Forum (CGF), International Seed Federation (ISF), CropLife International, Global Dairy Platform, Global Cold Chain Alliance (GCCA), Sustainable Agriculture Initiative Platform (SAI).
- G. Philanthropic Foundations that act as sources of funding for agricultural development, among others, the Gates Foundation, Rockefeller Foundation, Ellen MacArthur Foundation.
- H. International Non-Governmental Organizations (INGOs) that are involved with on-the-ground action with an understanding of the needs of the populations upon which each entity focuses and which are valuable for validating plans and actions. These include Oxfam, Hunger Project, Action Against Hunger, Farm Africa, and Concern Worldwide.
- I. Cross regional and Regional Platforms including G20, G7, African Union (AU), European Union (EU), Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), The Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa (AGRA), Association for Strengthening Agricultural Research in Eastern and Central Africa (ASARECA), West and Central African Council for Agricultural Research and Development (CORAF/WE CARD), The Asia-Pacific Association of Agricultural Research Institutions (APAARI), Grow Asia, and Grow Africa.
- J. Farmer, Youth, and Women Groups in Agriculture
- K. Media and Communication Partners
- L. Through these inclusive partnerships, and many more, the World Agriculture Forum will create a vibrant ecosystem that accelerates sustainable agricultural development, ensuring a food-secure, prosperous, and environmentally conscious future for all.

Strategic Partnerships and Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs)

Collaboration lies at the heart of the World Agriculture Forum's mission to advance sustainable agricultural development and global food security. Through strategic partnerships with leading international institutions, WAF fosters knowledge exchange, technology transfer, policy dialogue, and implementation support that bridge local and global agricultural priorities.

To strengthen its collaborative framework and expand its reach across regions, WAF has entered into

Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs) with the following esteemed organizations:

1. **International Livestock Research Institute (ILRI)** - Enhancing livestock productivity and resilience through research-based solutions for sustainable agriculture.
2. **International Center for Biosaline Agriculture (ICBA)** - Promoting climate-smart and salinity-resilient agricultural practices to address food and water security challenges.
3. **International Fertilizer Development Center (IFDC)** - Advancing soil health, nutrient management, and sustainable fertilizer use to improve smallholder productivity.
4. **African-Asian Rural Development Organization (AARDO)** - Facilitating South-South cooperation and rural development through shared learning and innovation.
5. **Arab Authority for Agricultural Investment and Development (AAAID)** - Supporting joint initiatives in agricultural investment, innovation, and sustainable food systems.
6. **Global Flagship Initiative for Food Security (GFIFS)** - Collaborating on policy advocacy and multi-stakeholder engagement to accelerate progress toward global food security goals.
7. **Centre on Integrated Rural Development for Asia and the Pacific (CIRDAP)** - Promoting integrated rural development and capacity building for inclusive growth in Asia and the Pacific

Through these alliances, WAF reinforces its role as a global convenor, connecting governments, research institutions, private sector stakeholders, and development agencies to collectively address emerging challenges in agriculture, food systems, and rural livelihoods.



Future Partnerships and Collaboration Outlook

Looking ahead, the World Agriculture Forum aims to deepen and diversify its global engagement through new partnerships with multilateral organizations, regional institutions, and private sector innovators. These forthcoming collaborations will focus on emerging areas such as digital agriculture, sustainable value chains, regenerative farming, and youth and women's empowerment in agriculture.

By expanding its network of MoUs and joint initiatives, WAF continues to strengthen its platform as a catalyst for inclusive growth, sustainable development, and resilient global food systems.

The World Agriculture Forum (WAF) is guided by a diverse Governing Board comprising leaders from international organizations, research institutions, agribusiness, and the private sector. The Board provides strategic oversight, ensures transparency, and steers WAF's mission toward global agricultural transformation.

The Board

The WAF Board is the sole governance body of the Forum. The Board provides strategic oversight, approves policy and the work programme, and ensures fiduciary accountability. It is composed of senior leaders selected for their expertise and global perspective from sectors such as governments, development institutions, agribusiness, and technology. The Board sets direction and holds the organization to account; it does not perform operational functions.

The Global Council and Sectoral Working Groups

The Global Council and the Working Groups serve strictly advisory and consultative roles and are not governance bodies.

Global Council: The Council brings together eminent global experts and leaders to provide high-level advice, promote knowledge exchange, and foster international dialogue. It reflects WAF's commitments to inclusion and diversity and supplements Board deliberations with technical and strategic insight.

Working Groups: Convened from among Council members, these thematic groups develop policy recommendations, practical guidance, and collaborative initiatives for priority areas. The Thematic Priorities are:

- Sustainable Agricultural Practices
- Agricultural Finance and Investment
- Optimizing Agri-Food Supply Chains and Logistics / Reducing Food Loss and Waste
- Agricultural Education and Training
- Digitization and Technological Innovation
- Global Trade and Market Access
- Food Security and Nutrition
- Women and Youth in Agriculture
- Agribusiness and Entrepreneurship
- Sustainable Livestock and Fisheries Practices

Their outputs inform WAF programming and Board consideration but do not carry governance authority.

The Secretariat

The Secretariat is WAF's executive and operational body responsible for implementing the strategy and work programme approved by the Board. Headed by the Secretary General, appointed by and reporting directly to the Board, the Secretariat manages programmes, partnerships, communications, finance, and day-to-day operations.

The Secretariat is organizationally separate from the Board and does not possess governance powers; instead it executes Board decisions and coordinates inputs from the Council and Working Groups to deliver measurable outcomes.

Envisioning Sustainable Agriculture-Led Growth - A Commitment to Humanity, the Environment and the Planet

The World Agriculture Forum stands poised to revolutionize the global agricultural and agribusinesses landscape through its commitment to collective action, innovation, inclusivity, and sustainability. By convening diverse stakeholders, fostering collaboration, driving positive change, and ensuring equitable outcomes, the World Agriculture Forum is committed to advancing food and nutrition security through the promotion of advanced technologies including digital technologies, sustainable agricultural practices on land and in the water, and climate-smart food systems which will provide affordable, good nutrition for humanity.

The World Agriculture Forum will encourage discussion, presentation of new ideas, and assessment of innovations that encourage climate action, use of appropriate regenerative agriculture techniques and circular economy principles, encourage open and fair trade, assure that technologies are accessible, and will support agriculture start-ups and agribusinesses. Transcending geographical, political and community boundaries, the World Agriculture Forum will help provision of policy inputs, investments, and partnerships, as well as supporting agriculture entrepreneurs, innovators, and researchers to develop economically viable, environmentally friendly and financially sustainable models.

The World Agriculture Forum will be instrumental in shaping the future of agriculture, empowering rural and urban communities, and contributing to a food-secure, prosperous, and sustainable future for all. The World Agriculture Forum will power sustainable agricultural development through global advocacy, innovation and collaboration, and impactful action, advocating for sustainable policies and practices that prioritize food and nutrition security, environmental stewardship, and agricultural growth.

The World Agriculture Forum will foster partnerships that accelerate the adoption of smart technologies, drive climate resilience, lower the impact of agriculture on the environment, biodiversity and water, and unlock opportunities for agribusinesses. We invite all relevant stakeholders at local, national, regional and global levels, across the public and private sectors, to help turn vision into action from ground-level farming practices to global trade policies.



Let's Cultivate a Sustainable Tomorrow !



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