



**CONCEPT NOTE**

# WORLD AGRICULTURE FORUM

**Cultivating Solutions for a Sustainable Future**

*Where Innovation Meets Action for Global Agricultural Progress*

[www.worldagricultureforum.org](http://www.worldagricultureforum.org)

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## THE EVOLUTION OF GLOBAL AGRICULTURE

Agriculture, the bedrock of human civilization, has undergone a profound metamorphosis from subsistence-based practices to a dynamic economic powerhouse. In recent decades, globalization and technological advancements have accelerated this evolution, driving agriculture toward unprecedented innovation and precision. However, the escalating pressures burgeoning population, climate change, dwindling resources, and increasing disposable incomes have placed the global agricultural sector under immense strain, necessitating a paradigm shift in its approach.

## GLOBAL FOOD AND AGRICULTURE SCENARIO

Agriculture is the mainstay of the economies of two-thirds of the world, with the majority of Asian and African countries still dependent on the agricultural sector to support the livelihoods of vast populations. The global agriculture industry is valued at just over \$5 trillion, with food being the third-largest traded item, accounting for \$1.80 trillion. Asia is experiencing the highest growth in agricultural trade at 8.1%, while Africa is expected to drive the future growth.

Although Europe is the largest importer of many agricultural products, it is also among the leading suppliers of dairy and horticultural products. Currently, Africa imports almost everything but holds the potential to emerge as a major exporter of agricultural produce in the future. The United States, Brazil, the Netherlands, China, India, Japan, and Thailand are among the leading producers and top exporters of numerous agricultural commodities. Increased collaboration among nations will significantly accelerate agricultural growth, benefiting the entire world.

## THE IMPERATIVE FOR COLLECTIVE ACTION

The emergence of digital technologies and e-commerce have presented farmers and agribusinesses with an unparalleled opportunity to accelerate growth, expand markets, and enhance competitiveness. While developed nations have ascended the nutrition, and health value chain, the developing countries continue to grapple with formidable challenges in agricultural production, food security, and farmers' issues. These challenges, in light of the climate change, call for the urgent need for cooperation and collective global actions.

The confluence of globalization, trade, agribusiness growth, and digital innovation has amplified both opportunities and challenges in the sector. This underscores the need for a dynamic platform that brings together key stakeholders to facilitate the exchange of ideas and innovations, setting policy agenda and direction, and fostering cooperation and collaboration to address key challenges and maximize global opportunities.

## THE GENESIS OF THE WORLD AGRICULTURE FORUM

To address these pressing global agricultural challenges, the World Agriculture Forum (WAF) was conceived during the Global Agriculture Summit in 2017 in New Delhi and further discussed at the World Food Summit in Des Moines in 2018. WAF was envisioned as a neutral, global platform for nations, industries, experts, and institutions to converge, collaborate, and drive sustainable agricultural development. Its goal is to foster a culture of innovation, inclusivity, and collective problem-solving through policy agenda and the power of trade, technology and markets.

After extensive and in-depth consultations with experts and global leaders, a consensus was reached to establish the World Agriculture Forum, modelled on the pattern of the World Economic Forum, to address the pressing needs and opportunities within the agricultural sector, and unleash the potential of the sector.



WAF is a global platform connecting diverse stakeholders to drive sustainable agricultural development through policy advocacy, trade facilitation, and technology-driven solutions. WAF unites governments, farmers, agribusinesses, experts, and development institutions to bridge implementation gaps and drive sustainable agriculture and food systems transformation towards a resilient, food-secure future. With a strong focus on collaboration, innovation all along the value chain, and public-private partnerships, WAF is committed to transforming agriculture worldwide.

This non-profit venture stands sovereign and unbiased with its interest incumbent upon the betterment of agriculture and the livelihoods of smallholder farmers globally. Bringing together all the relevant stakeholders with a shared vision and focus on action, WAF will facilitate the flow of innovations, technologies, and success models that are often hindered due to lack of opportunity, policies or geographical barriers, in reaching intended beneficiaries.

The World Agriculture Forum will produce and share market intelligence and knowledge products, as well position papers to facilitate decision making. It will also organize its annual flagship event, the World Agriculture Summit, and related global events, where world leaders gather to deliberate pressing issues in sustainable agriculture and food systems, in line with the global agenda and national development plans. These summits also set the stage for public-private partnerships to materialize and showcase the latest developments and innovations in the sector. The Forum also presents an annual World Agriculture Prize to recognize persons, who have made significant contributions to humanity through agriculture.

Additionally, WAF plans to organize the World Agriculture Fair, along with various trade events and regional summits, to promote investments, trade, and technology cooperation. These events will also share global growth models and foster partnerships. Other key activities of the Forum include knowledge-sharing initiatives, research reports, consultation meetings, and policy advocacy to accelerate knowledge growth, initiate policy reforms, and enhance global business cooperation.

The WAF serves as convergence platform for regional and global bodies, trade and business chambers for knowledge sharing, boosting trade and cooperation and achieving working synergies through partnerships and collaborations.

The Forum also establishes standards, ratings, and recognitions, while offering advisories and policy inputs to guide global agriculture toward sustainable development in the face of weather risks, climate change, and rapid technological innovations.

In short, the World Agricultural Forum aims to fill the long-standing void of an international organization that functions as a neutral platform for sharing, learning, collaborating, and cooperating on policies, ideas, innovations, and businesses. Its ultimate goal is to ensure the livelihood security of millions of farmers and contribute to global food and nutrition security in a sustainable manner.

## Vision

The World Agriculture Forum envisions a transformative future where global agriculture is defined by boundless innovation, dynamic growth, unparalleled productivity, and unwavering sustainability. This aspirational vision is rooted in the conviction that agriculture must harmoniously balance the escalating needs of a growing global population, environmental stewardship, and economic prosperity for all, thereby ensuring a resilient, regenerative, and thriving food system that benefits both present and future generations.

## Mission

**To power sustainable agricultural development through:**

- **Global Advocacy:** We advocate for sustainable policies and practices that prioritize agricultural growth, environmental stewardship, and food systems transformation.
- **Innovation & Collaboration:** We 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.
- **Impactful Action:** From ground-level farming practices to global trade policies, we engage with stakeholders to turn vision into action..

## Mission Deliverables

- **Leading Global Agricultural Pathways:** Shaping the future of agriculture through dynamic, globally focused agenda-setting and development strategies.
- **Igniting a Sustainable Revolution:** Sparking a global shift towards sustainable farming, fuelled by innovation and strategic international partnerships.
- **Promoting Progressive Agri-Policies:** Advocating for impactful policies that enhance trade, nurture agribusinesses, and promote the sharing of breakthrough success stories and sustainable practices.
- **Uniting for Agricultural Advancement:** Bridging governments, industries, experts, and institutions to amplify investments, accelerate technological growth, and scale successful agricultural models worldwide.
- **Empowering Collective Innovation:** Mobilizing global efforts to drive forward agricultural efficiency, environmental resilience, and social inclusivity through bold, innovative policies and actions.
- **Tackling Global Agricultural Challenges:** Meeting the escalating global needs for food, fiber, fuel, and water while crafting a regenerative, resilient system that benefits both people and the planet.

## Our Key Objectives

- 1. Global Collaboration & Synergies:** Act as a dynamic convergence platform for regional and global bodies, trade networks, and business chambers to boost trade and cooperation, achieve working synergies through impactful partnerships.
- 2. Empowering Farmers & Supporting Innovation:** Equip farmers with skills, access to finance, and advanced technology to boost productivity and access global markets while driving high-tech, value-added agricultural solutions to address global challenges.
- 3. Sustainable Development & Climate Resilience:** Establish standards, ratings, and providing actionable policy advisories to drive global agriculture towards sustainable, climate-resilient practices.
- 4. Advancing Agribusiness, Trade, & Technology:** Support agribusiness growth by fostering investments, promoting agritech start-ups, and encouraging sustainable trade models.
- 5. Serving as a Knowledge Hub:** Function as a neural global platform for ideas, innovations, policies, trade, and businesses. Share, learn, collaborate to create greater synergy, ensuring farmers' livelihoods and build a sustainable, secure global food system.
- 6. Catalysing Public-Private Partnerships:** Facilitate collaborations that showcase ground-breaking developments, innovations, and sustainable practices in agriculture.
- 7. Convening Global Stakeholders:** Host annual events where world leaders converge to discuss and set the global agricultural agenda, driving transformative change.
- 8. Recognizing Excellence:** Present the Agriculture Awards to honour individuals and institutions who have made remarkable contributions to global agriculture.

## 1. WAF BOARD: GLOBAL THOUGHT LEADERSHIP

The WAF Board governs the affairs of the Forum and provides strategic oversight. It comprises of distinguished members, carefully selected to represent diverse perspectives and expertise, drawing from:

- Corporates
- Development Institutions
- Governments
- Technology Bodies
- Secretariat

## 2. WAF GLOBAL COUNCIL: A DIVERSE ASSEMBLY OF GLOBAL EXPERTS

The WAF Council is a global assembly of prominent individuals, bringing together a wealth of knowledge and experience from diverse fields and different countries. The Council's composition mirrors the Board's and reflects our principles of inclusion, diversity, and broad representation. With members from across the world, the Council fosters cross-cultural dialogue and drives innovation across industries. To ensure impactful contributions, the Council operates through 10 specialized working groups, allowing members to join based on their field of expertise. These groups serve as dynamic platforms for collaboration, thought leadership, and strategic action, shaping the future with a shared vision of progress and unity.

## 3. WORKING GROUPS: FOCUSED EXPERTISE FOR IMPACT

WAF establishes sector-specific working groups, each comprising 10-12 members drawn from the Global Council. These groups tackle policy, trade, and technology issues unique to each sector, unlocking potential, fostering engagement, and facilitating cooperation among key stakeholders to drive meaningful impact and progress. The first set of priorities to focus on the following priority areas:

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

The Secretariat of the World Agriculture Forum (WAF) is tasked with implementing the strategy and work program of the organization and entrusted to ensure smooth operation and effective communication across all its initiatives. The Secretariat functions under the leadership of the Secretary General, appointed by and reporting to the Board, who is responsible for overseeing the strategic direction and ensuring alignment with WAF's mission. The Secretariat includes all core functions of the organization, with a multi-cultural team driving programs, operations, partnerships and core services.

## Operational Principles

### Building a Robust Foundation for Global Impact

- **Dynamic Leadership:** Streamlined and strategic leadership that drives WAF's long-term vision, guaranteeing seamless execution of programs and initiatives for maximum global impact.
- **Financial Governance:** Meticulous financial oversight, ensuring prudent resource allocation, transparent expenditures, and sustained financial health.
- **Strategic Adaptability:** proactive and strategic planning, enabling WAF to navigate emerging opportunities and challenges in the evolving global agricultural landscape.
- **Operational Excellence:** Expertly managed day-to-day operations, prioritizing efficiency and effectiveness and delivering results.



## Our Strategic Goals

### Empowering Farmers | Fostering Innovation | Driving Global Change

- **Global Agenda & Advocacy:** Driving agriculture toward sustainability and sufficiency by shaping innovative policies for climate resilience, sustainable financing, and equitable support, ensuring a future-ready agricultural framework.
- **Collaborations & Partnerships:** Promoting collaboration among policy makers, industries, farmers, academia and international organizations.
- **Empowering Farmers:** Equipping farmers with essential skills, access to finance, and market linkages—turning small-scale farmers into global players.
- **Trade & Technology:** Advancing Agribusiness and supporting the Agri startup ecosystem by driving sustainable trade, fostering investments, and promoting world-class technologies that are transforming agriculture globally.
- **Recognition & Excellence:** Presenting the World Agriculture Prize to honor outstanding contributions to global agriculture while showcasing innovations shaping the future of the sector.

## Stakeholder Engagement

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

1. **Global Bodies:** Collaborating with esteemed organizations like FAO, UNDP, World Bank, IFAD, IFC, and G-20 to leverage their expertise and resources.
2. **Government and Ministries:** Partnering with Ministries of Food, Trade, and Agriculture across countries to align policies and programs with sustainable agriculture goals.
3. **Regional Institutions:** Engaging with influential regional entities like ASEAN, EU, NAFTA, BRICS, AGRA, ADB, and AfDB to foster cooperation and knowledge sharing.
4. **Technology Bodies:** Collaborating with renowned institutions like ICRISAT, IRRI, CYMMIT, ILRI, and universities to harness innovation and scientific expertise.
5. **Corporate Partners:** Working with leading corporates in food, agriculture, machinery, technology, and processing to drive industry-wide adoption of sustainable practices.

Through these inclusive partnerships, WAF aims to create a vibrant ecosystem that accelerates sustainable agricultural development, ensuring a food-secure, prosperous, and environmentally conscious future for all.



**Dr. Rudy Rabbinge**

Chairman, WAF Board  
Former Senate Member, The Netherlands  
Former Chairman, Science Council, CGIAR  
**The Netherlands**



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Senior Vice Chair, WAF Board  
Biodiversity Scientist  
Former President, Republic of Mauritius  
**Mauritius**



**Dr. William Dar**

Vice Chair, WAF Board  
Former Secretary of Agriculture,  
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Indian Businesswomen, Philanthropist and  
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Former Prime Minister, Republic of Niger  
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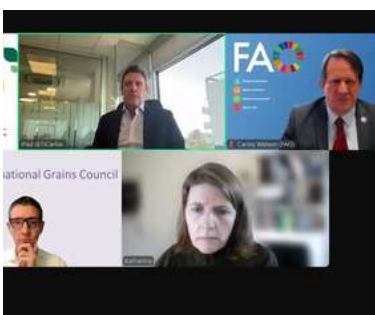
**Carlos Rodriguez-Villa Förster**

Managing Director at AlgaEnergy [B  
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President of the Board of EBIC  
**Spain**



**Prof. Wendy Umberger**

Former President, Australia's Policy  
Advisory Council  
CEO, Australian Centre for International  
Agricultural Research  
**Australia**



## Media Coverage

### High-Level Delegation from World Agriculture Forum Visits ICBA to Strengthen Collaboration on Sustainable Agriculture



### WAF, FAO to hold consultation meeting



### World Agriculture Forum Welcomes Dr. Tarifa A. Alzaabi, a Visionary Social Scientist and Agriculture Leader, as its Board Member



### WORLD AGRICULTURE FORUM AND INDIAN CHAMBER OF FOOD & AGRICULTURE DELEGATIONS VISIT HEARTFULNESS INSTITUTE TO FOSTER TECHNICAL KNOW-HOW



### ICR Director General appointed to World Agriculture Forum Council

Dr. Rakesh Prasad, Director General, ICR, has been nominated to the Council of the World Agriculture Forum (WAF), a newly launched body that is dedicated to advancing agricultural development on a worldwide scale.



### Swaminathan

October 27, 2018 | Kailash Mami Tripathi



### Dr. Jacqueline Hughes Assume Role of Secretary General of the World Agriculture Forum



### CIRDAP partners with World Agriculture Forum (WAF)



CIRDAP and World Agriculture Forum, Zuidwolde, Netherlands signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) in the presence of the global representatives during 2<sup>nd</sup> World Agriculture Award ceremony, 2024 held on September 18, 2024 at Mumbai, India. The MoU...



## CONCLUSION

### **Envisioning Agriculture Led Growth - A Commitment to Humanity, Environment and Ecology**

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, WAF is committed to advancing food and nutrition security through the promotion of digital technologies, sustainable agricultural practices and smart food systems.

The World Agriculture Forum will fuel discourse, ideas, and innovations that encourage open trade and technology flow, support start-ups and agribusinesses, climate action and regenerative agriculture, and circular economy principles. Transcending geographical and community boundaries, the Forum will help the countries with policy inputs, investments, projects and partnerships. WAF shall also support Agri entrepreneurs, innovators, and researchers to develop economically viable and financially sustainable models.

WAF will be instrumental in shaping the future of agriculture, empowering rural communities globally, and contributing to a food-secure, prosperous, and sustainable future for all through global policy agenda and advocacy, trade and agribusinesses, and collaboration and collective action to empower farmers worldwide.



# *Cultivating Solutions for a Sustainable Future*



## WAF Partners





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