

2026

WORLD AGRICULTURE FORUM

Quarterly Report

Q1 2026 (January–March 2026)



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Message from The Executive Director



The first quarter of 2026 marks an important step forward in WAF's ongoing effort to shape a more innovation, business and investment friendly global agriculture ecosystem, and an inclusive, future-ready food system. Across regions and conversations, one thing is getting increasingly clear that the world is looking at agriculture differently. It is no longer seen as a standalone sector, but as a system that sits at the heart of how we address trade, climate uncertainty, and economic stability. Repositioning agriculture within this broader systemic context is necessary and urgent.

Over the past few months, our engagements have gone beyond dialogues. Through international platforms, strategic partnerships, and knowledge initiatives, we have sought to advance a more integrated understanding of agriculture one that reflects its deep interconnections with water, energy, trade, investment, and geopolitical dynamics. What is particularly encouraging is the growing willingness among stakeholders to move beyond fragmented approaches toward greater alignment; to connect ideas with action, and ambition with implementation. This is where the real challenge, and opportunity, lies.

At WAF, we are constantly striving to navigate interdependencies, and strengthening systems that enable delivery, while ensuring that farmers are positioned at the centre of this transition, not just as participants, but as leaders of change. I believe we need to work more collaboratively, to translate global conversations into meaningful outcomes on the ground. WAF will continue to play its role in convening, connecting, and contributing to this shift, but ultimately, progress will depend on the strength of our partnerships and shared commitment.

As we look ahead, WAF remains committed to strengthening collaboration across sectors and regions, deepening its thought leadership, and driving actionable pathways that translate global priorities into measurable impact. In the first quarter of 2026, WAF has strengthened its team of researchers, and accelerated the pace of outreach, partnerships and policy dialogues, and expanded its Governmental outreach.

The work ahead is complex, but the opportunity to shape a more resilient and inclusive future for agriculture has never been more important or more within reach. We thank our partners and stakeholders for their continued engagement and look forward to building on this momentum in the quarters ahead.



Dr. MJ Khan
Executive Director

Executive Summary

The first quarter of 2026 marked a decisive phase in the evolution of the World Agriculture Forum (WAF) as a globally relevant platform shaping the future of agriculture and food systems.

At a time of increasing climate volatility, geopolitical fragmentation, and food system stress, WAF's work this quarter focused on bridging global dialogue with systemic action.

Across high-level global platforms, policy dialogues, and knowledge outputs, WAF advanced a clear and consistent agenda to reposition agriculture as central to climate resilience, economic stability, and global cooperation.

Key highlights include:

- High-level global engagements at major international platforms
- Convening of strategic policy dialogues on food systems, trade, and digital transformation
- Expansion of WAF's global leadership and country council network
- Release of flagship reports and policy briefs
- Strengthening partnerships across governments, international organizations, and research institutions

WAF continues to position itself as a neutral, action-oriented platform bridging policy, science, finance and implementation to drive systemic transformation in agriculture.

1. Global Engagements & Strategic Presence

In Q1 2026, WAF strengthened its global presence by actively engaging in leading international platforms where the future of climate, economy, and development is being shaped. These engagements were not limited to participation, they were strategic interventions aimed at repositioning agriculture from a sectoral concern to a central pillar of global stability and resilience. By convening with policymakers, multilateral institutions, and industry leaders, WAF contributed to shaping narratives around integrated systems thinking, cross-sector collaboration, and the role of agriculture in addressing interconnected global challenges.

1.1 GLOBAL FORUM FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE (GFFA), BERLIN *(Date: 15-17 January 2026)*

WAF leadership engaged with global stakeholders across governments, multilateral institutions, and private sector actors. Discussions focused on Food security under climate stress, Water resilience and sustainable production and Cross-sector collaboration

Strategic Value : Positioned agriculture within climate adaptation and resource security frameworks, reinforcing its role in global stability.

1.2 WORLD ECONOMIC FORUM (WEF), DAVOS

Date: 19-21 January 2026

At Davos, WAF contributed to elevating agriculture within global economic and climate discourse. A key narrative that emerged that Farmers are solution providers, not just beneficiaries and Agriculture is central to climate resilience and economic systems.

Impact: Helped integrate agriculture into mainstream global economic discourse, beyond traditional development framing.

1.3 ABU DHABI SUSTAINABILITY WEEK (ADSW) – “NEXT CROP DIALOGUE” *(Date: 15 January 2026)*

WAF co-hosted a high-level dialogue on the Water-Energy-Food-Environment (WEFE) Nexus, emphasizing Integrated system approaches, Localised innovation over imported solutions and Policy frameworks to support sustainability. The

meeting was co-convened by World Agriculture Forum UAE Country Council and Abu Dhabi Sustainability Week. Our Country Council Chair, H.E. Ms. Haifa Kaylani moderated the discussions.

Strategic Contribution: Shifted the conversation from sectoral solutions to interconnected system design.

1.4 AAAID CONFERENCE ON CONFERENCE ON ACHIEVING FOOD SECURITY IN THE ARAB WORLD

(Date: 4-5 February 2026 | Location: Dubai)

1.4.1 - Roundtable on Trade, Policy, and Regional Cooperation

Event: Conference on Achieving Food Security in the Arab World

Organised by: Arab Authority for Agricultural Investment and Development (AAAID)

The World Agriculture Forum (WAF) participated in a high-level roundtable titled: ***“Challenges and Ways to Achieve Sustainable Food Security from the Perspective of Regional and International Professional and Academic Leaders.”***

Convened as part of the AAAID Conference on Achieving Food Security in the Arab World, the roundtable brought together policymakers, academic experts, and institutional leaders to examine the structural and systemic challenges shaping food security across the region.

As a Strategic Partner to AAAID, WAF played an active role in shaping the discussion. WAF's Chief Operating Officer contributed expert insights focused on Strengthening policy coordination across countries , advancing regional trade integration and Promoting cooperative frameworks for sustainable food systems The discussion underscored that food security in the Arab world cannot be addressed through isolated national strategies alone.

Key Insight: Sustainable food security in the region will depend on the ability to move from fragmented approaches toward coordinated regional action and

shared institutional frameworks.

1.4.2 - WAF Session: Finance and Innovation for Resilient Agri-food Systems

WAF hosted a high-level panel on Finance and Innovation, moderated by Ms. Ramona Angelescu Naqvi, Chief Operating Officer, WAF.

The distinguished panel featured:

- Dr. Shamal Mohammed, CEO, Innovation Oasis, Silal
- Ms. Haifa Al Kaylani OBE, President & Founder, Arab International Women's Forum; Co-Chair, WAF UAE Country Council
- Mr. Sudhakar Tomar, President, India Middle East Agri Alliance Ecosystem; Member, WAF Executive Council

Core Message:

Sustainable transformation will depend on aligning



finance, innovation, and institutional frameworks to deliver impact at scale

These global engagements collectively reinforced three critical shifts in the global agricultural narrative: the recognition of agriculture as a strategic pillar underpinning both climate resilience and economic systems; the positioning of farmers as central actors, innovators and decision-makers, within these systems; and the growing urgency to adopt integrated approaches that connect food, water, energy, and trade, moving beyond fragmented solutions toward coordinated, system-wide transformation.

2. Policy Dialogues & Convenings

WAF's policy dialogues and convenings during this quarter focused on translating global challenges into actionable insights and frameworks. Bringing together diverse stakeholders—including policymakers, researchers, private sector leaders, and practitioners—these dialogues created a space for critical reflection and forward-looking solutions. The emphasis was on addressing structural barriers, fostering inclusive systems, and advancing practical pathways for transformation across food systems, trade, technology, and sustainability.

2.1 Food Security And Trade Shifts Dialogue

(Date: 27 January 2026)

This dialogue examined Geopolitical disruptions and trade fragmentation and the need for resilient and inclusive trade systems

Key Insight: Shift toward “Intelligent Interdependence” balancing domestic resilience with global trade integration

2.2 Digital Extension For Inclusive Agrifood Transformation

(Date: 26 February 2026)

Focused on the role of AI and digital tools in agriculture; Bridging vs widening the digital divide, Importance of farmer-centric design and Need for trust, governance, and digital literacy

Key Insight: Technology must be human-guided and locally grounded



2.3 Millets For Climate & Nutrition Dialogue

(Date: 18 March 2026)

Repositioned millets as:

- Climate-resilient crops
- Nutritional solutions
- Underutilised global assets

Key Insight: The challenge is not technical, it is policy prioritisation and market integration



2.4 Biotechnology & Ai In Plant Breeding Webinar

(Date: 26 March 2026)

Explored:

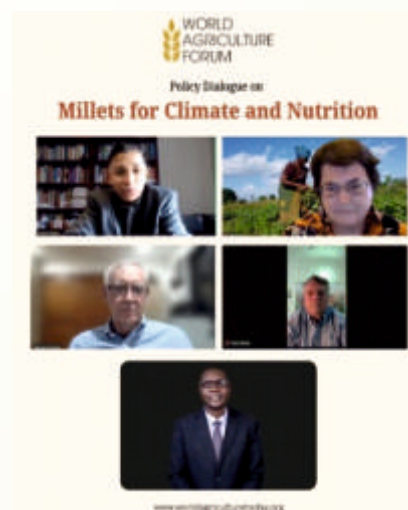
- ◇ AI-driven crop improvement
- ◇ Biotechnology innovations
- ◇ Scaling scientific advancements

2.5 Special Convening On International Women's Day

(Date: 8 March 2026)

The session Highlighted Women's role across agri-food systems, Barriers to land, finance, and decision-making

Key Insight: Gender inclusion is central to productivity and resilience, not peripheral



3. Thought Leadership & Publications

WAF's knowledge outputs in Q1 2026 reflect a deliberate shift toward deeper systems analysis and policy-relevant insights. Through flagship reports, policy briefs, and issue papers, WAF contributed to shaping global discourse by connecting evidence, policy, and implementation realities. These publications go beyond diagnosis, offering strategic direction on how to navigate complexity, address systemic risks, and translate ambition into action across agrifood systems.

3.1 Flagship Report Release

1. Report on “Advancing Sustainable Agriculture – From Policy to Practice”

This report addresses the implementation gap in sustainable agriculture, highlighting that the challenge is no longer policy design but delivery systems.

Focus:

- ✓ Leadership and governance
- ✓ Institutional readiness
- ✓ Science-driven delivery

Core Message: Transformation requires redesigning institutions, incentives, and financing systems, not just policies.

2. Report on Women in Agriculture; Roles, Challenges and Opportunities

Focus on : Equity, Access to resources, Systemic inclusion



3.2 Geopolitics & Food Systems Analysis

1. Policy Brief – Advancing Sustainable Agriculture: From Policy to Practice

The policy brief examined one of the most critical challenges in global agriculture today: why strong policy commitments on sustainable agriculture continue to fail at the implementation stage.

Core Issue Explored : The brief argues that the challenge is no longer a lack of ideas, science, or policy frameworks, it is a systemic failure of implementation.

The brief calls for a fundamental redesign of how agricultural systems function:

- ✓ Science-led implementation, where data, diagnostics, and innovation are embedded in delivery systems
- ✓ Adoption of Water-Energy-Food-Environment (WEFE) nexus thinking to manage trade-offs across sectors
- ✓ Context-specific solutions, rather than uniform national approaches
- ✓ Integration of youth as active actors in policy design, innovation, and delivery

2. Policy Brief When Conflicts Choke the World's Food Supply Global Food System Risks from the Strait of Hormuz Disruption



The policy brief examined the intersection of geopolitics, trade dependencies, and food system resilience, using the Strait of Hormuz as a critical case study.

It highlighted how global food systems are deeply interconnected with strategic maritime chokepoints, through which a significant share of global energy and commodity flows pass. Any disruption in these routes has immediate and cascading impacts on agricultural systems worldwide

3. Issue Brief – Digital Extension for Inclusive Agrifood Systems Transformation

The issue brief on Digital Extension for Inclusive Agrifood Systems Transformation provided a comprehensive analysis of how AI-driven digital extension systems are reshaping agrifood systems,

while also highlighting the risks of exclusion if governance and design are not addressed.

The brief explored the transition of agricultural advisory systems from information delivery platforms to AI-enabled decision-support systems integrating climate, market, and production data.

The brief critically emphasized that technological advancement alone does not guarantee equitable outcomes.

4. Issue brief on Millets for climate and Nutrition

The Issue Brief on Millets for Climate and Nutrition- Bringing back millets on Global Agenda Repositions millets within global food systems as a ready solution that remains under-scaled due to policy and market gaps.

Strategic Value of Knowledge Outputs

Across its body of publications, WAF demonstrates a strong commitment to thought leadership by advancing a coherent and analytically grounded narrative that reframes agriculture as a systemic domain rather than a standalone sector, deeply embedded within broader ecological, economic, and geopolitical systems. Through its knowledge outputs, WAF not only synthesizes emerging global challenges but also shapes discourse by offering forward-looking, policy-relevant insights. It underscores that technological innovation, while essential, is not inherently neutral and must be guided by appropriate governance frameworks to ensure equitable and context-sensitive outcomes. Furthermore, WAF highlights that the effectiveness of policy is contingent not merely on design, but on the strength and functionality of implementation systems that translate intent into practice. In doing so, its thought leadership consistently emphasizes the necessity of integrating global risks including climate volatility, market disruptions, and geopolitical uncertainties into agricultural planning, positioning resilience and adaptability as central to future food systems transformation.

4. Institutional Strengthening

To support its expanding global role, WAF undertook key steps to strengthen its institutional architecture and operational capacity. This included enhancing governance structures, building leadership depth across regions, and aligning internal systems with global best practices. These efforts are critical to ensuring that WAF can effectively deliver on its mandate as a globally connected, action-oriented platform.

4.1 Global Leadership Team Formation

A diverse leadership group across Asia, Africa, Europe, Americas.

Focus areas: Policy, Trade, Investment, Innovation

Impact : Building a distributed, regionally anchored global network capable of translating global priorities into local action

4.2 Organisational Transformation (Hr & Governance)

Led by HR leadership: New governance structures, Capacity-building frameworks, Institutional alignment with global best practices



5. Global Network Expansion



A key priority for WAF in this quarter was the expansion of its global network to ensure stronger regional representation and localized engagement. By onboarding country leaders and strengthening its distributed presence, WAF is building a network that bridges global priorities with local realities—enabling more grounded, context-specific action and collaboration.

5.1 Country Director Appointments

Africa

- Zimbabwe
- Zambia
- Kenya
- Senegal
- Morocco
- Nigeria

Europe & Americas

- Poland
- Canada
- USA
- Argentina
- Peru

Asia-Pacific

- Malaysia
- Australia

6. Strategic Partnerships & Engagements

Partnerships remains central to WAF's approach, recognizing that systemic transformation cannot be achieved in isolation. During this quarter, WAF deepened its engagement with governments, research institutions, and international organizations to co-create solutions, align priorities, and unlock opportunities for collaborative impact across the agrifood ecosystem.

6.1 Government Engagement - India

Meeting with Finance Minister on Climate-resilient agriculture , Agri-financing, Startup ecosystem support

6.2 ILRI Partnership - Kenya

Focus on Science-driven transformation, Livestock systems, Joint global initiatives

7. Key Strategic Insights

Drawing from its engagements, dialogues, and research, WAF identified a set of cross-cutting insights that define the current trajectory of global agriculture. These insights reflect emerging realities, persistent challenges, and strategic shifts required to drive meaningful transformation in agrifood systems.

Across all activities, five major themes emerged:

1. Agriculture is Systemic, Linked to climate, trade, energy, and geopolitics
2. Farmers are Central Actors, Not beneficiaries but innovators and decision-makers
3. Inclusion is Foundational, Digital, gender, and economic inclusion must be designed upfront
4. Policy & Finance are Enablers, Technology alone cannot drive transformation
5. From Dialogue to Delivery, Execution and implementation are now the priority

8. Upcoming (Q2 2026 Preview)

Looking ahead, WAF will build on the momentum of Q1 by scaling its engagements, deepening partnerships, and advancing its thought leadership agenda. The focus will increasingly shift toward implementation translating dialogue and insight into tangible outcomes that drive impact on the ground.

Q1 2026 has laid a strong foundation for WAF's evolution into a globally connected, action-oriented platform.

The upcoming/Q2 Preview:

1. Earth Day Dialogue: Carbon-Positive Food Systems (22 April 2026)
2. "Engaging youth in the Future of Agriculture: Challenges and Opportunities" (30th April 2026)
3. Global Soil Health Coalition (GSHC) Soft Launch
4. Expansion of country councils
5. Organizational expansion
6. New policy reports and Briefs

WAF Country Directors



Mr. Faissal Sehbaoui

Country Director - Morocco

Chief Executive Officer
AgriEdge



Ms. Kellie Walters

Country Director - Australia

Chief Executive Officer,
Free, Prior and Informed Consent
(FPIC)



Ms. Nouran Ezzeldin

Country Director - Egypt

Founder & CEO,
Granos Croc for Global Agribusiness
Solutions and Export



Mr. Alexander Isong

Country Director - Nigeria

President, Organization for
Technology Advancement of Cold
Chain in West Africa (OTACCWA)



Dr. Joseph Tinawo

Country Director - Zimbabwe

Executive Director
Food & Nutrition Security Research
Institute



Mr. Ibrahim Kane

Country Director - Senegal

Founder & Managing Director
Senec Agro



Mr. Charles Hyland

Country Director - New Zealand

Managing Director
BioGro New Zealand Ltd



Mr. Oscar E V Mageny

Country Director - Kenya

Member of Global Council
World Agriculture Forum



Mr. Carlos Becco

Country Director - Argentina

Senior Advisor - Agribusiness
Ag Tech and Regenerative Ag



Ms. Robynne Anderson

Country Director - Canada

President, Emerging Ag



Mr. Raymund Ilustre

Country Director - Philippines

Vice Chairman
Atlas Fertilizer Corporation



Dr. Shadreck Phiri Chisulo

Country Director - Zambia

Steering Committee Member
CEPRO Zambia



Dr. Mahaletchumy Arujanan

Country Director - Malaysia

Executive Director
Malaysian Biotechnology Information
Centre (MABIC)



Mr. Hugo Campos

Country Director - Peru

Deputy Director General Science
International Potato Center



Mr. Mandar Gadge

Country Director - Singapore

Chief Executive Officer
Grain International



Mr. Rakesh K Chitkara

Country Director - UAE

Country Director - UAE
World Agriculture Forum



Dr. Emilia Mikulewicz

Country Director - Poland

CEO & Founder
Cultiva EcoSolutions



Mr. Rai Muhammad Usman

Country Director - Pakistan

Chief Executive Officer
Sourcing Pakistan Group



Mr. Dennis O Carter

Country Director - Ghana

Group Chief Executive Officer,
Maxigate Group of Companies Ltd.



Dr. Roberto Chiteta

Country Director - Angola

Founder & CEO
Roberto Sowe Dreams Foundation

9. Conclusion

The first quarter of 2026 marks a period of strategic consolidation and forward momentum for WAF, defined by its growing role as a convener, knowledge leader, and catalyst for systems transformation in global agriculture. Across engagements, policy dialogues, and knowledge outputs, a clear message emerges: the future of agriculture will be determined not by incremental change, but by the ability to rethink and realign systems at scale.

What distinguishes this moment is not a lack of solutions, but a convergence of pressures—climate instability, geopolitical uncertainty, resource constraints, and widening inequalities—that demand more coordinated, integrated, and decisive action. WAF's work during this quarter reflects a deliberate shift toward addressing these complexities holistically, positioning agriculture at the center of climate, economic, and development agendas.

Looking ahead, the priority is clear: to move from dialogue to delivery. This requires strengthening implementation ecosystems, deepening partnerships across sectors and regions, and ensuring that global frameworks translate into tangible outcomes for farmers and communities. It also calls for embedding resilience into every layer of the agrifood system—through diversified supply chains, inclusive governance, and adaptive policy design.

WAF will continue to build on this momentum by expanding its global footprint, amplifying its thought leadership, and driving collaborative action that bridges policy, practice, and innovation. In an increasingly uncertain world, the path forward lies not in isolated interventions, but in collective, system-wide transformation. The challenge is no longer to understand what needs to be done—but to act with urgency, coherence, and scale.

WAF Partners



Let's Cultivate a Sustainable Tomorrow !



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