

**Promoting Youth Engagement and Employment in Agriculture and
Food Systems**

CFS, 13 October, 2021, Rome

PSM Intervention

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Mr. Chairman,

Thank you to the panelists for their interventions and to Luciano for calling for specific policy measures to support youth engagement.

Collectively, we need to reframe agriculture as a business choice that is intellectually, socially, and financially rewarding, as well as one in which young people can have an incredible impact on issues such as climate change, hunger, displacement, poverty, and more.

If we want to recruit talent into agriculture, CFS needs to consider recommendations for programs that:

- Showcase the diversity of career options within the food system to attract talented young people with demonstrated interest in such areas as biology, environmental science, agricultural engineering, plant science, politics, economics, marketing, business, sales, and more.
- Connect young agricultural leaders from diverse countries and regions to scholarships, professional development opportunities, mentors, and networks.
- Highlight successes of young agricultural leaders and empower them to serve as role models for others.

- Celebrate national strategies that incentivize entry into the field, especially those that support fair compensation to farmers, work to alleviate stigmas against agricultural professions, simplify access to markets, and mobilize government resources for knowledge sharing between countries and sectors.
- Provide farmers platforms to share their innovative work in agriculture that advances the SDGs.
- Support value adding for youth through innovation throughout the agrifood value chain.

Youth are the future of the food system. Please ensure we are given extra opportunities to engage in this process.