

## IAFN Climate, Science, and Innovation Event Partnering 4 Betters Highlights

3 May 2023 | 10:00 – 18:00 | Le Meridien Visconti, Rome

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The FAO Strategic Framework 2022-31 has created the 'Four Betters'; *better production, better nutrition, better environment, and better life*, leaving no one behind, to guide the work of the organization towards the SDGs. To further private sector support for the Four Betters and to advance private sector work that is aligned with the FAO Strategic Framework, the International Agri-Food Network (IAFN) members convened an event with an emphasis on the FAO Science and Innovation and Climate Strategies as well as investment in SDG2.

The event was well attended with over 100 enthusiastic guests among which included Ambassadors and other senior representatives of Member States, UN agencies and the Private Sector. Special Guest Speakers at the event were Director-General of FAO, Dr QU Dongyu, Deputy Director-Generals of FAO, Beth Bechdol and Maria Helena Semedo and FAO Chief Economist Maximo Torero Cullen.

The event was held as a full one-day event allowing for active engagement of the Private Sector with Member States and representatives from the Rome Based Agencies.

Plenaries were held on science and innovation and on climate. Three workshops per theme allowed for deeper discussions and the exploration of ideas and initiatives, focused on furthering FAO's efforts in key areas. An investment café at lunch was held in preparation for FAO's Investment Forum.

A key outcome of the event was the announcement of the extension of the Accelerator Mentorship Programme for Women-led SMEs in Africa.

We would like to thank the Director-General Dr QU Dongyu, Deputy Director-Generals of FAO, Beth Bechdol and Maria Helena Semedo and FAO Chief Economist Máximo Torero Cullen, all the speakers, moderators and guests for the very lively and enriching discussions and insights shared during the forum.

## Plenary on Science and Innovation “Working Together on Innovation: Partnerships and Investment”



**Moderator:** Jaine Chisholm Caunt OBE, Director General, Grain and Feed Trade Association

**Special Guest Speaker:** Beth Bechdol, Deputy Director General, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

**Speakers:**

1. Piercristiano Brazzale, President, International Dairy Federation
2. Julia Harnal, Vice President, Public Affairs Agricultural Solutions, BASF
3. Paul Harrison, Vice President, Agri-Commodities, SGS
4. Ebunoluwa Ijeoma Ajobiwe, Doctoral Researcher, University of Basilicata, Institute for Sustainable Plant Protection and Italian National Research Council

### Key points:

- The Director General’s Manifesto speaks to innovation extensively. There is an opportunity for FAO to show leadership globally on role innovation and digital.
- FAO is adopting new technologies and the private sector is willing to offer insights. This is particularly important since private sector investments in research and development are larger than those of the public sector.
- Private Sector will make experts available during the Science and Innovation Forum and hope to see at least one private sector person on each workshop.
- Ultimately all efforts should help bring technology that is successful for farmers.

## Science & Innovation Workshop n. 1 “Partnerships and Pathways to improve Innovation for all”



**Moderator:** Emily Rees, President & CEO, CropLife International

**Speakers:**

1. Ellen Luger, Minister Counselor of Agriculture, U.S. Mission to the UN Agencies in Rome
2. Eric Dereudre, Public Affairs Director, Corteva
3. Ivan Prusina, Private Sector Partnerships, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

### Key Points:

- Creating partnerships is the key to addressing challenges to improve innovation for all.
- To build trust and accountability, these partnerships can start in an informal way, through events such as this one as an example.
- Collaboration is needed in target setting, not only monitoring. It is necessary to work more on how to respond to demand, than supply.
- Trade impediments are a shared concern.

### Science & Innovation Workshop n. 2 “Science and Innovation to Further One Health and Climate”



**Moderator:** Caroline Emond, Director, International Dairy Federation

#### Speakers:

1. H.E. Carlos Bernardo Cherniak, Ambassador, Mission of Argentina to FAO
2. Margrethe Jonkman, Global Director Research, Friesland Campina
3. Carel du Marchie Sarvaas, Executive Director, Health for Animals
4. Keith Sumption, Chief Veterinary Officer, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
5. Badi Besbes, Senior Animal Production Officer, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

### Key Points:

- The COAG sub-committee on livestock should be informed of new initiatives taking place at country level that illustrate innovation across the sector.
- The ongoing collaboration between FAO & private sector to address avian flu exemplifies how implementation of the 4 Betters can be supported.
- The Global Livestock Conference, FAO September 25 - 27, 2023, will be an opportunity to further highlight partnership. Private sector will send delegates.
- Private sector will encourage youth participation.
- There is a willingness to work together on technical trainings on animal health which FAO may organize.

### Science & Innovation Workshop No. 3 “ATIO: What Role for Private Sector”



**Moderator:** Michael Keller, Secretary General, International Seed Federation

**Speakers:**

1. Vincent Martin, Director of Innovation, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
2. Preet Lidder, Technical Adviser, Office of the Chief Scientist, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
3. Romano de Vivo, Vice President, Sustainability, Croplife International

**Key Points:**

- Private Sector has 3 scientists willing to serve from different sectors on the ATIO process.
- The private sector is open to exploring what kinds of information can be shared for the ATIO development. This needs to be made more concrete.
- If Chief Scientist organizes a foresight process-each sector, including animal health, digital agriculture, inputs, food inspection, and food technologists would supply experts to help the FAO.

### Investment Café “Partnering for Investment: Hand in Hand in Agrifood Systems”

**Moderator:** Rick White, President, and CEO, Canadian Canola Growers Association

**Keynote Speaker:** Maximo Torero Cullen, Chief Economist, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

**Speakers:**

Bernhard Mauritz Stormyr, Vice President of Sustainability Governance, Yara

- Chief Economist Maximo Torero Cullen shared insights into the Investment Forum and the Hand in Hand Initiative. Mr. Stormyr talked about the importance of investing into the Hand in Hand countries.
- Participants then engaged in informal discussions over lunch. It is clear more information needs to be shared on the specific countries and opportunities for investment in Hand-in-Hand.
- Private sector representatives need to understand how to engage in the investment forum within WFF while gauging expectations of participation.
- The Investment process needs several levels of conversation, including de-risking and assessments of supply chains.

## Plenary on Climate “Climate Proofing our Food Systems”



**Moderator:** Donald Moore, Executive Director, Global Dairy Platform

**Special Guest Speaker:** Maria Helena Semedo, Deputy Director-General, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

**Speakers:**

1. Alzbeta Klein, Director General, International Fertilizer Association
2. Fred Yoder, Co-chair, Solutions from the Land
3. Francesco Tramontin, Vice-President group Public Policy Center and EU, Institutional Relations, Ferrero

### Key Points:

- Today’s meeting with Private Sector provides a good example of transformation being undertaken by FAO to seek new ways of doing things to address climate change.
- Working together can bring synergies to have positive effect.
- There is a need to advocate at global, regional, country and community level for both adaptation and mitigation.
- Private Sector can foster innovation, investment in food systems to help reduce the climate impacts of food.

## Climate Workshop No. 1 “Soils as an asset: What does it take to make the most of it?”



**Moderator:** Yvonne Harz-Pitre, Communications & Public Affairs Director, International Fertilizer Association

**Speakers:**

1. Meagan Kaiser, U.S. Soybean Farmer, Chair, United Soybean Board
2. Ronald Vargas, Global Soil Partnerships Secretary, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
3. Jenny Reid, Counsellor, Agriculture and Primary Industries, Mission of New Zealand

### Key Points:

- Nutrition in the soil leads to nutrition in humans. Soil health has led to know-how and a capacity that farmers didn’t have in the past, but changes made today lead to results 3-4 years later.
- Need to find how to compensate and stimulate farmers to steward soil.
- The ways forward with consumers are labelling and research.



- Carbon sequestration must be a win-win, for productivity to feed the most and sequestration for the environment. Soils must feature more prominently in climate plans and policies.
- Private sector must manage trust by ensuring data is transparent and guaranteed by third parties.

### Climate Workshop No. 2 “Accelerating Farmers Capacities to Concurrently Deliver SDG Solutions under Climate Change”



**Moderator:** Ernie Shea, President, Solutions from the Land

#### **Speakers:**

1. Lev Neretin, Workstream Lead for the Environment, FAO
2. Maria Pilu Giraudo, Farmer, Global Farmer Network (Argentina)
3. Amelia Levin Kent, Cattle Producer, Kent Farms LLC (US)
4. Margaret Munene, Co-Founder and CEO, Palmhouse Dairies (Kenya)
5. Marco Pasti, Farmer, Global Farmer Network (Italy)

#### **Key Points:**

- Institutionalise discussions between FAO, private sector, and farmers specifically, across the broadest possible spectrum of spaces.
- FAO is working across all dimensions to move the needle on bioeconomy. It requires countries to come together and build inter-stakeholder collaboration. Investment in the bioeconomy and circularity is needed.
- FAO was encouraged to ask farmers what they need more often.
- As in the soils session, it became clear carbon sequestration and soils is a fundamental task that underpins the bioeconomy.
- There was an agreement in principle to do some joint convening with farmer groups, IAFN, and the FAO bioeconomy team to share more knowledge.

### Climate Workshop No. 3 “Climate Investment: Powering Net Zero”



**Moderator:** Martin Davies, Global Head, Nuveen Group Investment Management Inc, TIAA

**Speakers:**

1. Mohamed Manssouri, Investment Centre Director, FAO
2. William “Tip” O’Neill, President, International Raw Material
3. Gabriela Wurcel, Multilateral Affairs Director, FMC

**Key Points:**

- Business is making diverse investments in climate solutions.
- There is a willingness to explore where private sector can help the Investment Centre team.
- Will explore convening sessions with private sector in areas where the FAO Investment team needs help. IAFN is happy to help facilitate.

### Path Forward



**Moderator:** Michael Keller, Secretary General, International Seed Federation

**Keynote Speaker:** QU Dongyu, Director General, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

**Speakers:**

1. Margaret Munene, Co-Founder and CEO, Palmhouse Dairies
2. Rick White, President and CEO, Canadian Canola Growers Association

**Closing Remarks:** Beth Bechdol, Deputy Director General, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

**Key Points:**

- Announcement of extension of Women-Led SME Accelerator Programme for 50 women in Africa as a joint effort by IAFN and FAO.
- The reach of the current Women-Led SME Accelerator pilot is half a million people.
- IAFN pleased to see the emphasis on innovation and climate in the DG Manifesto.
- The Director-General urged private sector to work more collaboratively with FAO and to invest concretely in value chains, especially in developing countries.
- The IAFN Chair thanked the Director-General and his leadership team for their commitment to advancing global agriculture and to working collaboratively.