

## CFS52

### 50 years of CFS – PSM Video Statement

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*How can young people specifically contribute to achieving the right to food?*

I believe that you must be an integral part of achieving the right to food. Youth will play significant roles in Agrifood system especially in the primary production as it contributes to achieving the right to food, it's very pertinent that all possible efforts are put forward to ensure the youth take the Centre stage in achieving this.

I will relate this in two dimensions

1. *Empowering the youth through mentorship and business acceleration programmes*

Empowering the youth through mentorship and business acceleration programs is a powerful strategy to build the next generation of successful agripreneurs and leaders. Mentorship provides young people with valuable guidance, practical knowledge, and industry insights that are often inaccessible through traditional education. By connecting youth with experienced professionals and role models, mentorship programs help bridge the knowledge gap and foster confidence, resilience, and innovation among young individuals. These programs also provide a support network where young people can gain personalized advice, technical skills, and strategic insights, which are essential for navigating the complexities of agricultural business and entrepreneurship.

Business acceleration programs complement mentorship by offering structured support to young agripreneurs in developing and scaling their ventures. These programs provide critical resources, such as seed funding, business training, and access to markets, enabling youth to overcome common barriers like inadequate financing and limited market access. Through workshops, networking opportunities, and hands-on training, youth gain the practical tools they need to build sustainable and profitable enterprises. By investing in mentorship and business acceleration programs, we not only empower the youth but also contribute to building a resilient agricultural sector that can ensure food security and drive economic growth.

## 2. *Smashing Barriers to Youth Participation in Agriculture*

By smashing barriers, I mean

- o A bold, aggressive, and impactful effort to overcome obstacles
- o A dramatic or revolutionary action to dismantle long-standing barriers.
- o A rapid, more dramatic approach,

Smashing barriers to youth participation in agriculture is essential for achieving the right to food, as it directly addresses the challenges that prevent young people from fully engaging in the agricultural sector. Limited access to land, financial resources, and modern technology are significant obstacles that discourage youth from pursuing farming as a viable career. By advocating for youth-friendly policies that facilitate access to land ownership and creating tailored financial support programs such as low-interest loans, grants, governments and stakeholders can remove these barriers. Additionally, improving rural infrastructure and digital access allows young farmers to leverage technology for precision farming, market linkage, and efficient resource management, ultimately increasing productivity and food availability.

Moreover, overcoming social and cultural stigmas associated with agriculture is crucial to attracting youth to the sector. Many young people view farming as a low-status, unprofitable profession due to outdated perceptions and insufficient education on the economic opportunities it offers. Addressing these misconceptions through awareness campaigns, mentorship programs, and showcasing successful young agripreneurs can help reframe agriculture as a promising and profitable field. Investing in agricultural education and technical training at the grassroots level also equips youth with the skills needed to innovate and modernize agricultural practices.

By SMASHING these barriers, young people can become active drivers of agricultural development, ensuring sustainable food production and contributing to the realization of the right to adequate food for all.

So, by Empowering the youth through mentorship and business acceleration programmes and Smashing Barriers to Youth Participation in Agriculture young people can contribute to achieving the right to food.