

Private Sector Mechanism Report on 2024 World Food Forum

The 2024 World Food Forum attracted a PSM delegation of **70** persons who participated in all three Forums across the week. PSM's participation in the 2024 World Food Forum reinforced the critical role of private enterprises in transforming food systems, tackling global hunger, promoting responsible investment, and supporting innovations that drive sustainable food production and consumption.



Key highlights for the participation of PSM at the World Food Forum included **6** Bilateral meetings with senior FAO Officials and the hosting of **6** separate Side Events. The PSM also had a prominent role in shaping discussions on responsible investments, sustainable innovation, and partnerships within the food systems with numerous and diverse Private Sector speakers in the formal sessions of all three segments of the Forum.

Through members' engagement at various levels, PSM was able to advance the importance of public-private partnerships, highlight the need to scale technological solutions, and share the experience of the Private Sector in the creation of resilient food systems for all. The forum's focus on science, technology, and innovation allowed the private sector to play an important role in addressing challenges such as climate change, food security, and sustainability, while also unlocking new opportunities for growth, investment, and leadership in global agriculture.



PSM's participation in the Hand-in-Hand (HiH) Investment Forum provided important opportunities for members to engage in meaningful discussions aimed at channelling investments into countries and value chains prioritized by the FAO's HiH Initiative. The initiative's strategic focus on fostering partnerships, aligning investments, and promoting sustainable development within food systems is an important tool that allows PSM to collaborate with governments, to create impact-driven solutions that tackle hunger and poverty especially in the least-developed countries.

Third FAO-IAFN SME Accelerator Launch



The third FAO-IAFN SME Accelerator Program was officially launched on October 17 at FAO headquarters in Rome, marking another milestone in supporting small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) within agri-food systems. This launch was attended by Senior FAO Officials including FAO Deputy Director General Maurizio Martina, Assistant Director-General Abebe Haile-Gabriel, Chief Scientist ad interim Beth Crawford, Director of the Office of Innovation Vincent Martin, Deputy Director, Partnership and UN Collaboration, Ms. Fatouma Seid, and Senior Coordinator, Partnership and UN

Collaboration Division Mr. Carlos Watson. The event brought together a diverse group of mentees and mentors, with many joining in person and some following on livestream. The event underscored the Accelerator's role in providing crucial support to SMEs by enhancing their capacity to drive sustainable agricultural growth, improve food security, and contribute to the achievement of SDG2. It was noted that while the first cohort had only 50 mentees, upon calculation, through those women, the program was able to positively impact over 500,000 persons. Further, as an indication of the Program's influence, DDG Martina highlighted the program in his closing remarks to the Plenary. Click [here](#) for the FAO's Regional Office for Africa's news article on the launch of the program.

We look forward to having everyone at World Food Forum 2025 which is planned tentatively for 13-17 October 2025 in Rome.