

HEALTHY DIETS

HEALTHY PLANET



CONCEPT NOTE

Title: Youth4Youth: The Role of Young Professionals in Empowering Rural Youth

Date: 20th October 2022

Time: 15.00-16.00 (60 minutes)

Venue: Virtual

Background

Youth have the creativity, the potential and the capacity to make change happen – for themselves, for their communities, and for the rest of the world. The International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) acts as a catalyst for change through leveraging the innovative perspectives and ideas of young leaders within the organisation, while also supporting rural youth in the field to promote social change.

This side event session will encourage a critical youth-led dialogue around the advantage young professionals may have in contributing towards a sustainable and healthy planet for rural youth. In fact, young professionals are entrepreneurs, technology natives, passionate, and have a conception of work that is different to previous generations together with potential to influence within and outside their organizations. Building on the IFAD Youth Networkⁱ, the session will showcase the work of young professionals, both HQ and field based, and engage in a constructive and interactive discussion about how and why young professionals and leaders can bring new perspectives, topics and ideas that can help address key challenges pertaining to young people in marginalised rural communities. The discussion aims to be reflective and interactive: we want to invite speakers and audience members to consider how things could be done differently to better serve the needs of rural youth.

Goal of the session

To understand the potential of young professionals' contributions in collaborating with and empowering rural youth in the developing world.

The session will highlight the important role of young leaders and young international public servants in bridging the work of international agencies and vital youth action on the ground. The side event will therefore offer an interactive space for discussion on this theme, highlighting challenges and

opportunities for both young people on the ground and young international public servants within and outside IFAD, considering the space they are given to thrive and enact transformative change in the field.

Objectives of the session

- ✚ **Increase awareness** of the potential for young professionals to better collaborate with rural youth leaders to promote positive results in terms of resilience building and food systems transformation.
- ✚ **Share knowledge, experiences, lessons learned** of young people in bridging the work of international agencies and young leaders on the ground and the relevant challenges and opportunities in doing so.
- ✚ **Stimulate a reflective debate** on the role of young professionals in supporting, empowering and collaborating with rural youth with insight from IFAD professionals and IFAD partners working in the field.

Expected Audience

The audience will be composed mainly of young professionals from IFAD and other UN agencies, young leaders from international organisations that work with the UN, young leaders of local communities, as well as young people interested in building a career in the UN and international development.

Creating added-value

This side event creates added value through providing a unique perspective highlighting the opportunities and challenges of young people working internationally on rural youth issues. This enables exchange of perspectives not only between IFAD professionals and partners, and will also allow individuals interested in joining or collaborating with international organisations to be informed by these perspectives. Additionally, the reflective nature of this event provides opportunity for insightful conversation on how young professionals more generally can better serve the needs of the rural youth and push forward their agendas.

Expected Outcomes

The expected results of this side event are listed below:

- ✚ Audience members will gain insights into the work of young IFAD professionals and rural youth leaders towards pressing rural youth issues, addressing climate resilience and food systems transformation in particular. Audience members will be made aware of the key challenges and opportunities encountered in pursuing this task.
- ✚ Young people will be informed about the opportunities that exist for young professionals within and outside of IFAD to drive transformative change, as well as the challenges they face.

- ✚ Discussions between members of the panel and the audience will produce possible actions and measures for how young professionals can better support young people to push forward their agendas, increase positive impacts, and advocate for a healthy diet and a healthy planet.

Agenda and Structure

- ✚ Opening remarks and introduction of the topic including the ice-breaker quiz using Zoom's inbuilt surveying feature **(5 mins)**
- ✚ Moderated Panel – Round 1 **(15 mins)**

Panellists interviewed on the importance of young leaders and professionals within IFAD operations, both from HQ and in the field, and their contribution to addressing their organisations' mandates and rural youth challenges.
- ✚ 'Reflective Exercise' – Round 2 **(15 mins)**

Panellists will be given time to reflect on how they believe things could be done differently to better collaborate with and empower rural youth in the Global South. This round will first be asked by either IFAD staff from the field or a project recipient, who will give their perspectives on the role and influence of UN agencies, in particular IFAD, on the lives of local youth.
- ✚ Feedback and interactive questions between the audience and the panellists **(15 mins)**

This interactive section will lead on from round 2, opening up to the audience for perspectives on the role of young international professionals and the opportunities and challenges to better serve the needs of rural youth in the Global South.
- ✚ Moderator summary **(5 mins)**
- ✚ Closing Remarks **(5mins)**

Organizing Team Members

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Moderator of the Session

Jean Sebastian Pedraza Paez

List of Panellists or Speakers

The four panellists will remain the same for all rounds. These will include a young IFAD professional with experience on rural youth issues, a young IFAD project recipient, and a young NGO chair, who has partnered on IFAD projects.

Young Professional IFAD – Hai Ha Vu Thi, Junior Professional Officer, IFAD.

Young IFAD project recipient - Zeinorin Stephen Angkang (India) - Zeinorin works with indigenous farmers in the Tangkhul Naga community in Manipur, India and has participated in IFAD projects.

IFAD partner NGO chair - Humphrey Mrema - Chair of Youth Survival Organization, Youth4Climate (COP26 youth section) Delegate for Tanzania.

Closing remarks by **Corrine Momal-Vanian**, Executive Director of the Kofi Annan Foundation. Former Director of Conference Management at the United Nations and Director of Information for the United Nations.

Technical equipment requirements





WFF virtual platform – The Zoom event link will then be embedded in the WFF platform.

Promotion Strategy

As this topic will be of interest for people working at IFAD, IFAD’s social networks and intranets will be used as the foundation of the promotion and communication strategy.

Considering the potential audience, which is expected to be composed of young professionals already working, or young people who are attracted to a career in, social media will be used as a promotional tool outside of IFAD.

Multiple groups will be targeted, including:

-  the IFAD Youth Network (IYN)
-  the Young Professionals for Agricultural Development (YPARD)
-  YOUNGO, a constituency that ensures youth participation and voice at major climate talks and summits,
-  Students at Universities in Rome and Internationally to attract students and future potential international public servants

ⁱ An informal network of IFAD young professionals that is nurtured by the voluntary work and contributions of its members. The network aims to facilitate youth collaboration across IFAD’s divisions and support the Fund’s young colleagues to improve their contribution to IFAD.