

Short summary, quotes and photos from Side Event 9.

Data for Food Security: Taking forward the CFS data workstream

10 February 2021

This event has brought together the perspectives of diverse stakeholders to discuss principal elements of data collection and analysis that need to be covered in the forthcoming CFS data workstream. The Chairperson of the HLPE Steering Committee outlined the process for taking forward the data workstream. Panelists from the Government of Indonesia, FAO, ActionAid and Gallup covered a wide range of issues including innovation and technology, investment in data infrastructure and human resources, data harmonization, balancing open data with attention to data privacy and ownership, and the importance of putting people and local perspectives at the center of production and use. These will be crucial elements are for the data workstream to address as it works toward actionable recommendations for improving the data systems that are needed to underpin food systems transformation.

Attended by more than 150 participants, the event had a lively discussion and panelists responded to several critical questions from the floor. This side event was co-hosted by Global Partnership for Sustainable Development Data, the Government of Indonesia, and Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation."

These are the quotes of the speakers:

1. "Addressing human and financial resources issues, is essential to strengthen countries' capacity to improve agricultural data systems" – Dr. I Ketut Kariyasa, Director (ad interim), Centre for Data and Information Systems, Ministry of Agriculture, Indonesia
2. "A good data system requires a strong commitment, policy supports, collective awareness and joint efforts." – Dr. I Ketut Kariyasa, Director (ad interim), Centre for Data and Information Systems, Ministry of Agriculture, Indonesia
3. "Countries need to adopt open data policies that can foster increased analytical use of survey results by academic institutions and researchers and widely disseminate microdata from agricultural census and surveys. Without an open data policy, we risk not making good use of even the limited information that we have managed to collect, often at great cost." – Pietro Gennari, Chief Statistician, FAO
4. "In public health it is often "the last mile" which poses the greatest difficulty in the distribution of medical services. Similarly, despite the huge successes made in tackling food insecurity at the turn of the Century, the measurement systems and mechanisms we use to target food insecurity need to facilitate this ambitious goal of Zero, ensuring that everyone is counted." – Andrew Rzepa, Partner, Gallup.

5. “The discussion on data – its collection, protocols, privacy and use – must originate from the real needs of local small scale food producers & smallholder farmers and therefore context- specific and locally driven, Indigenous knowledge should be always protected from appropriation of data.”
– Sesheeni Joud Selvaratnam, ActionAid

6. “It is paramount that the data collection process is inclusive and takes into account all the concerns and views brought forward by the most vulnerable communities especially women and young people so that these are translated into gendered national development plans and their implementation, policies, plans and implementation strategies, as well as, supports in designing gendered policies.” – Sesheeni Joud Selvaratnam, ActionAid