

Side event

Session: Advancing Equitable Livelihoods for Food Systems Workers	Tuesday 11 th October 8:30 – 9:45h CET
Session Organisers	IFAD, CARE, WBCSD, SEWA, ILO

Session Abstract

To end poverty and hunger globally, we must build agency for the approximately 4.5 billion people that depend on food systems for their livelihoods. While playing a critical role in feeding the world, food system workers regularly face high levels of working poverty, chronic food insecurity, lack of labour and social protection.

Agriculture alone is one of the most hazardous sectors, with millions of agricultural workers falling victim to fatal accidents, workplace injuries, poisoning by pesticides, and occupational disease. Globally two thirds of the extreme poor are engaged in agriculture and 70% of all children in child labour are in agriculture. We cannot build equitable livelihoods within the sector without addressing these decent work deficits.

This event will showcase the data and policy gaps across food systems necessary to ensure labour and human rights, economic and social justice, 100% living incomes and wages, adequate and nutritious food for all food systems workers. Partnerships are essential, in both private and public sectors, to unlock decent and safe job opportunities.

Objective and outcomes

This event aims to provide a multi-stakeholder discussion about how providing equitable livelihoods and proper social protection mechanisms are crucial in ending global malnutrition in all its forms. To effectively change the systems, we must mobilise all stakeholders around a shared vision and act according to our respective strengths. The ideas and solutions discussed during this session will feed into the ongoing work of the Decent Work and Living Income and Wages (DWLIW) Coalition, hosted by CARE and IFAD with technical support from ILO among others.

This event will provide an understanding of:

- How to strengthen partnerships for accelerated action towards more and better jobs for youth in agri-food systems.
- How to ensure the agency of food system workers by addressing their inclusion in collective bargaining, social dialogue, and workplace organisation.
- Mechanisms required to ensure the regular collection, analysis, and publication of statistics on food systems workers at both national and international levels.
- How to accelerate nationally defined social protection floors that guarantee at least essential health care, safe and nutritious foods, and basic income security to all, including the poor, food-insecure, and workers in the agri-food systems including migrant workers.

Agenda:

Topic	Presenter / Facilitator
Lynnette Neufeld, FAO's Nutrition Director and former AT4 Science Lead	<p>The goal of our time together today is understanding the missing pieces and opportunities for policy, development partners, NGOs and the private sector to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Build agency for the most vulnerable people working across diverse food systems; b) Change power relations in food systems - both in formal spheres and in non-formal spheres; and c) Transform structures – the embedded social norms and practices that systematically privilege some groups over others. <p>We're first going to hear about the challenges and the commitments and how you can be part of the solution. We will also shine a light on a coalition called Decent Work and Living Incomes for all Food Systems Workers developed in collaboration with several stakeholders.</p>
Willem Olthof, Deputy Head of Unit Sustainable Agri-Food Systems and Fisheries Directorate-General for International Partnerships (INTPA) European Commission	The role of governments in creating the right policy environment to encourage decent work and living incomes and wages. Focus on EU programmes and initiatives.
DWLIW video	https://vimeo.com/606871300/667158ffea
Megha Desai, Senior Coordinator, Self-Employed Women's Association (SEWA)	SEWA's discussed their role in engaging with farmers, global food companies and the UN system in defence of workers' rights in the battle for a sustainable food system. With a particular focus on women.
Piero Conforti, Deputy Director, FAO's Statistics Division and Livelihoods Working Group of the Food Systems Countdown Initiative	<p>Why adequate data matters to develop adequate policies and responses for producers and workers. Data is key to design and target policies, and to understand their impact. Some data is available – but major investments are needed, in terms of quantity and quality.</p> <p>Three examples:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - How many people are employed in the agri-food system?

- Quality: decent work in agriculture and rural areas
- The small-scale food producers – SDG Targets 2.3

Monitoring employment quantity and quality is an essential starting point to improve equity and livelihoods in agri-food systems.

Existing data can capture the scale of primary employment in agriculture, food manufacturing, and food and food-related hospitality services. But coverage is uneven, especially in other food-based jobs, such as trade and transportation, or where it is difficult to capture the contributions of family labor, seasonal fluctuations, and secondary employment. Figure presents a range of current estimates to quantify the magnitude of livelihoods tied to food systems, and illustrates the empirical challenges.

In addition to quantity, it is important to monitor aspects of job quality. This refers to various aspects of working conditions, including slavery, exploitation, harassment, worker safety, and labor rights (ILO, 2018). Women and informal, migrant, undocumented, and “gig” workers in food systems are especially vulnerable to exploitation in poor quality jobs (Davies, 2019; Goldstein, 2016; Hunt, 2016; Palumbo & Sciorba, 2018). Data on these issues are, however, generally limited or lacking.

Very important to have the global figure also to compute (eg) productivity measures; or to measure progress in different groups.

There is poor quality and relevance of the data available – rigid categories, such as “employed” and “unemployed” for a world of flexibility and diversity; issue with the timing (seasonality); informality; boundaries with family contributions definition of wages (implicit wages and remunerations); blurred boundaries between wage employment and own account.

We need to invest in data to facilitate policy decision making, to improve outcomes and their assessment to make data collection more efficient, streamline costs through technology, improve sampling. More granularity is an essential part of the data gap micro-level consistent information allows better targeting and the assessment of distribution parameters.

Ajjiti Jihane, Head of Stakeholder Engagement OCP Africa

OCP Group (formerly Office Chérifien des Phosphates) is a leader in plant nutrition and the world’s first producer of

	<p>phosphate-based fertilizers that has been in operation for a century. Headquartered in Morocco and present on five continents, the group delivers products to more than 165 clients.</p> <p>Speaker provided a case study of how private sector can serve as the frontrunner by providing decent livelihood to smallholder famers. This covered:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) Agri-booster – support offer to farmers b) School lab – mobile training lab c) Agri-promoter- Development of the distribution network d) Farmer houses – holistic approach <p>OCP scale up their impact through:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Online courses (via Youtube channel and social networks - Offline educational training through the media (rural radio, TV, etc.) - Digitalized Technical Support Trainings - Capacity Building of Extension Services
<p>Brian Chipili, Agribusiness Hub Lead, IFAD</p>	<p>IFAD's focus on Decent Work for Youth in the Agribusiness programme.</p> <p>IFAD is focussing its work with youth on:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) Developing skills for employment: Rural young people need cognitive and non-cognitive skills that will equip them with the tools to understand and adapt to climate change and to innovate. At the farm level, youth have the opportunity to do a “different kind of farming” that is more sustainable, more profitable, much more technology-enabled, and more closely tied to markets than traditional farming is. b) Increasing youth participation: Youth often lack access to the channels that would allow them to influence decision-making and are excluded from governance processes at the national, regional and global levels. National youth policies and development interventions need to be participatory, and configured towards the needs and aspirations of young people. c) Access to green finance: IFAD works to make loan products and other forms of finances to small-scale farmers, especially for young people, and for those in the informal sector considered to be high risk

	<p>IFADs agribusiness program channels youth through two main pathways: wage employment and self-employment. The focus is centred on select commodity value chains and the specific nodes where youth have the highest potential of landing a job.</p> <p>Along with incubation support for start-ups and business acceleration for existing enterprises, it is critical that interventions focus on job placements, internships and apprenticeships for youth. In collaboration with GIZ, the hubs provide shared facilities and equipment alongside business development skills, as well as an ecosystem for employment services, market access, technology transfer and financial services that are backstopped through mentorship and networking. Beneficiaries are also supported to develop competitive agribusiness plans</p>
<p>Ms Alette van Leur, Director of the Sectoral Policies Department</p>	<p>While playing a critical role in feeding the world, food system workers regularly face high levels of working poverty, chronic food insecurity, lack of labour and social protection.</p> <p>Globally, two-thirds of the extreme poor are engaged in agriculture. Seventy percent of all children in child labour are in agriculture. Agriculture is one of the most hazardous sectors, with millions of agricultural workers falling victim to fatal accidents, workplace injuries, poisoning by pesticides, and occupational disease.</p> <p>It is clear that we cannot build equitable livelihoods within the sector without addressing these decent work deficits. We also know that economic growth alone isn't enough to drive decent livelihoods for all, and that to be effective in reducing working poverty and food insecurity, it needs to be inclusive, reaching the poor through increased quality employment opportunities and higher incomes.</p> <p>This requires action all levels: global, regional, national, local That's where we hope to make an impact, by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • promoting labour and human rights, and; • increasing opportunities for decent and productive employment within the agri-food sector • Improving incomes and wages • strengthening organisation and social dialogue in the sector, thereby ensuring that sector workforce has a voice in policies that affect their work and life

Ms. Christine Campeau, Global
Advocacy Director – Food Systems,
CARE

Introduction to the Decent Work and Living Incomes and Wages
Coalition.

The objective of coalition is to ensure economic and social justice and the right to adequate and nutritious food through equitable livelihoods and decent work for all food systems workers.

The coalition aims to make an impact through promoting labour and human rights, and; increasing opportunities for decent and productive employment within the agri-food sector; improving incomes and wages; strengthening organisation and social dialogue in the sector, thereby ensuring that sector workforce has a voice in policies that affect their work and life. The coalition targets the most vulnerable, especially smallholders, wage workers, women, youth, migrant workers, minority and Indigenous peoples.

It is pooling expertise and experience to support countries in their efforts to effectively address employment and labour issues in their national food system transformation processes. This includes, among others, sharing relevant tools and good practices; providing technical support in integrating decent work issues in sector-specific policies and plans and supporting their effective implementation through concrete programmes and initiatives on the ground.

We would like to explore opportunities to support you to make progress on DWLIW issues in your national pathway ahead of the 2023 UN Food System Summit Stocktake. We are happy to facilitate introductions with the Coalition and your technical teams to move this discussion forward.