Side event 07 | Data governance in the digitalization of the food system. Bringing together small scale food producers and governments

Organized by:

- **The** Civil Society and Indigenous Peoples' Mechanism (CSIPM)
- Mexico
- Special Rapporteur on the Right to Food, United Nations Human Rights

Tuesday, 24 October; 8.30 – 9.45 (UTC+2)
Sheikh Zayed Center & via Zoom

Register here

Abstract

The Committee on World Food Security (CFS) negotiations dealing with policy recommendations on data collection and analysis tools in the food system provided an opportunity for the CFS to enhance its understanding of how digitalization and digital technologies could dramatically change the food system in the next decades, for better or for worse.

On the one hand, this technological evolution brings opportunities for the realization of the right to adequate food and nutrition, as new ways of sharing and processing information emerge. On the other hand, there are social and ecological risks, especially for small scale farmers, youth, rural and urban consumers, and Indigenous People, as digitalization can deepen existing inequalities, lead to technological lock-ins, and use a huge amount of minerals and energy.

From the beginning, governance has been a much-discussed topic. The central question in the room is what role States should have to guarantee that the digitalization of the food system benefits the people that are most affected by food insecurity, supports small scale producers that produce the largest part of food especially for internal markets and leads to a food secure future for all, grounded in human rights, food sovereignty, biodiversity, and agroecology.

Objectives

- Provide a space for exchange among CFS members and participants, where Indigenous People, youth, peasants, and small-scale food producers can share their realities and experiences on the impacts of the digitalization of the food systems;
- Discuss the role of governments in the future of the digitalization of food systems;
- Discuss emerging issues around digitalization of the food system.