



CFS 51

23-27 October 2023

Side event 15 | Mobilizing urban youth in climate change adaptation solutions in Africa

Organized by:

- Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)
- International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD)
- High Level Panel of Experts on Food Security and Nutrition (HLPE-FSN) of the Committee on World Food Security
- Université du Sine Saloum El-hâdj ibrahima Niass - USSEIN (Senegal)
- University of Cape Town (South-Africa)
- Climate KIC

Wednesday, 25 October; 8.30 – 9.45 (UTC+2)
Sheikh Zayed Center & via Zoom

[Register here](#)

Abstract

Cities in Africa are increasingly affected by climate change. The FAO's Green Cities initiative aims to help local governments adapt to these new conditions by promoting green infrastructures such as green spaces, urban and peri-urban agriculture, urban and peri-urban forest, food systems, circular economy, etc. The mobilization of citizens is important to the success of these transformations, and especially the young who are the very future of cities, is essential but still limited in Africa. The initial reflections on the involvement of citizens (so called agency as the sixth dimension of food security) in the forthcoming report of HLPE-FSN on urban food systems, will serve as a basis for discussion. Several testimonies will follow: the point of view of a Senegalese professor on the responsibilities of decentralized universities, the challenges encountered by a young African researcher, the lessons of a recent Climathon tested in three secondary cities in West Africa, and finally an exciting FAO project on the creation of green jobs mixing highly educated and uneducated young people. The debate will focus on how to boost the confidence of mayors to engage in green transformation with young people, and the mechanisms they could put in place locally to achieve this.

Objectives

The objectives of the event are to share ideas and experiences on engaging young citizens in the green transformation of cities, especially through food systems. What could be the incentives for municipalities to mobilize their youth and through which mechanisms local governments can initiative such youth mobilization?



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