

World Food Forum 2025 concludes with renewed global commitment to transform agrifood systems through solidarity, science, and investment

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Â The 2025 edition of the World Food Forum (WFF)Â concluded today at the headquarters of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) in Rome. This year's Forum included the celebration of aÂ historic World Food Day marking FAO's 80th anniversaryÂ and brought together global leaders, policymakers, youth, Indigenous Peoples, scientists, farmers, investors, and innovators around a shared goal: transforming agrifood systems for a sustainable, hunger-free world.

Under the theme â??Hand in Hand for Better Foods and a Better Future,â? WFF 2025 Â hosted over 300 events with 16,500 in-person participants and attracting more than 60,000 online participants from nearly 200 countries. Through social media, the Forum reached 1.5 billion people and generated 1.6 million engagements.

TheÂ Hand-in-Hand Investment ForumÂ showcased opportunities worth \$17.2 billion, with 31 countries and six regional initiatives sharing plans that could transform the lives of 160 million beneficiaries.

High-Level Forum

WFF 2025 started on 10 October with the inauguration of the â??From Seeds to Foodsâ?, the first global exhibition tracing the evolution of agrifood systems â?? from the origins of agriculture to today's innovations. The exhibition transformed the Park of Porta Capena, in from of FAO headquarters, into a living open-air gallery that celebrated the diversity of global

agrifood systems and showcased technologies and practices shaping the future of food and agriculture. Highlights included a replica of the Svalbard Seed Vault, an aquaponic greenhouse, agricultural drones, satellite technologies, and even dogs trained to detect plant diseases – a testament to innovation and creativity across agriculture.

The Forum's opening ceremony took place on 13 October in a high-level ceremony led by Director-General Qu Dongyu. It included the participation of King Letsie III of Lesotho, FAO Special Ambassador for Nutrition; Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva, President of Brazil; Muhammad Yunus, Chief Adviser of the interim Government of Bangladesh; Princess Basma bint Ali of Jordan; The Prime Minister of Djibouti, Abdoukader Kamil Mohamed; and the Prime Minister of Eswatini, Russell Mmiso Dlamini.

Another high-level moment was the celebration of World Food Day 2025 on 16 October, which marked FAO's 80th anniversary. The Global Ceremony was attended by His Holiness Pope Leo XIV; the Italian Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni; King Letsie III of Lesotho; Queen Letizia of Spain; and the Uruguay President Yamandó Orsi Martínez. President Xi Jinping of China sent a congratulatory message – delivered by Han Jun, Secretary of the Party Leadership Group of the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs of China.

The President of Italy, Sergio Mattarella, also visited FAO the same day to inaugurate the Food and Agriculture Museum & Network (FAO MuNe). Throughout the week, the President of Chile, Gabriel Boric, visited FAO headquarters, and opened the Hand-in-Hand Investment Forum. In addition, WFF 2025 was attended by more than 50 ministers and 100 vice-ministers.

From ideas to action

The Forum's three key pillars – Youth, Science and Innovation, and Investment – showcased how global cooperation can drive real change. The Science and Innovation Forum (SIF) highlighted solutions for climate resilience, digital agriculture, and sustainable water management, while the Hand-in-Hand Investment Forum presented tangible opportunities for new partnerships and investments in agrifood transformation.

The Youth Assembly brought together more than 1,200 young leaders and experts in person and tens of thousands of people joining online, from all six regions, showcasing the growing impact of youth-led action in transforming agrifood systems. By supporting, empowering and mobilizing youth across the globe and providing more than \$160 000 in direct support to youth-led solutions, the Assembly demonstrated its commitment to turning ideas into action.

In addition, the Director-General highlighted two WFF side events this year, noting that the Rome Water Dialogue placed water – the lifeblood of agriculture – at the centre of discussions, and that the South-South and Triangular Cooperation Ministerial Dialogue strengthened global solidarity and cooperation.

“The World Food Forum is still young, but its impact is undeniable,” the Director-General concluded. “Let us move forward with courage, creativity, and solidarity – working hand in hand for better foods and a better future.”

The Science and Innovation Forum officially closed with the side event “One Health in agrifood systems is everyone's health,” highlighting the interdependence of human, animal, plant, and ecosystem health.

The week also featured the inauguration of the FAO Food and Agriculture Museum and Network (MuNe), connecting food heritage with innovation and linking past and future