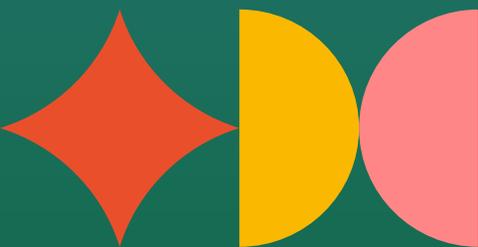


Youth declaration for the transformation of agrifood systems in Latin America and the Caribbean



Introduction

We, the youth from diverse backgrounds – including peasants, Indigenous Peoples, Afro-descendants, family and community farmers, artisanal fishers and fish farmers, gatherers, care workers, migrants and those affected by conflict – represented through three platforms encompassing more than 145 organizations and collectives within the Alliance for the Food Sovereignty of the Peoples of Latin America and the Caribbean, the World Food Forum (WFF) Global Youth Action Initiative (Youth Initiative) and the Youth Coordination Group for Agrifood Systems in Latin America and the Caribbean, have come together in spaces for dialogue, coordination and regional advocacy.

As a result of a participatory process of consultation and co-creation carried out across the subregions of the Caribbean, Mesoamerica and South America, we have strengthened engagement mechanisms to identify our shared challenges, demands and needs, as well as opportunities for transformative action to be recommended to Members of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO). Recognizing the FAO Strategic Framework and its commitment to the Four betters – better production, better nutrition, a better environment and a better life – we reaffirm our commitment to strengthening food governance.

YOUTH FORUM FOR THE TRANSFORMATION OF AGRIFOOD SYSTEMS IN LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN



Main gaps identified

We identify the following gaps:

- 01** Limited access to financing for rural youth, driven by a lack of financial education, insufficient credit history, limited collateral and high interest rates.
- 02** Shortcomings in policies promoting healthy eating education and insufficient support for local production systems, including the promotion of school, community and family gardens led by youth. This gap limits the capacity to respond to the food crisis and undermines the Human Right to Adequate Food of children, adolescents and youth.
- 03** A critical disconnect between climate policies and territorial realities in the face of environmental degradation of natural resources, excluding youth from decision-making processes on energy transition and climate justice in their own territories and thereby preventing a dignified life.
- 04** Forced displacement of rural and marginalised youth due to violence, lack of access to health care, inadequate living conditions, unemployment and unfair wages, insufficient public investment, limited access to markets and infrastructure, and climate change.
- 05** Barriers preventing youth from accessing decision-making positions within civil society organisations.
- 06** Inadequate institutional support for the design, implementation and strengthening of youth-led civil society organisations.
- 07** The absence of rural youth, peasants, Indigenous Peoples, Afro-descendants and LGBTQIA+ youth at different levels of governance within agrifood systems.

Priority demands to be included in the biennium 2026–2027

We present the following priorities and demands for the 2026–2027 biennium:

- 01** Promote the creation of financial products tailored to youth, with reduced bureaucracy, designed in particular to facilitate entry into the formal credit system, credit history building and financing for youth-led projects.
- 02** Advance a regional system for collective access to and secure tenure of land for youth, ensuring legal security, legal support and an inclusive approach that encompasses other minority populations.
- 03** Promote the incorporation of agrifood and healthy eating programmes into public education, as well as the creation of native seed banks and the establishment of school, community and circular economy gardens led by children and youth. These actions should be grounded in the recognition and appropriation of territorial cultural practices, guaranteeing food security and food sovereignty, in line with the priorities of healthy diets for all.



- 04 Design, establish and implement risk reduction, adaptation and resilience plans that are co-created and implemented jointly with youth, ensuring climate and intergenerational justice through the protection of ancestral knowledge and the biodiversity of our communities and Indigenous Peoples.
- 05 Promote the development and implementation of comprehensive public policies that guarantee dignified living conditions, technical assistance, infrastructure, health services, and the promotion of gender equality, peace, and the economic empowerment of young women in rural areas, through access to financial and technological resources, while recognising and valuing the care economy.
- 06 Ensure the necessary resources, including fiscal reforms and international and multilateral cooperation, to strengthen regional financial systems in order to reduce inequalities and increase their resilience.
- 07 Establish permanent and inclusive youth representation and participation within the governance mechanisms of civil society organisations, as well as in multi-stakeholder governance spaces.
- 08 Consolidate the Youth Forum for the Transformation of Agrifood Systems in Latin America and the Caribbean within the framework of the Civil Society Organizations Consultation, as part of the preparatory process for the FAO Regional Conference for Latin America and the Caribbean.
- 09 Incorporate a regional youth mechanism to monitor and support the implementation, at both regional and national levels, of the recommendations adopted by the FAO Regional Conference for Latin America and the Caribbean.



Conclusion

We, the youth represented at this First Youth Forum for the Transformation of Agrifood Systems in Latin America and the Caribbean, honour this space as the outcome of the struggles that preceded us and paved the way for our engagement to transform the realities we experience in our territories, put forward proposals for action, and move toward more just and resilient agrifood systems.

We issue a strong call for joint action to FAO as our strategic partner, to Member Nations, to civil society and to multilateral organizations. We invite you to walk alongside us in transforming the realities of rural life in our region.

We reaffirm that without youth there can be no food sovereignty or just, resilient and sustainable agrifood systems. Our participation is not a concession; it is essential to sustaining rural areas, territories and communities.

Youth are not just the future – we are the living present, producing, caring and sustaining life in our territories.





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Brasil
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por la Transformación de los Sistemas Agroalimentarios de América Latina y el
Caribe. Consulta a la Organización de la Sociedad Civil



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