

World Food Forum Youth Assembly Youth Declaration on Water Scarcity in Agriculture

We, the youth, recognize that water is essential to life, our agrifood systems, and the future of our planet. As we are inheriting the challenges of the rapidly changing world, we are committed to ensuring that water and land resources are valued and managed sustainably to safeguard agrifood systems, ecosystems, and communities all of which are dependent on them. The cost of inaction is enormous. It is the future generations who will face even greater water scarcity unless urgent and bold actions are taken now. We are working across sectors and regions to amplify the voice of youth in decision-making, aiming to protect water – blue and green – as a fundamental right and resource for all.

The Global Framework on Water Scarcity in Agriculture (WASAG), a partnership hosted by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), provides a framework through which youth can engage to ensure that their perspectives are heard and their contribution valued. The High-Level Meeting of the Rome Water Dialogue on WASAG, where the Rome Declaration was adopted, marked a prime opportunity for we, the youth, to be able to share the Youth Declaration on WASAG. Taking stock of the open consultation process which engaged youth from all regions worldwide through two assembly sessions, a survey, and a hybrid review at the World Food Forum (WFF) flagship event - the WFF Youth Assembly presents the following call to action to FAO Members and WASAG Partners:

1. **Commit** to strengthen the full, meaningful and effective participation of youth, women, Indigenous Peoples and farmers, at all levels of decision-making and operation of WASAG - at local, national, regional and international levels with concrete measures;
2. **Support** capacity building, mentorship and training in all WASAG working areas including formal and non-formal education settings, in particular sustainable water management and governance, promoting intergenerational learning;
3. **Promote** outreach and structured engagement of youth representatives across programmes, technical and advisory groups of WASAG under FAO's Strategic Framework;
4. **Support** awareness raising campaigns and knowledge sharing programmes that leverage digital technologies to engage and empower diverse audiences through accessible and inclusive language;
5. **Ensure** equitable access to financial and technical resources needed to support the scaling-up of youth innovations and pilot projects in sustainable agricultural water management;

6. **Facilitate** platforms for peer-to-peer knowledge exchange, collaboration and the sharing of best practices, with consideration of diversity; including but not limited to WFF National Chapters with the support of FAO decentralized offices;
7. **Recognize** the particular importance of access to justice and accountability, based on a human-rights approach, ensuring youth perspectives are consulted, heard and acted upon;
8. **Promote** Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) and ecosystem-based solutions that address biodiversity conservation/restoration, water preservation into sustainable, climate-smart, blue, green and gray water management practices;
9. **Resource** youth-led global, regional and local partnerships to enhance their capacity in driving and scaling solutions to address Water Scarcity in Agriculture; and
10. **Foster** collaboration across sectors between water, agriculture and climate communities, considering public and private actors, to address the complexities of water scarcity and agrifood systems.