

# THE WORLD FOOD FORUM 2024 YOUTH ASSEMBLY GUIDE

Introduction to the World Food Forum Youth Assembly	
Overview	
Youth Policy Board	
Objectives	
The Youth Assembly in 2024	
The Youth Assembly at the World Food Forum 2024 Flagship Event	
Agenda	
Double in the 9 Engage	
Participate & Engage	
In-person participation	
FAO map	
Resources & Support	
Regional Assembly Workshops	1
YA01: Africa Regional Youth Assembly Workshop	11
YA04: Europe and Central Asia Regional Youth Assembly Workshop	
YA05: Latin America and the Caribbean Regional Assembly Workshop YA06: Asia and the Pacific Regional Assembly Workshop	
YA09: Near East and North Africa Thematic Assembly Workshop	
YA 11: North America Regional Assembly Workshop	
Thematic Assemblies	10
YA02: CFS 52 Thematic Youth Assembly	
YP15: Road to COP29 Thematic Youth Assembly Part 1	
YA07: Youth Perspectives on the Forestry and Agriculture Nexus	
YA08: Rome Water Dialogue Thematic Youth Assembly	18
YA13: Youth Leadership for Implementing Systems Approach to Agrifood Systems Transformation Thematic Assembly Session	10
YA16: In the Lead up to the United Nations Food Systems Summit +4 Thematic Assembly Session	
YA18: United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification Thematic Assembly	
Roundtables	2
YA 10: Young Parliamentarians Roundtable	
YA 17: Indigenous Youth Roundtable	
Mainstage Events	22
YM02: From Policy to Action: Youth shaping global agrifood systems	?'
YM14: Youth Assembly Global Action Plan Launch	

# O1 Introduction to the World Food Forum Youth Assembly

#### **Overview**

The World Food Forum's (WFF) Youth Assembly is an inclusive, year-round platform dedicated to empowering young people to actively participate in discussions and decision-making processes related to agrifood systems. It unites young individuals, youth organizations\ and diverse constituencies from around the globe to address specific policy topics and collaboratively develop actionable recommendations. The Youth Assembly's objective is to create a meaningful movement for change in policy dialogues related to food and agriculture.

Young people are already at the forefront of transforming our agrifood systems, from local initiatives and projects to global advocacy, entrepreneurship and cultural innovations. The Youth Assembly connects these efforts, providing a vibrant space where ideas are exchanged, solutions are co-created and collective action leads to positive change in agrifood systems worldwide. It is a place where youth voices are amplified and where their contributions are not only heard, but also taken into account to drive tangible impact.

Throughout the year, the Youth Assembly hosts virtual and in-person sessions that include regional

policy dialogues, global youth consultations and intergenerational exchanges on a wide range of agrifood systems-related issues. These sessions foster ongoing engagement and inclusivity, ensuring that youth perspectives are integrated into key policy discussions and outcomes. The 2024 cycle of the Youth Assembly will culminate at the WFF flagship event, to be held in a hybrid format at the headquarters of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) from 14 to 18 October, with additional follow-up sessions until December. This will mark the culmination of a year-long series of discussions, collaborations and initiatives.

The Youth Assembly is a central component of the WFF flagship event, serving as the fulcrum of youth's collective efforts throughout the year. It is a unique opportunity for young minds to converge, discuss policy matters, and exchange diverse perspectives and experiences, culminating in a powerful showcase of youth-led initiatives and recommendations that can shape global policy agendas. Whether attending in person or virtually, participants will have the chance to learn, share, collaborate and become driving forces behind the change our world urgently needs.

# **Youth Policy Board**

To ensure that the work is youth-led and for youth, the activities and the preparations towards the Youth Assembly are governed and led by an independent group of change makers, selected by young people themselves.

The Youth Policy Board (YPB) comprises 24 individuals from all regions and backgrounds. Its primary objective is to provide a strategic, youth-led vision for the policy-related activities conducted by the WFF through the Youth Assembly. Members of the Board lead the Forum's efforts on youth policy positions, coordinate regional activities and support and empower young people to engage with food and agriculture topics. They ensure that youth voices are heard in key international events and processes by actively participating in the Youth Assembly and contributing to relevant outcome documents.

The Board is tasked to hold the pen in identifying and drafting the policy recommendations of the World Food Forum and provide strategic direction to the activities carried out based on the globally and regionally developed policy compendia. These compendia, established through inclusive consultations with youth groups around the world, serve as the foundation for activities endorsed throughout the year.

### **Objectives**

In 2024, the Youth Assembly aims to achieve three primary objectives:

1. Co-Creation and Engagement: Facilitate regional and thematic sessions throughout the year, involving young people and youth organizations in meaningful discussions on

- various agrifood systems-related topics. These sessions will foster collaboration, identify local and global challenges, and co-create innovative solutions that reflect youth priorities.
- 2. Global Youth Action Plan: Engage youth groups globally in reviewing and shaping the draft of the first WFF Global Youth Action Plan 2025-26, with the goal of launching the finalized plan during the WFF 2024 flagship event in October. This plan will serve as a roadmap for youth action, outlining strategic priorities and actions for enhancing youth participation in agrifood system transformations.
- 3. Inspire Local Youth Action: Encourage local youth leaders and WFF National Youth Chapters to take concrete actions based on the policy recommendations developed during Youth Assembly sessions. By empowering youth to lead initiatives and advocate for change, the Youth Assembly aims to ensure that its outcomes resonate beyond the event itself and inspire continuous impact at local, national and global levels.
- 4. The Youth Assembly embodies the belief that young people are not just future leaders but are critical drivers of change today. By participating in the Youth Assembly and the WFF flagship event, you have the opportunity to join a global community committed to shaping a sustainable and equitable food future for all.
- 5. Join us and take action for agrifood systems transformation and for our shared future!

# 02 The Youth Assembly in 2024

In 2024, we broke new ground! For the first time, the Youth Assembly extended its impact beyond the WFF annual flagship event by hosting regular virtual sessions throughout the year. These sessions delved into important topics and conferences that played a pivotal role in shaping the future of our agrifood systems. This ensured that youth voices were heard and actively contributed to ongoing policy discussions and debates.

Throughout the year, the Youth Assembly had a presence and influence in key governmental processes, such as COAG (Committee on Agriculture), COFI (Committee on Fisheries), COFO (Committee on Forestry), and the HLPF (High-Level Political Forum). Youth perspectives were brought into these platforms, advocating for more inclusive and sustainable agrifood systems.

The 2024 cycle of the Youth Assembly will culminate at the World Food Forum flagship event, held in a hybrid format from 14 to 18 October, with follow-up sessions continuing until December. This will mark the peak of our year-long efforts, discussions, and collaborative initiatives.

# 03 The Youth Assembly at the World Food Forum 2024 Flagship Event

Agenda



**Family Farming** 

Young Farmers'

Roundtable

Action Plan

Launch

Youth Booth, Atrium

Friday

# O4 Participate & Engage

### **Ethiopia Room**

- To get to the Ethiopia Room at the FAO Headquarters in Rome, follow these steps:
- Starting from the building D: Upon entering FAO Headquarters via the entrance on Viale Aventino (under the Moroccan flag), you'll arrive at the building D.
- Head towards Building B: From the Atrium, proceed towards Building B. You'll find signs on the map attached that will guide you in the right direction.
- Take the Elevator to the Second Floor: Once you reach Building B, locate the elevators or stairs. Take them to the second floor.
- Find the Ethiopia Room (C-285): After arriving on the second floor, follow the signs to Room C-285, known as the Ethiopia Room.
  The room should be well-marked and easy to spot on this floor.

# Virtual Participation Guidelines

The only way to participate in the upcoming Youth Assembly is by completing the registration process.

To secure your spot, please register by clicking the link below:

https://faoeventregistration. powerappsportals.com/en-US/ MeetingRegistration/?meeting\_id=967bfcfbbc8a-ee11-8179-6045bd90516a&hide\_hf

Once you're registered in zoom, you will receive a confirmation email in which there's a link. You click in and it will lead you to the main page of the event (Lobby). If you click on "Exhibitors", you'll find WFF Youth Assembly's page.

If you go to "sessions", you will find every single event scheduled for the week (the events of the Youth Assembly are the ones listed in the agenda above.)

You can insert a bookmark for all the sessions you're interested in - on the right. Once you place the bookmark you go to "itinerary", and you'll find your own personalized schedule based on the bookmarks you placed. If you click on the name of the session or search directly for the code of the session you're interested in, you'll go to the page of the event and you'll be able to follow it.

# In-person participation Guidelines

The Youth Assembly sessions will typically consist of both panel discussions and keynote addresses, as well as breakout group sessions. These breakout sessions are designed to foster deeper engagement and ensure your opinions directly contribute to shaping the policy priority outcomes and the Global Youth Action Plan for 2024-2025.

#### HERE'S WHAT YOU CAN EXPECT:

# 1. INTERGENERATIONAL PANEL DISCUSSIONS AND KEYNOTE ADDRESSES

Throughout the sessions, we will feature a series of panel discussions and keynote speakers, where experts, youth leaders, and policymakers will share insights and inspire collective action. We encourage you to actively listen and note any thoughts or questions that arise, as these may be valuable during our breakout sessions.

#### 2. BREAKOUT GROUP SESSIONS

After the larger panel discussions, we will divide into smaller breakout groups. Each group will focus on specific topics related to agrifood systems, youth engagement, and policy priorities. These sessions are a key part of the event where your input is crucial.

Here's how the breakout sessions will work:

- Moderators will guide each session, ensuring a productive and structured conversation.
- Notetakers will document key points and suggestions shared during the discussion.

- All participants are encouraged to share their views, ideas, and recommendations. This is your moment to make your voice heard and contribute to shaping the policy priorities that will influence global agrifood systems.
- The breakout group sessions are designed to be interactive. As a participant, you will have the opportunity to provide feedback on critical topics and suggest concrete actions that can be incorporated into the Global Youth Action Plan. Your input during these sessions is essential for determining policy outcomes and priorities.

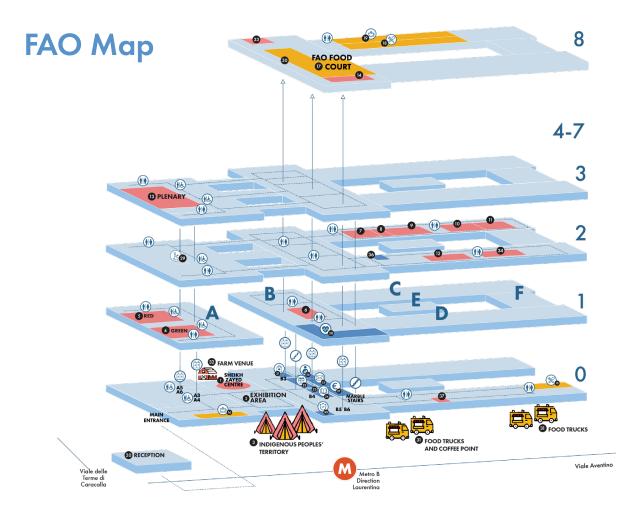
#### 4. GUIDELINES FOR BREAKOUT GROUP PARTICIPATION

- Be Respectful: Allow others the space to express their views without interruption. All opinions are valuable!
- Stay on Topic: The moderators will keep discussions focused on the theme of each breakout session. Please contribute thoughts relevant to the topic at hand.
- Be Engaged: Your active participation will make these discussions meaningful. Don't hesitate to ask questions, provide feedback, or share innovative ideas.
- Speak Up: This is your chance to influence global policy. Be confident in sharing your opinions and experiences.
- Take Notes: While notetakers will document the sessions, we encourage participants to keep personal notes for reference during discussions and when reviewing outcomes.

#### 5. OUTCOME OF BREAKOUT SESSIONS

The insights gathered from the breakout groups will be compiled by the Youth Assembly team, along with representatives from WFF. The feedback provided will directly influence the policy priority outcomes presented during the Flagship event, and will help shape the final version of the Global Youth Action Plan for 2024-2025. We are looking forward to your valuable contributions and the collaborative spirit you will bring to these discussions. Together, we can create meaningful change and guide the future of our agrifood systems.

Thank you for your participation!



#### **EVENT ROOMS**

GROUND FLOOR	BLDG.	ELEVATOR
<ol> <li>Sheikh Zayed Centre</li> </ol>	В	
2. Exhibition Area	В	
<ol> <li>Indigenous Youth Territory</li> </ol>	Α	Parking lot
32. FARM Venue	Α	Parking lot
37. Acceleration Zone	D	· ·
1 <sup>st</sup> FLOOR		
4. Green Room	Α	A3-6
5. Red Room	Α	A3-6
6. Iran Room	В	
2 <sup>ND</sup> FLOOR		
7. Ethiopia	С	B3-6
8. Nigeria	Č	B3-6
9. Philippines	Ċ	B3-6
10. German	C C	B3-6
11. Austria	C	B3-6
12. Mexico	D	B3-6
34. King Faisal	D	B3-6
3 <sup>RD</sup> FLOOR		
13. Plenary Hall	Α	A3-6
8 <sup>™</sup> FLOOR		
14. Uzbekistan Lounge	В	B3-6
33. Morroco	В	B3-6

BLDG = Building

#### **FOOD AND DRINK**

GROUND FLOOR 15. Eden Cafe 16. Polish Bar	D A	
8 <sup>™</sup> FLOOR		
17. FAO Food Court	В	B3-6
18. FAO Restaurant	C	B3-6
19. Uzbekistan Lounge	В	B3-6
31. Food Trucks	D	Parking Lot

#### **SHOPS AND SERVICES**

GROUND FLOOR 20. Reception 21. UNWG Shop 22. FAO Gift Shop 23. Relax & Recharge 24. FAO Book Shop 25. Lactation Room 26. Post Office 27. Bank (ATM) 35. Security Services	B B B B B	
1 <sup>st</sup> FLOOR 28. Medical Center 29. Meditation Room	B A	B3-6 A3-6
2 <sup>ND</sup> FLOOR 36. Cash Office	D	B3-6
8 <sup>™</sup> FLOOR 30. FAO Terrace	В	B3-6

### **Resources & Support**

#### WHATSAPP COMMUNITY

Join our WhatsApp community to receive real-time updates and important information about the Regional and Thematic Assemblies happening during the flagship week. This group will also serve as a platform to share details on future assemblies, ensuring you're always informed about upcoming events and opportunities. You can join from the link here: https://chat.whatsapp.com/EUkAfByFHVIJ4CPz3hXymi

#### **SLACK CHANNEL**

For ongoing discussions, we encourage you to join our Slack channel. This space allows you to engage with other participants, ask questions, and access valuable resources related to both the flagship event and future assemblies. You can join from the link here! https://wffyouthassembly.slack.com/archives/C0717NSG6JZ

Please reach out to the Youth Assembly team by our slack channel: https://wffyouthassembly.slack.com/archives/C0717NSG6JZ

#### **BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS**

To gain a deeper understanding of the Youth Assembly, its objectives, and its impact, we recommend reviewing the following documents:

#### **YOUTH ASSEMBLY BROCHURE 2024**

This brochure provides information about the WFF Youth Assembly Track. It's a great resource to familiarize yourself with the objective of Youth Assembly.

**YOUTH ASSEMBLY REPORT 2023** 

Interested in what happened last year? The 2023 report captures key insights, outcomes, and highlights from the previous Youth Assembly. It's essential reading to understand the progress made and the impact of youth participation.

#### WFF REGIONAL COMPENDIUM 2022

This compendium offers a detailed overview of regional Youth Assembly activities from 2022. It reflects the diversity and scope of regional initiatives and is an excellent resource to explore past achievements and regional engagement.

Once the week is done, our journey together continues with several key actions aimed at sustaining the momentum and driving impactful change. As we move forward, we invite all participants to stay engaged through the following follow-up actions:

#### 1. Youth Policy Board Applications (2025 Cohort)

The Youth Policy Board plays a pivotal role in shaping the direction of global youth initiatives related to agrifood systems. We are excited to announce the opening of applications for the 2025 Youth Policy Board.

- Who Should Apply: Motivated youth leaders with a passion for agrifood systems transformation and a commitment to representing youth voices in global policy discussions.
- Role of the Youth Policy Board: As a member of the board, you will have the opportunity to contribute to the strategic direction of youth engagement within WFF and beyond. YPB members will provide input on youth-led initiatives, review policy recommendations, and act as advocates for youth priorities in key global forums.
- Application Process: Details about the application process and criteria will be shared soon. Stay tuned for more information and make sure to apply if you're ready to take on a leadership role in shaping the future of our agrifood systems.

#### 2. Youth Roadmap for 2025-2026

The discussions and outcomes from this year's Flagship event will feed directly into the creation of the Youth Roadmap for 2025-2026, a guiding document that outlines key priorities, actions, and policy goals for the next two years.

- Feedback Integration: Input from the breakout sessions, Youth Assembly meetings, and policy recommendations will be incorporated into the roadmap to ensure that it reflects the voices and priorities of young people globally.
- Contributing to the Roadmap: There will be opportunities for continued feedback and consultation on the draft of the Youth Roadmap. We encourage all participants to stay engaged in this process and help refine the actions we will take together.
- Roadmap Release: The final Youth Roadmap for 2025-2026 will be launched in late 2024, serving as a foundation for youth-led initiatives, advocacy, and actions over the next two years.

#### 3. Engagements at Key Global UN Conferences

Youth participation in global forums is more critical than ever. Following the Flagship event, we are committed to maintaining a strong youth presence at major international conferences, including the United Nations Climate Change Conferences (COPs) and other key conferences such as the Global Bioeconomy Summit (GBS).

- Upcoming Engagements: Youth representatives will be actively participating in upcoming COPs and other critical platforms in 2024 and 2025. These engagements are crucial for ensuring that youth perspectives are heard in discussions around climate action, sustainable development, and agrifood systems transformation.
- How to Get Involved: Opportunities for participation at these forums will be shared with the Youth Assembly net-

- work. Whether through advocacy, policy presentations, or workshops, we will ensure that young voices remain at the forefront of global decision-making processes.
- Continued Advocacy: We encourage all participants to remain engaged with WFF and the broader youth community to advocate for the implementation of the priorities outlined during this year's event

Feel free to reach out to our email for any questions: youth-assembly@fao.org.

# Regional Assembly Workshops

In 2021, the WFF Youth Assembly and YPB, formerly known as Focal Points Group, drafted the WFF Youth Action Compendium 2021 Edition- which consolidated the perspectives of young people on the urgent need to transform our agrifood systems globally. In 2022 the YPB identified and drafted regional policy recommendations that were compiled into the WFF Youth Action Regional Compendium 2022. Throughout 2023 and early 2024, efforts focused on identifying region-specific agrifood systems challenges through youth consultations, along with corresponding solutions to create specific and measurable impact pathways for the future.

# YA01: AFRICA REGIONAL YOUTH ASSEMBLY WORKSHOP

Date: 15 October 2024 Time: 10:15-12:15 CEST

Location: Ethiopia Room, FAO HQ and Online

Languages: English, French

In 2022, key themes identified for the region through consultations included strengthened partnerships and connections among stakeholders, incentivizing environmentally and socially friendly practices, supporting marginalized communities, and investing in resilient, nature- positive agrifood systems. Building on these themes, the Youth Policy Board in 2023 prioritized advancing climate-smart agricultural practices to combat resource depletion and environmental degradation, while also amplifying the voices of farmers who are having to adapt to mitigate the impacts of climate change. These initiatives have laid a strong foundation

for 2024, with a focus on bridging the gap between traditional agricultural practices and modern digital innovations to ensure a prosperous and environmentally sustainable future for African agriculture.

The consultations for 2024 have included -

- First Regional Youth Assembly session held on 27 July 2024
- Second Regional Youth Assembly session held on 7 September 2024
- A youth stakeholder survey, Empowering Voices in Agrifood Systems, ran from 23 July 2024 to 30 September 2024.

The Africa Regional Action Plan, titled "Empowering Voices in Agrifood Systems," is built on the consultations and focuses on supporting smallholders, youth, Indigenous people and women in Africa's diverse agrifood systems. This plan builds on the achievements of 2023 and aligns with the World Food Forum's 2024 vision of "Good food for all, for today and tomorrow.

The initiative targets three key areas:

- Improving access to resources such as seeds, inputs, funding and credit.
- Building capacity through targeted training and expert-led workshops.
- Advocating for supportive policies that foster sustainable and inclusive agricultural practices.
- By addressing these priorities, the plan aims to enhance productivity, sustainability and resilience across Africa's agrifood sectors.

#### Objectives of the session:

 Engage key stakeholders: Bring together smallholders, youth, Indigenous leaders, women, NGOs, and academic professionals to foster meaningful dialogue around digital innovation, resource access, and resilience in Africa's agrifood systems.

- Create networking opportunities: Facilitate professional networking and knowledge exchange, focusing on enhancing collaboration between marginalized groups and stakeholders to build more resilient and sustainable agrifood systems.
- Gather input and feedback: Collect valuable feedback on the "Digital Agriculture Youth Network" pilot initiative to improve access to resources, capacity building, and policy advocacy for youth farmers, smallholders, and Indigenous people in Africa.
- Foster youth-driven, community-centric initiatives: Encourage youth-driven solutions and community-focused strategies to scale up innovations, increase market access, and enhance agricultural productivity.

# YA04: EUROPE AND CENTRAL ASIA REGIONAL YOUTH ASSEMBLY WORKSHOP

Date: 15 October 2024 Time: 15:45-17:45 CEST

Location: Ethiopia Room, FAO HQ and Online

Languages: English, French, Russian

In 2022, the Europe and Central Asia region identified food loss and waste (FLW); access to affordable quality education on nutritious, safe and sustainable food; the necessity of local markets; and the integration of traditional knowledge. The WFF Youth Action Regional Compendium 2022 provides detailed policy recommendations aimed at promoting sustainable practices and supporting small-holder farmers, families, Indigenous Peoples and young farmers. These recommendations emphasized the establishment of knowledge-sharing hubs and the provision of regenerative farming techniques to equip young farmers with the tools to reduce food loss

and improve resilience within food supply chains.

In 2023, the Europe and Central Asia YPB focused their efforts on scaling up initiatives to reduce FLW, and in 2024, feedback from regional assemblies and consultations revealed a pressing need for broader strategies to tackle food loss through practical education and collaboration. Hence, as the region looks ahead, the policy priorities were refined to focus on establishing training and knowledge-sharing hubs aimed at addressing the systemic barriers faced by youth in the agrifood sector, particularly in reducing post-harvest losses.

So far, the consultations in 2024 have included -

- First Regional Youth Assembly held on 20 July 2024
- Second Regional Youth Assembly held on 30 August 2024
- A youth stakeholder survey, Youth Perspectives on Tackling Food Loss in the Agrifood Supply Chain, ran from 20 September to 30 September 2024.

The primary aim of the Europe and Central Asia regional youth assembly at the Flagship is to mobilize youth across the region to drive agricultural innovation, with a specific focus on reducing food loss in the agrifood supply chain. The overarching objective is to create accessible knowledge-sharing hubs that equip young farmers with the tools, knowledge, and networks necessary to scale effective solutions for food loss, thereby contributing to sustainable agrifood systems. By focusing on policy frameworks, innovative strategies, and best practices in sustainable farming, the proposal aligns closely with the pilot initiative's goals of empowering youth to take action against food loss and promoting knowledge transfer across the region.

Through this regional assembly, the aim is to engage stakeholders in insightful discussions around connecting youth across the region towards greater agricultural innovation, the session will provide opportunities for participants to build professional networks,

exchange knowledge, and share experiences around this year's regional priority.

The workshop will foster youth-led innovation by highlighting success stories and strategies that have worked across the region, receive feedback on the pilot initiative, and present and consult the Regional Action Plan.

#### Objectives of the session:

- Engage Stakeholders including youth, NGO/multilateral representatives, indigenous leaders, young farmers, academic professionals, and members of civil society in insightful discussions around connecting youth across the region towards greater agricultural innovation.
- Provide opportunities for participants to build professional networks, exchange knowledge, and share experiences around this year's regional priority, with the intention of fostering cross-sectoral connections to build more resilient and sustainable agrifood systems.
- Foster youth-led innovation by highlighting success stories and strategies that have worked across the region, encouraging participants to implement these ideas in their own local contexts.
- Pilot Initiative Feedback from participants around the ECA Youth Policy Board's proposed pilot initiative.

#### YAO5: LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN RE-GIONAL YOUTH ASSEMBLY WORKSHOP

Date: 15 October 2024 Time: 18:00 - 20:00 CEST

Location: Ethiopia Room, FAO HQ and Online Languages: English, Spanish, Portuguese

The Latin America and the Caribbean region faces significant

obstacles to achieving sustainable agricultural practices that foster economic stability, boost social equity, and increase environmental resilience. To tackle these issues effectively, it is crucial to implement locally tailored solutions that integrate ecological principles with agricultural practices, such as agroecology. Agroecology provides a comprehensive framework that not only boosts agricultural productivity, but also enhances community resilience, preserves biodiversity, and uplifts community health.

Through their work, YPB members from the Latin America and the Caribbean region created a roadmap on how to scale up local solutions in the region, with a focus on agroecological practices, regenerative agriculture, and recovery of ancestral knowledge to encourage the application of these practices across different territories to foster resilience on a regional and global scale.

The consultations held in 2024 have included -

- First Regional Youth Assembly held on 17 July 2024
- Second Regional Youth Assembly held on 29 August 2024
- A youth stakeholder survey that ran from 23 July 2024 to 30 September 2024

The objective of the Regional Assembly Workshop at the Flagship assembly is hence to present and receive feedback on the Pilot Initiative, consult stakeholders on the Regional Action Plan, and promote a high-level debate on agrifood systems from LAC perspectives.

#### Objectives of the session:

- Promote a high-level debate on agrifood systems from LAC perspectives: focusing on indigenous and traditional production systems, the Regional Assembly seeks to be a platform for comprehensive engagement with both governments and non-state actors.
- Policy priorities of the region: From the perspective of the Roadmap, the Regional Assembly aims to define and

- shape policy priorities based on the interventions from the panelists and participants.
- Pilot Initiative Feedback & Guidance Through high-level opening statements, the presentation of the Roadmap, and subsequent interventions from the general public, the Regional Assembly aims to achieve two main outcomes: the balanced endorsement of the Pilot Initiative and strategic guidance on how to use this indicative document to shape regional policies. In this context, the validated Pilot Initiative would broadly be considered the primary result of the assembly.

# YA06: ASIA AND THE PACIFIC REGIONAL YOUTH ASSEMBLY WORKSHOP

Date: 16 October 2024 Time: 09:00 - 11:00 CEST

Location: Ethiopia Room, FAO HQ and Online

Languages: English, Chinese

In 2022, the key themes identified for the Asia and the Pacific region through a compendium analysis included promoting production and consumption of safe, healthy and sustainable food, establishing inclusive, healthy and sustainable feeding programmes, and ensuring policies and innovations that support and benefit smallholders, families, Indigenous Peoples and young farmers. Building on this and through additional consultations, in 2024, the YPB members from Asia and the Pacific refined the focus of the region to encourage investment in and promotion of safe, healthy and sustainable food production, consumption and access in the region, taking into account regional and cultural diversities.

The consultations in 2024 have so far included -

- First Regional Youth Assembly held on 27 April 2024
- Second Regional Youth Assembly held on 31 August 2024
- A youth stakeholder survey, the WFF Asia and the Pacific

Regional Youth Action Survey, that ran from 18 July 2024 to 30 September 2024.

Following these, in an effort to promote healthier eating habits and enhance public knowledge about the nutritional content of packaged foods, the Asia and Pacific workshop will focus on Nutrition Food Label. This event aims to equip young individuals with the necessary knowledge and skills to understand and interpret food labels effectively, fostering better dietary choices and encouraging transparency in food production.

The YPB of the region have chosen to focus their efforts on the following policy priority:

Invest in and promote the production, accessibility, and consumption of safe, healthy, and sustainable food throughout the agrifood system by educating stakeholders, providing capacity development tools, and enhancing their understanding of the interconnectivity and challenges within these systems.

#### Objectives of the session:

- Organize and facilitate the Asia Pacific Regional Assembly Workshop to -
  - » Ensure the collection and documentation of young people's perspectives and ideas about the chosen policy priority.
  - » Foster a more informed and health-conscious community by empowering young individuals to navigate the complexities of food labels and advocate for better labeling practices.
  - Allow participants to gain practical skills to make healthier food choices and advocate for improved labeling practices. This knowledge can be applied to educate peers, influence community decisions, and support initiatives for better food label transparency.
  - Empower youth to promote healthier eating habits and

contribute to long-term improvements in food labeling regulations.

Gather Input and Feedback for the Pilot Initiative - that supports and advances FAO's mission, focusing on promoting sustainable agrifood systems, fostering youth-led agricultural innovation, and encouraging responsible consumption through targeted policy priorities.

#### YA09: NEAR EAST AND NORTH AFRICA REGION-AL YOUTH ASSEMBLY WORKSHOP

Date: 16 October 2024 Time: 14:40 - 16:40 CEST

Location: Ethiopia Room, FAO HQ and Online

Languages: English, Arabic

In 2022, the Youth Action Assembly drafted regional youth action policy compendiums that would account for regional specificities, ensure better inclusivity in policy asks and set the foundations for future activities. The primary themes identified in the NENA region were the identification and scaling up of sustainable technologies, ecosystem, conservation, social protection of marginalized communities, policies and investments in environmentally and socially friendly practices and investment in resilient agrifood systems.

The consultations held in 2024 have included: -

- First Regional Youth Assembly held on 18 July 2024
- Second Regional Youth Assembly (in collaboration with Politics4Her) held on 30 August 2024
- Third Regional Youth Assembly held on 27 September 2024
- A youth stakeholder survey that ran from 13 August 2024 to 30 September 2024

At the Flagship, the Near East and North Africa (NENA) Regional Youth Assembly will bring together experts and participants to address critical sustainability challenges in the NENA region.

Objectives of the session:

- Increase awareness and understanding of key sustainability challenges in the NENA region, including waste management, gender equality, and youth empowerment.
- Facilitate knowledge exchange between experts and participants on innovative solutions and best practices in sustainable development.
- Encourage active participation and collaborative problem-solving through an interactive workshop focused on real-world scenarios.
- Gather valuable insights and provide feedback to the Youth Action Plan

#### YA11: NORTH AMERICA REGIONAL YOUTH AS-SEMBLY WORKSHOP

Date: 16 October 2024 Time: 18:00 - 20:00 CEST

Location: Ethiopia Room, FAO HQ and Online

Languages: English, Spanish, French

In 2022, the North American Youth Policy Board identified several key priorities, including supporting marginalized communities, scaling up access to sustainable technologies, investing in resilient, nature-positive agrifood systems, promoting sustainable feeding programmes, and creating inclusive local markets and distribution systems.

Hence in 2023, the region's policy focus was centered around school nutrition; however, during the 2024 preliminary regional assembly, an additional priority emerged. The shift includes moving from food nutrition at school to food waste reduction in post-secondary settings. This shift took into account the recent North

American policy support geared towards addressing food nutrition in schools. Thus, the new pressing issue became moving from a linear food system to one that is circular in nature, which prioritizes the avoidance of food waste or recovery at its highest market value to be returned to the natural environment.

For the 2024 regional priority, the North America regional team will focus on the promotion of a timely and sustainable transition towards a closed-loop food supply chain that minimizes waste and maximizes resource efficiency - with a particular focus on confronting the policy and implementation barriers within university settings, identifying cross-functional solutions with potential for youth-driven impact based on existing research and experiences.

This Regional Youth Assembly workshop will focus on addressing regional food waste management priorities within the post-secondary landscape with a focus on food redistribution, food repurposing, and food recycling. In addition, a consultation will be held to integrate the feedback of a diverse group of stakeholders in shaping the WFF Youth Assembly Regional Action Plan.

#### Thematic Assemblies

#### YA02: CFS 52 THEMATIC YOUTH ASSEMBLY

Date: 15 October 2024 Time: 12:20 - 13:50 CEST

Location: Ethiopia Room, FAO HQ and Online

This Youth Assembly will focus on the important role of young people in creating policies that promote the reduction of inequalities for food security and nutrition. It will also emphasize the enhanced value of collaboration and coordination between governments, youth

networks and other key stakeholders in ensuring that the Committee on World Food Security (CFS) guidelines promote youth engagement and employment, and that they are a catalyst to youth-led agrifood systems transformation in communities, cities and countries.

#### Objectives:

- Highlight the importance of youth participation in food system policymaking at local, national, and international levels.
- Share best practices and success stories of youth-led advocacy and policy interventions.
- Build a dialogue on how to ensure inclusive and equitable food systems by integrating youth perspectives into policy frameworks.
- Discuss the role of WFF National Chapters, as young advocates of the CFS guidelines.
- Create concrete outcomes to present at the CFS52 side event.

#### YP15: ROAD TO COP29 THEMATIC YOUTH AS-SEMBLY PART 1: BUILDING CAPACITY FROM SUBSIDIARY BODY FOR IMPLEMENTATION AND BEYOND

Date: 15 October 2024 Time: 12:20-13:50 CEST

Location: Virtual

This event is the first of two events that seek to build the capacity and knowledge of young people to engage in the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) food and agriculture negotiations.

This first session of the Road to the COP29 food and climate policy discussions, provides an overview of the climate and agriculture negotiations under the UNFCCC and beyond, enabling youth to

become familiar with the negotiations and discussions focused on the intersection of climate and agriculture under the UNFCCC. This session serves as a preparatory platform for the forthcoming session focused on synthesizing the YOUNGO Food & Agriculture Youth Policy Statement.

YOUNGO consists of many youth-led organizations, groups, delegations, and individuals working in climate change-related fields. YOUNGO is organized in different Working Groups that focus on different aspects of the UNFCCC negotiations and beyond, and work to ensure that perspectives of young and future generations are taken into account in the international decision-making processes. Besides that, YOUNGO members observe and report on climate negotiations and the implications of their outcomes.

#### Objectives:

- Understand food and agriculture negotiations at the UN-FCCC;
- Understand UNFCCC-related food and agriculture activities, such as the FAST partnership and YOUNGO's strategy for COP29;
- Knowledge of technical terms in food and agriculture negotiations.

# YA15: UNITED NATIONS CLIMATE CHANGE COP29 THEMATIC YOUTH ASSEMBLY SESSION

Date: 17 October 2024 Time: 13:50 - 15:30 CEST

Location: Ethiopia Room, FAO HQ and Online

Languages: English, Spanish, French

This event is the second of two events that seek to build the capacity and knowledge of young people to engage in the UNFCCC food and agriculture negotiations.

This session serves as a workshop focused on running a final consultation and synthesizing the YOUNGO Food & Agriculture Youth Policy Statement. This session provides a space to build common positions on climate policy and allows participants to engage with YOUNGO members and ask questions to experts. In this workshop we will invite participants to take a closer look at the technical aspects of the agriculture negotiations, provide inputs and synthesize the position paper. The participants will also lead the synthesizing process of the document.

#### Objectives:

- Facilitate and understand food and agriculture negotiations at the UNFCCC;
- Facilitate and understand policy position consultation process;
- Provide knowledge of technical terms in food and agriculture negotiations;
- Gather inputs from youth for YOUNGO's Global Youth Statement 2024.

# YA07: YOUTH PERSPECTIVES ON THE FORESTRY AND AGRICULTURE NEXUS

Challenges and Opportunities Thematic Youth Assembly

Date: 16 October 2024 Time: 11:10 - 12:50 CEST

Location: Ethiopia Room, FAO HQ and Online

The intersection between forestry and agriculture plays a crucial role in addressing global challenges such as food security, climate change and sustainable natural resource management. During the Fifteenth World Forestry Congress, youth leaders emphasized the need to support young professionals, foster intergenerational collaboration, and promote innovation. This session seeks to

explore how youth can contribute to overcoming the challenges and seizing the opportunities within the forestry and agriculture nexus. By incorporating insights from the recent youth survey on forest education and training, career development, gender equality and youth political participation, the session aims to generate actionable solutions for advancing sustainable practices in these interconnected sectors.

#### Objectives:

- Discuss challenges faced by youth in navigating the forestry and agriculture sectors, particularly in education, training and career development.
- Highlight opportunities for youth to lead innovations in sustainable farming, climate-resilient practices, and agroforestry.
- Build on outcomes Fifteenth World Forestry Congress youth call to action by focusing on supporting youth career growth, empowering young professionals, fostering intergenerational collaboration, and promoting innovation.
- Gather input from participants on practical strategies to strengthen youth engagement in forestry and agriculture decision-making processes.
- Develop recommendations to guide future youth-driven initiatives and policies in the forestry-agriculture nexus.

# YA08: ROME WATER DIALOGUE THEMATIC YOUTH ASSEMBLY

Date: 16 October 2024 Time: 13:00 – 14:30 CEST

Location: Ethiopia Room, FAO HQ and Online

The Global Framework on Water Scarcity in Agriculture (WASAG) Strategy of 2021-2024 focuses on "Turning water scarcity into opportunities for sustainable agriculture, food security and nutrition".

The strategy designates youth engagement as a key action area for awareness raising and youth as a cross-cutting theme across the six working groups. This session will develop what it means for youth to be a 'cross-cutting' theme for WASAG, ahead of the negotiations on a Roadmap towards a WASAG Strategy for 2025- 2031, which will take place at the High-Level Rome Water Dialogue on WASAG on 17 October 2024. The outcomes will be fed into this high-level meeting.

#### Objectives:

- Highlight successful youth-led initiatives that contribute to sustainable management of water resources, and share lessons learned.
- Explore strategies and actionable goals for empowering youth to take active roles in WASAG decision-making and management. Discuss methods for engaging young leaders in community and policy activities to drive sustainable practices at the local, national, regional and global levels.
- Foster advocacy and policy engagement among youth for sustainable water management.
- Facilitate networking and collaboration among stakeholders, including youth, to build partnerships, create awareness and promote sustainable water management practices.
- Finalize a youth statement with diverse stakeholder participation at the WFF flagship event.

# YA13: SYSTEMS APPROACH THEMATIC YOUTH ASSEMBLY

Date: 17 October 2024 Time: 10:40 - 12:20 CEST

Location: Ethiopia Room, FAO HQ and Online

Languages: English, Spanish, French

Sustainable agrifood systems need to deliver food security and nutrition for all in such a way that does not compromise the economic,

social and environmental pillars based of future generations (HLPF, 2014). However, our current agrifood systems are facing complex and multifaceted challenges, thus making it difficult to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by 2030. Addressing these challenges requires a shift from sectoral and siloed approaches to a more holistic approach - a systems approach to transforming agrifood systems. Taking a systems approach includes taking a portfolio approach of problem solving, including diversity of actors in the process and focusing on the multiple outcomes. It also entails maximizing synergies and navigating difficult trade-offs at all levels.

For meaningful transformation, a shared and common understanding of the systems approach is essential. And young people can play a crucial role in driving this transformation. However, there is limited evidence regarding young people's understanding of the systems approach, as well as their ability to implement systems thinking in youth-led initiatives.

Against this background, the World Food Forum Youth Policy Board, in collaboration with the Agrifood Systems and Food Safety Division (ESF) at FAO, is organizing a thematic assembly to promote candid, intergenerational dialogue on a systems approach in the context of agrifood systems transformation. This initiative aims to foster a common understanding and catalyze a change in mindset on the role of a systems approach in agrifood systems transformation.

#### Objectives:

- Provide a comprehensive understanding of the systems approach to agrifood systems transformation, including examples of its application.
- Explore key elements of systems thinking, governance, cross-sector collaboration, joint planning, and collective action within agrifood systems, with a focus on managing tradeoffs, synergies, and investments for sustainable change.
- Showcase youth-led initiatives and highlight their crucial

role in driving agrifood systems transformation.

• Encourage learning by doing and resourcing for systems change through actionable insights and shared experiences.

# YA14: AQUATIC FOOD SYSTEMS THEMATIC YOUTH ASSEMBLY

Date: 17 October 2024 Time: 12:30 - 13:50 CEST

Location: Ethiopia Room, FAO HQ and Online

The Thematic Youth Assembly on Aquatic Food Systems will focus on strengthening the Youth Constituency for Fisheries and Aquaculture by identifying the key priorities, while also identifying potential activities to support its growth. A key goal of the assembly is to identify organizations and networks that will guide and support the constituency moving forward. Additionally, the session will work on collecting inputs on effective outreach channels to better engage youth in fisheries and aquaculture.

The Youth Constituency was launched by the Youth Policy Board at the Youth Side Event of the Committee on Fisheries and Aquaculture.

#### Objectives:

- Conduct outreach to engage more young people from diverse regions and backgrounds, identify local and global youth organizations and collaborate with youth groups like YOUNGO and the Global Youth Biodiversity Network.
- Identify key partners within the Aquatic Food Systems to promote youth participation and provide necessary resources.
- Create working groups to develop policies and working closely with policymakers to advocate for youth priorities.
- Organize workshops and training sessions to equip youth

with the skills needed to influence policy and practice, with regular consultation sessions both virtually and in-person.

Monitor the impact of our policies and initiatives, ensuring they meet the needs of young people.

# YA16: UNITED NATIONS FOOD SYSTEM SUMMIT THEMATIC YOUTH ASSEMBLY

Date: 17 October 2024 Time: 15:50 – 17:20 CEST

Location: Ethiopia Room, FAO HQ and Online

This session will evaluate the achievements and challenges in transforming global food systems, with a particular emphasis on the role of youth. By examining the current state of food systems and food security, the session will also chart a forward-looking vision, highlighting the central role of youth in driving transformative action in preparation for the UNFSS+4 in 2025. A pre-event survey is being conducted to gather insights and recommendations from youth globally, which will inform the session discussions. This approach will ensure that the perspectives of young people are central to the conversation, providing a platform for youth to articulate their aspirations, identify existing gaps, and propose concrete steps to ensure their meaningful participation and leadership in global food systems governance.

#### Objectives:

- Retrospective Analysis: Review and assess the progress made since the 2021 UNFSS and the 2023 UNFSS+2 Stocktaking Moment, focusing on youth contributions, key achievements, and persistent challenges in global food systems transformation.
- Current Landscape Evaluation: Analyze the status of global food systems, food security, and nutrition, identifying the

- critical challenges, gaps, and opportunities that need to be addressed, especially considering ongoing global crises.
- Youth Empowerment and Engagement: Strategize on enhancing the role of youth as active participants and leaders in the 2025 UNFSS+4 Stocktaking Moment, ensuring that youth voices are central to shaping sustainable, equitable, and resilient food systems.
- Engage Youth Voices: Utilize a pre-event survey to collect input from youth globally on their perspectives, priorities, and recommendations for food systems transformation. This will ensure that the session reflects the diverse views of young people and that their ideas are directly incorporated into the discussions.

# YA18: UNITED NATIONS CONVENTION TO COMBAT DESERTIFICATION THEMATIC YOUTH ASSEMBLY

Date: 17 October 2024 Time: 18:30- 20:00 CEST

Location: Ethiopia Room, FAO HQ and Online

The United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) is a pivotal international agreement aimed at combating desertification and mitigating the effects of drought through sustainable land management. Agrifood systems, which are crucial for global food security and sustainability, are deeply intertwined with the goals of the UNCCD. As countries face increasing environmental challenges and strive to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), understanding UNCCD processes and their implications for food systems becomes very important. This capacity building session aims to enhance participants' understanding of UNCCD processes and their intersection with agrifood systems. By the end of the session, participants will be equipped with

knowledge and tools to integrate sustainable land management practices into food systems planning and implementation.

#### Objectives of the session:

- Explore the critical role of youth, particularly young women, in addressing Desertification, Land Degradation and Drought (DLDD) through case studies and sharing of best practices.
- Highlight the need for agrifood systems to form part of the solution in addressing DLDD
- Facilitate networking and collaboration among stakeholders, including youth, to build partnerships, create awareness and promote youth-led solutions.
- Gather key recommendations to inform the WFF and UN-CCD Youth Caucus representations at COP16.

#### **Roundtables**

# YA10: YOUNG PARLIAMENTARIANS ROUNDTABLE

Date: 16 October 2024 Time: 16:50- 17:50 CEST

Location: Ethiopia Room, FAO HQ and Online

The Young Parliamentarians Roundtable aims to foster a dialogue between the WFF YPB and young parliamentarians to align efforts on the WFF Global Youth Action Plan. The session will highlight the innovative contributions of the YPB in addressing global challenges and seek valuable insights from young parliamentarians on enhancing the impact of youth-led initiatives.

Objectives:

• Present and discuss the WFF Youth Regional Action Plans.

- Receive feedback and recommendations from young parliamentarians on the Youth Action Plan before its official launch.
- Refine the Youth Action Plan before their official launch, ensuring they align with regional policy priorities and maximize impact.
- Strengthen the collaboration between the YPB and policy-makers in shaping sustainable policies and actions.

#### YA 17: INDIGENOUS YOUTH ROUNDTABLE

Date: 17 October 2024 Time: 17:25- 18:25 CEST

Location: Ethiopia Room, FAO HQ and Online

Languages: English, Spanish, French

The Indigenous Youth Roundtable aims to foster a dialogue between the WFF YPB and Indigenous youth to align efforts on the WFF Global Youth Action Plan. The session will highlight the innovative contributions of the YPB in addressing global challenges and seek valuable insights from indigenous youth on enhancing the impact of youth-led initiatives.

#### Objectives:

- Present and discuss the WFF Youth Regional Action Plans.
- Receive feedback and recommendations from indigenous youth on the Youth Action Plan before its official launch.
- Refine the Youth Action Plan before their official launch, ensuring they align with regional policy priorities and maximize impact.
- Strengthen the collaboration between the YPB and indigenous youth in shaping sustainable policies and actions.

### **Mainstage Events**

#### YM02: FROM POLICY TO ACTION: YOUTH SHAP-ING GLOBAL AGRIFOOD SYSTEMS

Date: 15 October 2024 Time: 9:00- 10:00 CEST

Location: Sheikh Zayed Centre, FAO HQ and Online

Languages: English, Spanish, French

Policy is generally made broadly but requires local implementation. One of the main functions of policy is to guide action, and without action policy will not reach its maximum benefits. In the past few years, the WFF YPB has been working on identifying challenges, choosing policy priorities, and creating pilot initiatives on a regional and global level. In the next important step, which involves regional action, a clear framework is required to maximize the policy efforts. Four main areas that involve problem identification, policy formulation, policy implementation, and policy monitoring. Some key elements one requires include data analysis and use, resource mobilization, scale-up and sustainability. This session aims to discuss strategies to turn policy into action through examples and knowledge exchange.

#### Objectives:

- Broaden the understanding of how the implementation of whole-of-society approaches can drive inclusive policy reformation
- Highlight best practices and strategies around translating policy into action from youth changemakers and leaders within food and agriculture.
- Energize the youth audience in preparation for the diverse range of activities offered throughout flagship week

# YM14: YOUTH ASSEMBLY GLOBAL ACTION PLAN LAUNCH

Date: 18 October 2024 Time: 10:00- 10:45 CEST

Location: Sheikh Zayed Centre, FAO HQ and Online

Languages: English, Spanish, French

The World Food Forum Youth Policy Board (YPB) currently has six regional teams. In the past years, each regional team has identified their policy priorities through a series of consultations and surveys. By compiling and evaluating ideas received, each regional team has created a pilot initiative aiming to address the challenges on a local and regional level. This initiative was also created to ensure a balanced and multi-stakeholder approach, fostering impact and scalability.

The World Food Forum Youth Assembly Global Action Plan Launch on October 18, 2024, will focus on showcasing regional youth action plans addressing global agrifood challenges. The session will include presentations from members of the Youth Policy Board representing the different regions, highlighting their initiatives and inviting feedback. Participants will learn about opportunities to engage with the action plans and the Youth Policy Board, with discussions centered on empowering youth for sustainable development. The event will close by encouraging continued involvement and reflection on the progress made.

#### Objectives:

- Showcase the policy priority and pilot initiatives from each region and upcoming opportunities within the regions;
- Provide an overview of the development of the YPB;
- Share the YPB's Regional Action Plans, including rationale, policy priority and pilot initiatives;
- Provide the opportunity to ask questions about the various pilot initiatives and learn more about how youth can get involved.



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