

Under the patronage of
His Highness Sheikh Mansour bin Zayed Al Nahyan
Vice President of the UAE, Deputy Prime Minister, Chairman of the Presidential Court
and Chairman of the Board of Directors of Abu Dhabi Agriculture and Food Safety Authority (ADAFSA)



**GLOBAL FOOD
SECURITY SUMMIT**

القمة العالمية للأمن الغذائي

Together, for Humanity!

POST EVENT REPORT

2024



The Global Food Security Summit (GFSS) 2024, held from November 26-28, 2024, at the Abu Dhabi National Exhibition Centre (ADNEC), served as a global platform to address the critical issue of food security. Organized by ADNEC and the Abu Dhabi Agriculture and Food Safety Authority (ADAFSA), with the UAE Food & Beverage Business Group (UAE F&B) as a knowledge partner, the event operated under the patronage of His Highness Sheikh Mansour Bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Vice President of the UAE and Deputy Prime Minister. The summit featured the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and the Islamic Organization for Food Security (IOFS) as key partners.

The summit convened 3,500 delegates, including ministers, senior government officials, international experts, and representatives from over 70 countries. With a theme of "Working Together for the Benefit of Humanity," the event brought together stakeholders from across Central Asia, Europe, Africa, and the Middle East, solidifying its reputation as a truly global event. The discussions focused on building sustainable food systems, ensuring supply chain security, and advancing agricultural innovation, along with a host of other pertinent topics. The event showcased UAE's leadership through more than 30 initiatives, demonstrating the nation's commitment to innovation and collaboration.

American television host and comedian Steve Harvey added a personal touch, applauding Abu Dhabi's leadership and the UAE's vision to eradicate global hunger and advance food security. He described the summit as "a movement to ensure no one goes hungry."



Sideline Ministerial Meetings

The sideline meetings at GFSS 2024 provided an exclusive platform for high-level discussions and collaboration. Organized by various UAE ministries and organizations, these meetings were instrumental in shaping strategies and policies for food security and sustainability.

DAY 1 November 26, 2024

ORGANIZED BY

Ministry of Economy

TIME AND DURATION

8:00 am - 9:00 am

AGENDA

Discussion on regional food clusters and economic strategies.

Number of Participants: 20

MINISTERIAL MAJLIS

ORGANIZED BY

Ministry of Climate Change and Environment

TIME AND DURATION

12:00 noon - 1:30 pm

AGENDA

Discussions among ministers on climate resilience and food systems.

DAY 2 November 27, 2024

FOOD SAFETY COMMITTEE MEETING

ORGANIZED BY

Ministry of Climate Change and Environment

TIME AND DURATION

11:00 am - 12:30 pm

Number of Participants: 20

ACCELERATOR PROGRAM MEET

FOOD CLUSTER

ORGANIZED BY

Ministry of Economy (Prime Minister's Office)

TIME AND DURATION

12:00 pm - 12:45 pm

AGENDA

Focus on food cluster strategies and accelerator programs.

Number of Participants: 30-40

CLUSTER UNIVERSITY TALKS

ORGANIZED BY

MINISTRY OF ECONOMY

TIME AND DURATION: 2:30 PM - 3:30 PM

AGENDA

Collaborative talks between universities and food clusters.

NETWORKING WITH MEMBERS

ORGANIZED BY

Emirates Entrepreneurship Association

Time and Duration

4:00 pm - 6:00 pm

AGENDA

Building connections and sharing insights among industry members.

Number of Participants: 30-35

EMIRATES COUNCIL FOR FOOD SECURITY

ORGANIZED BY

Ministry of Climate Change and Environment

TIME AND DURATION

1:00 pm - 3:00 pm

Key Organizational Participation



H.E. Ambassador Berik Aryn

Director General
Islamic Organization for Food Security (IOFS)

Presented initiatives to enhance food security in OIC member states, focusing on regional cooperation and sustainability.



H.E. Dr. Abdulhakim Elwaer

Assistant Director-General & Regional
Representative for Near East & North Africa
Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)

Shared insights on reducing food loss, fostering resilient agrifood systems, and promoting innovative solutions for global food security.

UAE Ministerial Leadership



**H.E. Dr. Amna Bint
Abdullah Al Dahak**

Minister of Climate
Change & Environment



**H.E. Abdullah bin
Touq Al Marri**

Minister of Economy



**H.E. Alia bint
Abdulla Al Mazrouei**

Minister of State for
Entrepreneurship



H.E. Abdulla Balalaa

Assistant Minister of Foreign
Affairs for Energy and
Sustainability





**H.E. Dr. Amna Bint
Abdullah Al Dahak**
Minister of Climate
Change & Environment

At the Global Food Security Summit 2024, the UAE Minister of Climate Change and Environment delivered a powerful address emphasizing the urgent challenge of providing sustainable food for a growing global population. The speech highlighted the critical need for global collaboration and innovative solutions, particularly in addressing the twin challenges of climate change and food security.

Prioritizing Climate Action in Agriculture

The address underscored agriculture's significant contribution to global greenhouse gas emissions, accounting for nearly one-third of the total. It stressed the urgent need to integrate sustainable practices and climate action into global food systems.

A key milestone was the UAE Declaration on Sustainable Agriculture, Resilient Food Systems, and Climate Action, signed by 160 countries at COP28. The declaration reflects a commitment to collaborating with global partners to transform the agricultural sector and food value chain into sustainable, climate-resilient systems.

Global Leadership in Innovation and Collaboration

Highlighting the UAE's leadership in advancing global initiatives, the speech spotlighted the Agriculture Innovation Mission for Climate (AIM for Climate), launched in partnership with the United States.

With over 800 global partners, including governments, private sector entities, academic institutions, and research centers, AIM for Climate underscores the UAE's commitment to driving impactful innovation and collaboration.

The UAE's Role in Global Food Security

The address reinforced the nation's proactive role in supporting global food security efforts through:

Active Participation: Collaborating with countries and organizations to tackle food sector challenges.

Innovative Solutions: Developing and sharing technology-driven approaches to enhance sustainability.

Global Partnerships: Strengthening relationships to ensure resilient food systems worldwide.

A Call to Action

The address concluded with a call for stakeholders to treat the summit as a catalyst for transformative action. It emphasized the importance of building inclusive and climate-resilient food systems, ensuring sustainable solutions for future generations.



The challenges we face are immense, but through collaboration, innovation, and shared responsibility, we can transform food systems and create a brighter, more sustainable future for all



**H.E. Abdullah bin
Touq Al Marri**
Minister of Economy

The Global Food Security Summit 2024 served as the platform for the official launch of the UAE's Food Cluster Program, a transformative initiative aimed at enhancing the resilience and sustainability of the national food system. Delivering the keynote address, H.E. Abdullah bin Touq Al Marri, Minister of Economy of the UAE, underscored the program's critical role in addressing food security challenges through innovation, collaboration, and strategic leadership.

In his remarks, the minister highlighted the UAE's strategic integration of food security into its economic diversification program, reflecting the nation's broader political, agricultural, and environmental vision. Under the directives of the UAE's leadership, the Ministry of Economy has prioritized the development of a resilient and advanced food industry ecosystem. This vision aligns with the UAE's ongoing efforts to ensure food security as a pillar of national security while simultaneously driving economic prosperity.

The Food Cluster Program, initially announced a year ago, is designed to unify efforts across the country's seven emirates, fostering innovation and advancing the food sector. Projected to contribute \$10 billion to the national GDP and generate over 20,000 jobs by the next decade, the program exemplifies the UAE's commitment to sustainable economic growth. Notably, the year 2024 has seen the implementation of more than 30 strategic H.E. Abdullah bin Touq Al Marri articulated the UAE's broader commitment to food security as a fundamental human right, emphasizing the importance of collective responsibility in overcoming global challenges. He expressed confidence in the UAE's ability to achieve substantial progress in this domain, guided by the Food Cluster Program's strategic vision and the UAE's forward-thinking leadership. Initiatives under the program, demonstrating its robust progress and potential.

A central tenet of the Food Cluster Program is its emphasis on public-private collaboration, a cornerstone of the UAE's approach to fostering

sustainable development. The program is spearheaded by Mr. Saleh Lootah, Chairman of its Board of Directors, with comprehensive support from the Ministry of Economy. This leadership model underscores the UAE's recognition of the private sector's vital role in driving innovation and achieving long-term sustainability. The minister highlighted that the collaboration between public and private entities would ensure the program's success in addressing food security challenges, while also fostering economic and environmental leadership.

The launch of the Food Cluster Program represents a landmark initiative in the UAE's efforts to address the global challenge of food security. By fostering innovation, enhancing collaboration, and prioritizing sustainability, the program aims to position the UAE as a leader in resilient food systems, economic growth, and environmental stewardship. The minister's address reinforced the critical role of this initiative in driving transformative progress, both nationally and globally, in the pursuit of sustainable and inclusive food systems.



Food security is a right for all, and through collective responsibility and innovative strategies, we are confident in achieving pivotal progress



**H.E. Alaa Eddine
Farouk
Zaki El-Sayed**
 Minister of Agriculture and
 Land Reclamation, Egypt

At the Global Food Security Summit 2024, H.E. Alaa Eddine Farouk Zaki El-Sayed, Minister of Agriculture and Land Reclamation of Egypt, delivered an insightful address on the pressing challenges of global food insecurity. He highlighted the compounded effects of successive global crises, including the COVID-19 pandemic, the Russian-Ukrainian conflict, and climate change, which have escalated food and energy prices, disrupted supply chains, and diminished agricultural productivity. These crises have disproportionately impacted regions heavily reliant on food imports, emphasizing the urgency of innovative and sustainable approaches to addressing food security challenges.

The minister underscored the severe and multifaceted challenges hindering the achievement of sustainable food systems. Rising food and energy prices, high levels of food loss and waste, and the pervasive impacts of natural disasters, epidemics, and climate change were identified as critical barriers. He emphasized the need for a comprehensive approach aligned with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), particularly the goal of eradicating hunger. Central to this vision is the advancement of applied scientific research, the integration of artificial intelligence in agricultural practices, and the activation of early warning systems to enhance resilience and productivity in the agri-food sector.

H.E highlighted the importance of innovative financing mechanisms to support agricultural development. He called for the active participation of development partners in creating simplified financing programs tailored to vulnerable regions. Strengthening agricultural census programs to provide accurate assessments of food security, linking foreign investments to local food security initiatives, and enhancing food safety systems at all stages of production were emphasized as essential strategies. The minister also advocated for reducing technical barriers to facilitate the exchange of agricultural goods and fostering stability and peaceful coexistence as prerequisites for advancing global food security.

He outlined Egypt's comprehensive agricultural development strategy, spearheaded under the leadership of President Abdel Fattah El-Sisi, which serves as a model for regional and global food security. This strategy includes vertical agricultural expansion to maximize productivity, horizontal expansion through the reclamation of new lands, and significant investments in fisheries, poultry, and livestock projects. Strategic focus has been placed on cultivating high-yielding crops critical to ensuring the availability of essential agricultural raw materials. These initiatives reflect Egypt's unwavering commitment to achieving food security while contributing to global efforts to build resilient and sustainable food systems.

In his concluding remarks, he emphasized the vital role of global collaboration and innovation in overcoming food security challenges. He expressed confidence in the collective ability of nations to address these issues through unified action, visionary leadership, and sustainable practices.



Food security is a cornerstone of stability and human dignity, and addressing its challenges requires an unwavering commitment to innovation, collaboration, and inclusive growth



H.E. Abdulla Balalaa
Assistant Minister of Foreign
Affairs for Energy and
Sustainability

Speaking at the Global Food Security Summit 2024, H.E. Abdulla Balalaa underlined the critical role of food security as a foundation for societal stability, peace, and sustainable development. He emphasized that addressing food security is no longer just an agricultural or economic issue but a strategic imperative to ensure the well-being and prosperity of nations amidst escalating challenges such as climate change, population growth, and resource constraints.

H.E. Balalaa highlighted the UAE's visionary approach under the leadership of His Highness Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, which positions food security as a national priority.

Over the past five years, the UAE has contributed \$1.7 billion to global food security efforts, benefiting 95 developing countries and accounting for over 8% of its total foreign aid. This commitment reflects the UAE's dedication to combating hunger and fostering sustainable food systems worldwide.

The minister outlined several flagship initiatives demonstrating the UAE's leadership in innovation and global collaboration.

These include the UAE Declaration on Sustainable Agriculture, Resilient Food Systems, and Climate Action, signed by over 160 countries at COP28, as well as a \$200 million co-investment initiative with the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation to accelerate agricultural innovations, particularly for smallholder farmers in sub-Saharan Africa and South Asia.

Partnerships with organizations like CGIAR further underscore the UAE's commitment to enhancing

resilience and sustainability in food production.

H.E. Balalaa emphasized the importance of integrating water and food security, noting that water is fundamental to agricultural production and addressing food scarcity.

He announced the UAE's co-hosting of the United Nations Water Conference in 2026 in partnership with Senegal, an event aimed at advancing global dialogue on water-related challenges and reinforcing the interdependence of water and food security.



Food security is a
cornerstone of peace and
stability, and through
shared responsibility, we
can ensure a sustainable
future for generations to
come



**HRH Princess
Basma bint Ali**
 FAO Regional Goodwill
 Ambassador for the Near East
 and North Africa

At the Global Food Security Summit 2024, HRH Princess Basma bint Ali delivered an impassioned address emphasizing the urgent need for collaborative action to combat hunger, malnutrition, and food insecurity.

She described the summit as a transformative moment, bringing together global stakeholders to address one of humanity's most pressing challenges. Drawing inspiration from the Quran, she reminded the audience of the Earth's intrinsic ability to provide sustenance when treated with care and balance, urging collective mindfulness toward the preservation of the planet's resources.

Highlighting the fragility of the Near East and North Africa (NENA) region, HRH outlined how reliance on food imports, escalating climate stresses, and ongoing conflicts have placed millions at risk of food insecurity. She cited alarming statistics from the FAO, revealing that 58% of Africa's population suffers from food insecurity and that globally, 1.3 billion tons of food are wasted annually.

This includes 13.2% of food lost between harvest and retail and 19% wasted at the household, retail, and food service levels. She underscored the importance of addressing not only food availability but also affordability, nutritional quality, and the preservation of soil microbiobiodiversity as essential to tackling these challenges.

She emphasized the necessity of a comprehensive approach that integrates sustainable agricultural practices, advanced technologies, and innovative methods. She called for empowering women and youth, describing them as central to transforming agricultural systems.

Women, as the backbone of rural economies, possess expertise and resilience crucial to

advancing food security, while youth bring creativity and energy to introduce cutting-edge solutions. Their involvement in regions like NENA is vital for building resilient food systems and addressing the dual crises of hunger and climate change.

As FAO Regional Goodwill Ambassador, she highlighted her lifelong dedication to championing biodiversity and combating climate change, which she described as axioms to food security.

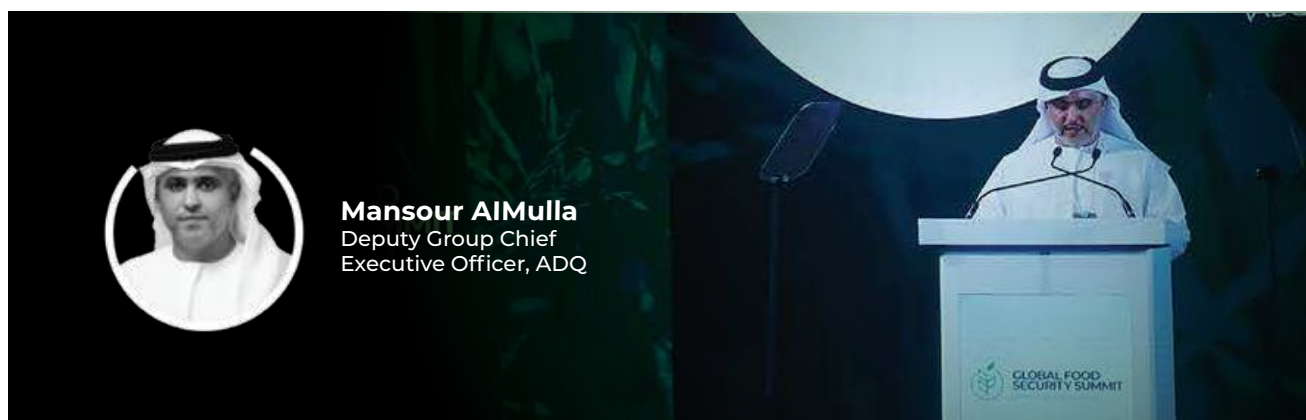
The protection of terrestrial and marine ecosystems, she stressed, is essential to ensuring sustainable food systems. She urged global leaders to develop practical, scalable, and inclusive solutions that address the root causes of food insecurity while benefiting all stakeholders.



Women and youth are
not just the future
they are the present.
They are central to the
solutions we seek for
food security and
climate resilience

Key Sessions and Highlights

Collective Responsibility in Achieving Food Security



Mansour AlMulla
Deputy Group Chief
Executive Officer, ADQ

In his opening remarks, Mansour AlMulla emphasized the criticality of food security as a global issue and outlined the need for collective responsibility in addressing the challenges faced by the agri-food sector. He highlighted the role of collaboration, strategic investment, and innovative technologies in ensuring a resilient food system.

Key Challenges in Food Security

IMPACT OF CLIMATE CHANGE AND POPULATION GROWTH

Climate change, resource scarcity, and rapid population growth were identified as key disruptors to agricultural supply chains.

AlMulla stressed that fragmented sectors working in silos slow the scalability and efficiency of solutions.

Need for Collaboration

Building bridges across the entire food value chain is essential.

Cooperation among stakeholders is vital to address the sector's multifaceted challenges.

ADQ'S CONTRIBUTIONS TO FOOD SECURITY

Strategic Investments

ADQ has significantly invested in global leaders like Unifor Company to strengthen the UAE's supply chain, ensuring a reliable and resilient source of fresh produce and grains.

The incubation of Sidal in 2023 underscores efforts to reduce reliance on imports by supporting local farmers through modern technologies and eco-friendly practices.

Innovative Projects

ADQ is pioneering quinoa cultivation in partnership with ICBA, adapting this nutritious grain to the UAE's arid conditions.

Launch of the Active Farm, a 200-hectare indoor vertical farming platform, is projected to produce 40 kilotons of fresh fruits and vegetables annually.

Avenir's Transformation

In less than four years, ADQ transformed Avenir into a regional champion in snacking and protein, augmented by acquisitions and innovation-driven growth strategies.

Alignment with UAE's National Food Security Strategy 2051, AlMulla reiterated that ADQ's initiatives align with the UAE National Food Security Strategy 2051, which aims to:

Eliminate hunger by ensuring year-round access to sufficient and nutritious food. Invest in sustainable agriculture and cutting-edge technologies.

Conclusion

The speech concluded with a resounding call to action:

"Food security is indeed a global challenge, but to tackle it, we must act together. Let us continue to work together, leveraging our shared strengths to ensure food security for future generation



Key Sessions and Highlights

Enhancing Food Security with Microfinance for Small and Medium Farmers



**H.E. Dr. Obaid Saif
Hamad Al Zaabi**
Chairman of Board Arab
Authority for Agricultural
Investment and Development
(AAAID)

H.E. Dr. Obaid Saif Hamad Al Zaabi opened his speech by emphasizing the importance of addressing food security challenges, especially in the context of supporting small and medium farmers (SMFs) in the Arab world. Speaking at the Global Food Security Summit in Abu Dhabi, he highlighted the AAAID's 50-year journey in fostering sustainable food security through investments, technological innovation, and strategic collaborations across Arab nations.

Key Highlights from the Speech

THE ROLE OF SMALL AND MEDIUM FARMERS IN ARAB AGRICULTURE

Contribution to Food Production

SMFs contribute over 80% of total agricultural production in Arab countries. Smallholder farms account for 41% of cultivated areas, forming the backbone of the region's agricultural output.

Global Perspective

Smallholder farmers, owning less than 2 hectares of land, produce 70-80% of global food and form 90% of the world's 570 million farmers.

Challenges Faced by SMFs in the Arab Region

H.E. outlined several obstacles confronting small and medium farmers:

Low Productivity: Due to reliance on traditional farming techniques.

Lack of Access: Limited access to modern technology, financing, and markets.

Climate Challenges: Vulnerability to climate change and price volatility.

Competitiveness: Inability to compete with large-scale producers.

Awareness and Education Gaps: Weak financial inclusion and technical knowledge.

Microfinance Solutions for SMFs

AAAID's microfinance initiatives aim to empower smallholder farmers by addressing their specific needs.

Integrated Financial Support

Provision of loans under acceptable terms tailored for rural farmers. Access to agricultural inputs like seeds, fertilizers, and pesticides.

Capacity Building

Collaboration with agricultural research centers to introduce modern farming techniques. Supervised production processes from land preparation to harvest.

Market Access and Risk Mitigation

Contracts with food processing companies to secure market linkages. Encouragement of agricultural insurance to reduce risks.



The empowerment of small and medium farmers is central to achieving sustainable food security. Through collaboration, innovation, and strategic investments, we can ensure a brighter and more resilient future for agriculture in the Arab region.

Key Sessions and Highlights

Endowments as Catalysts: Economic Strategies for Advancing Food Security



H.E. Fahed Al Qassim began by addressing the urgency of tackling food insecurity, a crisis affecting nearly 760 million people globally in 2023, with a disproportionate impact on Africa, where one in five people face hunger. Highlighting the Global Food Security Summit as a platform for action, he emphasized the need for collective efforts to address the pressing challenges threatening global stability

Role of Endowments in Advancing Food Security MISCONCEPTIONS ABOUT ENDOWMENTS

Clarifying the Scope of Endowments: H.E. Al Qassim challenged the misconception that endowments (awqaf) are limited to religious or charitable activities.

Using the Harvard Endowment as a global example, he illustrated how strategic investment approaches have enabled it to become the largest university endowment globally, valued at over \$50 billion in 2023.

This success demonstrates the transformative potential of endowments across various sectors, including healthcare, education, and food security.

Examples of Endowment Impact

Awqaf Abu Dhabi's Initiatives: Launched a 1 billion AED healthcare endowment fund to address specialized community healthcare needs, ensuring sustainable financing and impactful change.

The organization's diversified portfolio spans healthcare, education, community development, and increasingly, agriculture and sustainability.

Global Examples: Rockefeller Foundation: Annual funding of agriculture projects through its \$6.5 billion endowment.

Gates Foundation: Spending over \$4 billion annually on agricultural initiatives. **Future Health Fund:** Commitment of \$100 million annually for sustainability programs.

The UAE's Leadership in Food Security

National Food Security Strategy 2051: A comprehensive plan to eliminate hunger and ensure year-round access to sufficient food.

Agriculture Innovation Mission for Climate (AIM for Climate): Driving agricultural innovation to combat climate change.

Mohammed bin Zayed Water Initiative: Focused on sustainable water solutions to support agriculture.

XPRIZE Fund: Allocated \$50 million to global water and sustainability challenges. These initiatives, combined with strategic investments, position the UAE as a leader in food security across the Gulf region and beyond.

Call to Action

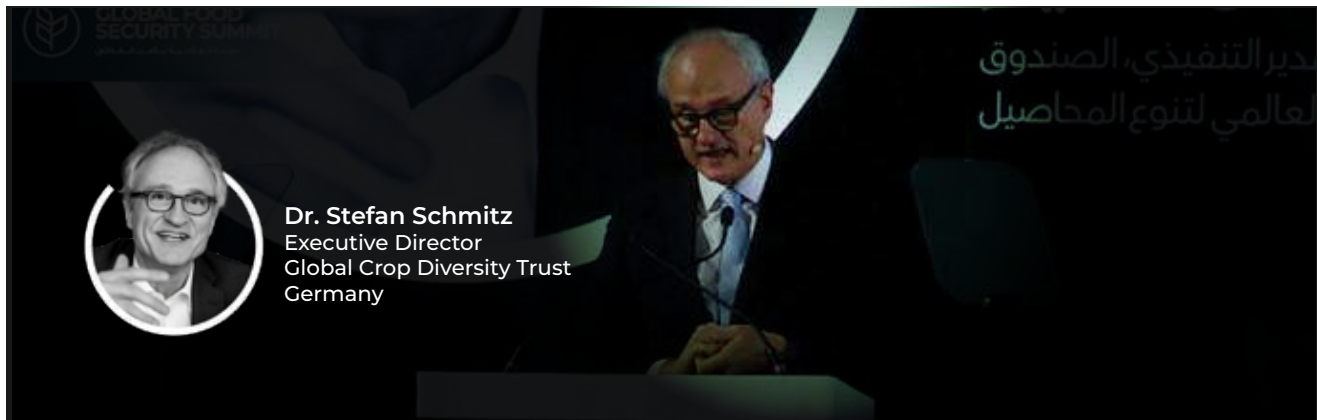
Double Agricultural Research Investments: Address gaps in research to enhance agricultural productivity and sustainability.

Strengthen Public-Private Partnerships: Collaborate across sectors to drive innovation and scale solutions.

Policy Development: Implement policies that ensure food is accessible, affordable, and nutritious for all

Key Sessions and Highlights

Navigating the Maze of Global Food Security Challenges



Dr. Stefan Schmitz
Executive Director
Global Crop Diversity Trust
Germany

Dr. Schmitz opened his keynote by emphasizing the critical challenges of global food security, which demand collective political will, investment, innovation, and international collaboration. He highlighted the role of improved seeds—those adapted to climate change and capable of producing higher yields—as a cornerstone for addressing these challenges. The Crop Trust, an international organization, is dedicated to preserving and utilizing crop diversity to support agricultural research and ensure sustainable food production systems.

3 Key Global Food Security Challenges

INCREASING PRODUCTION

The global demand for food is projected to rise from 13,000 trillion calories to over 20,000 trillion calories annually by 2050.

Addressing this gap requires higher-yield crops and innovative farming techniques.

Ensuring Access to Food

In 2023, 735 million people faced hunger, representing 1 in 10 people globally and 1 in 5 in Africa. Beyond calories, access to food that meets nutritional needs remains a pressing issue.

Improving Nutritional Quality

2 billion people globally suffer from micronutrient deficiencies, affecting health, immunity, and economic productivity.

Nutritional deficiencies not only cause personal suffering but also hinder societal development and economic opportunities.

Factors Exacerbating Food Security Challenges

One-third of global agricultural land is degraded due to unsustainable practices, cutting yields by 30-50% in Sub-Saharan Africa. Agriculture consumes 70% of freshwater, yet water scarcity and desertification, affecting one-third of global land, strain food production. Climate change worsens these issues, reducing agricultural output and threatening economies reliant on natural resources.

Opportunities and Solutions for Food Security

Investing in agricultural research improves yields, resilience, and nutrition through innovations like improved seeds. With 75% of plant varieties lost, crop diversity and genetic preservation by the Crop Trust are critical. Initiatives like Vision for Adaptive Crops and Soils (VACS) promote neglected crops, while modern technology supports sustainable food systems.



Crop diversity is a fundamental answer to global food security challenges. It is time to turn these challenges into opportunities and secure a resilient, sustainable future for agriculture

Leveraging Export Strategies to Strengthen Food Supply Chains



Khalil Fadhel Al Mansoori
Director General of the Abu Dhabi
Exports Office (ADEX)

In his address at the Global Food Security Summit 2024, Khalil Fadhel Al Mansoori, Director General of the Abu Dhabi Exports Office (ADEX), highlighted the pivotal role of innovative export strategies in strengthening global food supply chains amidst challenges such as climate change, resource scarcity, and surging global food demand. He emphasized that building sustainable and resilient food systems requires a forward-looking, multifaceted approach aligned with the UAE's visionary leadership.

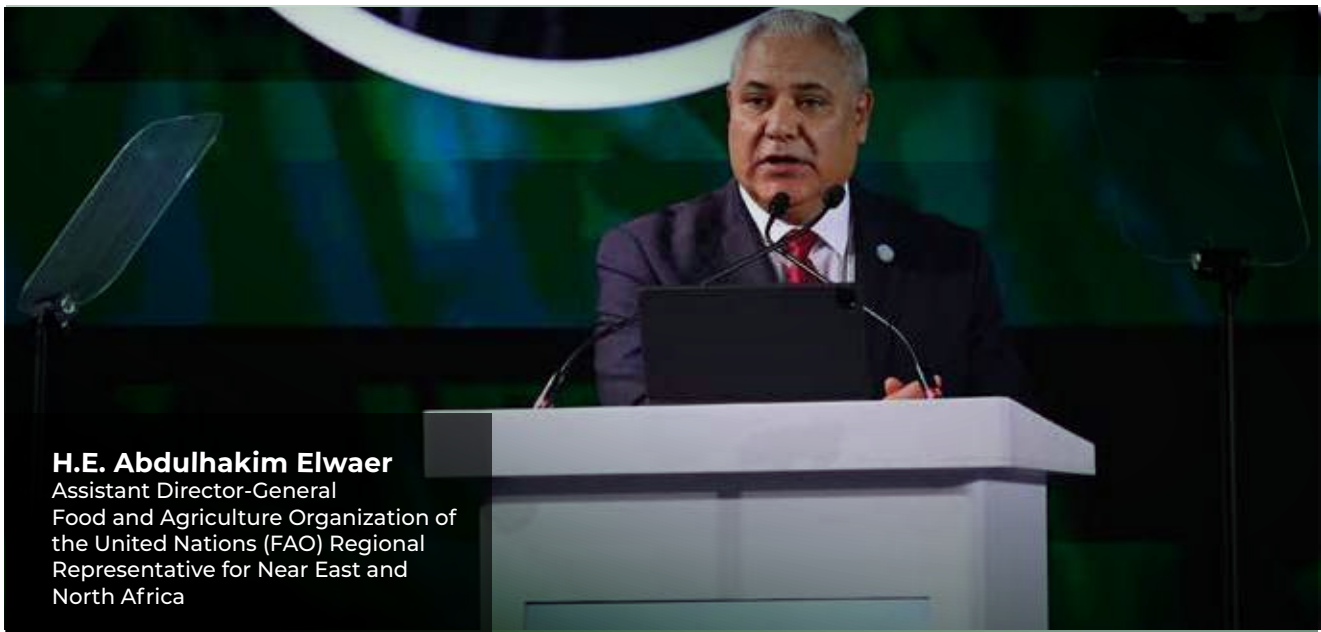
The UAE has established itself as a global hub for food exports, leveraging its advanced production capabilities to meet local and international demands. In 2022, the nation achieved a significant milestone by exporting 24 million tons of food, valued at \$6.4 billion, positioning the UAE among the world's top 10 food-exporting hubs. These efforts reflect the UAE's commitment to enhancing food security, not only within its borders but also globally, by acting as a strategic center for food exports.

ADEX has been instrumental in driving this progress by providing comprehensive support to UAE exporters. Through export financing and guarantees for external buyers, ADEX has facilitated credit facilities exceeding 3.5 billion dirhams. This financial backing has enhanced the competitiveness of Emirati products and expanded their reach to global markets, with sustainability and flexibility as key focus areas.

Khalil Fadhel Al Mansoori underscored that these achievements align with the UAE's National Food Security Strategy, which aims to contribute \$10 billion to GDP and create significant employment opportunities in the food industry. He stressed the importance of addressing global challenges like climate change, market fluctuations, and resource scarcity through innovation and collaboration.



By fostering cooperation with partners and prioritizing innovation, sustainability, and self-sufficiency, we can transform ambitions into tangible achievements and build an ecosystem that drives economic growth and resilience



H.E. Abdulhakim Elwaer

Assistant Director-General
Food and Agriculture Organization of
the United Nations (FAO) Regional
Representative for Near East and
North Africa

In his compelling address at the Global Food Security Summit 2024, H.E. Abdulhakim Elwaer emphasized the pressing need to address food security as a multidimensional challenge, interconnected with agriculture, nutrition, climate resilience, and economic stability. The summit presented a platform for collaboration and innovation, crucial for advancing sustainable and resilient agri-food systems.

The Four Pillars of Food Security

Elwaer outlined the essential components of food security—availability, accessibility, affordability, and adequacy.

Availability is achieved through local production and imports, requiring national coordination to balance domestic supply with imports to protect local farmers. Accessibility involves government investments in infrastructure to ensure food reaches rural and vulnerable communities.

Affordability is supported by subsidies and competition to control prices for low-income populations. Adequacy ensures that food is not only available and affordable but also nutritious, reducing long-term health costs.

Global Challenges to Food Security

The "Four C's"—climate change, calamities, conflicts, and consumer culture—were identified as critical challenges: Climate change exacerbates food production issues, especially in arid regions.

Calamities, including natural disasters and economic crises, disrupt supply chains. Conflicts, such as those in Gaza, Yemen, and Ukraine, increase regional instability and food insecurity. Consumer culture, with high rates of food loss and waste, remains a significant barrier to sustainability. Elwaer stressing that reducing waste could alleviate pressure on natural

resources.

Proposed Solutions

Elwaer highlighted three key strategies:

Trade: Diversifying food import sources to mitigate risks from crises and investing in long-term trade agreements.

Technology: Emphasizing sustainable innovations, such as water-efficient systems and precision agriculture, while ensuring they are affordable and accessible to smallholder farmers, who produce 80% of the world's food.

Local Resource Maximization: Leveraging national initiatives like Egypt's "1.5 Million Feddan" project and similar efforts across the UAE, Saudi Arabia, and Oman. Elwaer underscored the importance of moving from dialogue to actionable solutions.



Together, we can move from words to action, from challenges to solutions, and from hunger to hope, he stated, calling for collaboration across nations to ensure food security becomes a reality for all.



FIRESIDE CHAT

ROLE OF INNOVATION AND STARTUPS IN ENHANCING THE AGRICULTURE SECTOR

Moderated by **Faisal Bin Huraiz**, Presenter at Skynews Arabia, the fireside chat featured **H.E. Alia bint Abdulla Al Mazrouei**, UAE Minister of State for Entrepreneurship. The discussion centered on the pivotal role of innovation and startups in transforming the agricultural sector, highlighting the UAE's unwavering support for entrepreneurial growth and its commitment to building a thriving ecosystem.

Innovation and Opportunities in the UAE

H.E. Alia bint Abdulla Al Mazrouei emphasized the UAE's position as a global hub for entrepreneurship, inviting Emiratis and residents alike to seize the vast opportunities available across various sectors, including agriculture. "The UAE is a land of opportunities, offering entrepreneurs the support needed to carve their own success stories," she noted, referencing successful ventures by farmers, manufacturers, SMEs, and startups that underscore the UAE's dynamic entrepreneurial landscape.

Collaborative Growth and Economic Impact

The discussion highlighted the importance of collaboration between government entities and the private sector in fostering a robust entrepreneurial environment. This synergistic

partnership not only drives economic growth but also creates jobs and empowers communities, contributing to the UAE's vision of a diversified and resilient economy. H.E. Alia bint Abdulla Al Mazrouei underscored that entrepreneurship is not merely about individual success but about uplifting entire families and communities.

The Entrepreneurial Mindset

H.E. Alia shared insights into the mindset required for entrepreneurial success, emphasizing that courage, risk-taking, and passion are fundamental traits. "The recipe for success as an entrepreneur lies in your courage, your ability to take risks, and your passion," she stated. She also highlighted the importance of understanding the target market, stressing that a clear comprehension of customer needs is critical to turning ideas into impactful ventures.

Call to Action

The session concluded with a call to action for aspiring entrepreneurs to explore the UAE's fertile ground for innovation. By leveraging the supportive ecosystem and aligning their passion with purpose, entrepreneurs can make meaningful contributions to the UAE's vision of a sustainable and thriving agricultural sector.

Food Cluster Strategy

Global Success Stories



H.E. Maria Hanif Alqassim
Assistant Undersecretary
Policies and Economic
Studies Sector Ministry
of Economy

MODERATOR



Jon Ander Egana
Managing Director
Basque Food Cluster



Paola Giavedoni
Lead Global Collaborations
Foodvalley NL, Netherlands



Dr Mirjana Prica
Managing Director
Food Innovation Australia

The panel discussion, “Food Cluster Strategy - Global Success Stories” provided invaluable insights into the evolution, challenges, and achievements of food clusters from around the globe. Representing successful case studies, panelists from Food Valley in the Netherlands, the Basque Food Cluster, and Food Innovation Australia shared their journeys, highlighting the critical role of collaboration, leadership, and government-private sector partnerships in driving sustainable growth within food ecosystems.

EVOLUTION OF FOOD CLUSTERS GLOBAL EXPERIENCES

Food Valley, Netherlands

Food Valley, celebrating its 20th anniversary, began as an initiative led by the Regional

Development Agency and the University of Wageningen.

Starting with just 12 companies, Food Valley has grown into a robust ecosystem of 450 partners across five distinct clusters, including sectors like alternative proteins, circular food systems, and digital agriculture.

The success of Food Valley lies in its systemic approach, fostering international collaboration and ensuring practical solutions are developed to address food security challenges.

Key Quote

“Building a successful cluster is not about quick wins; it is about systemic, long-term collaboration that brings together partners to solve global food challenges.”



Basque Food Cluster, Spain

Established 15 years ago, the Basque Food Cluster focused on addressing the unique needs of small companies within the food sector.

The cluster's foundation was built on trust and collaboration, recognizing that collective efforts were essential to overcoming challenges such as global competition, access to markets, and innovation gaps.

By fostering strong relationships among stakeholders, the Basque cluster succeeded in aligning its members' capabilities and creating a supportive ecosystem.

The foundation of any cluster is trust. Companies need to understand each other's challenges and capabilities to collaborate effectively and succeed.

Food Innovation Australia Limited (FIAL)

Australia's national food cluster, supported by the federal government, is a dynamic network that encompasses 190,000 SMEs across the agri-food value chain.

FIAL focuses on capturing value within the food system, balancing innovation with the country's diverse agricultural climates.

Large multinational companies, such as Mondelez and Nestlé, play a pivotal role in supporting SMEs by providing resources, expertise, and access to global markets.

The initiative faces challenges in aligning jurisdictions and stakeholders but has made strides in establishing a national ecosystem that integrates research, technology, and industry partnerships.

Building Collaboration and Understanding Needs

A central theme of the panel was the importance of creating an environment where trust and collaboration among stakeholders could flourish:

Food Valley underscored the need for systemic, international approaches to address challenges beyond local boundaries.

The Basque Cluster highlighted its efforts to build confidence and shared purpose among smaller companies, which often face resource and capability constraints.

In Australia, collaboration is driven by government support and industry leadership, aiming to create a connected ecosystem that accounts for the entire food system—from agriculture to manufacturing and export.

The Role of Leadership and Government Interaction

The panel emphasized the critical role of leadership and government interaction in driving food cluster success:

Government Support: In all three examples, governments played a crucial role in funding and enabling the food clusters by providing infrastructure, confidence, and frameworks for collaboration.

Private Sector Leadership: Large multinational corporations serve as anchors in the clusters, offering SMEs access to expertise, advanced technologies, and global markets.

Aligned Strategies: The challenge of aligning different jurisdictions and stakeholders was discussed, with Australia offering valuable lessons in creating national strategies for food clusters.

Actionable Takeaways and Recommendations

Systemic Collaboration

Successful clusters require a systemic approach that aligns stakeholders, fosters trust, and integrates solutions across the value chain.

Government and Industry Partnerships

Strong partnerships between governments and private enterprises are essential to providing confidence, funding, and innovation pathways for food systems.

Supporting SMEs

Anchoring clusters with large multinationals can provide SMEs with the tools, resources, and market access needed to thrive.

Knowledge Sharing

Platforms like Food Valley, Basque Cluster, and FIAL demonstrate that global collaboration accelerates innovation and amplifies impact, benefiting local and international food systems.



Clusters thrive when industry leaders, SMEs, and governments work together to capture value and build resilient, sustainable food systems



UAE's High-Impact Projects for a Resilient Food System



Seifallah Rabie
LOGIC UAE
Managing Partner

MODERATOR



Fatima Al Dhaheri
Head of the AGWA Cluster
Abu Dhabi Investment Office
(ADIO)



Hassan Halawy
CEO
Elite Agro Projects



Suresh Vaidyanathan
CEO Special Projects
Ghassan Aboud Group and
CEO, Abu Dhabi Food Hub



Mohamed Al Breiki
Executive Director
Sustainable Development
Masdar City

The panel discussion “UAE’s High-Impact Projects for a Resilient Food System” highlighted the UAE’s commitment to enhancing food system resilience through collaboration, innovation, and technology-driven solutions. The discussion addressed agricultural challenges, the role of partnerships, and forward-thinking strategies to ensure sustainability and food security in the face of global disruptions.

Challenges and Collaboration in Food Security

The panel opened with an exploration of global food security challenges and the need for cross-sector collaboration to develop long-term solutions.

The Abu Dhabi Investment Office (ADIO) emphasized its role in strengthening food and water security through its dedicated agriculture cluster.

Lessons learned from the COVID-19 pandemic, which exposed vulnerabilities in global supply chains, highlighted the urgency to reimagine food security strategies.

Key Food Security Strategies Post-COVID

The COVID-19 pandemic served as a catalyst for the UAE to reassess its food supply standards and value chain strategies.

The Abu Dhabi Food Hub emerged as a critical initiative to optimize supply chains, offering

integrated value-added services such as certification, packaging, and last-mile delivery

The Food Hub differentiates itself by creating a real estate ecosystem for food products, leveraging technology to reduce food waste and enhance logistics.

Masdar City: A Hub for Sustainability and Innovation

Masdar City was highlighted as a model for sustainable urban development, attracting knowledge-based enterprises and pioneering innovations:

It serves as a hub for businesses focused on food security, climate adaptation, and technology integration.

Projects within Masdar City include:

Smart vertical farming systems to maximize production while conserving resources.

AI-driven pest detection models tailored to local ecosystems.

An open-source geospatial platform to optimize irrigation and fertilizer requirements, ensuring efficient resource use.

The challenges of balancing food security with climate adaptation in an arid region were addressed, emphasizing the need for technologies that deliver extreme efficiency and are tailored to local conditions.



The Role of Partnerships in Driving Resilience

The power of partnerships was highlighted as a cornerstone of the UAE's food security strategy.

The Abu Dhabi Investment Office plays a key role in attracting foreign direct investment (FDI) and supporting innovative food technologies that strengthen local production. Collaboration with regulators, research institutions, and universities enables the UAE to develop and scale solutions that have a measurable impact on the economy, job creation, and food self-sufficiency.

Partnerships with technology providers support initiatives like smart vertical farming and AI-driven monitoring tools, ensuring a sustainable ecosystem for farmers and businesses.

Supporting Small Farmers and Developing Ecosystems

The panel recognized the critical role of small farmers in building a resilient food system. Key recommendations included:

Providing small farmers with access to practical tools, better genetics, and advanced technologies. Leveraging partnerships with large corporate farms to enable access to affordable seeds, fertilizers, and equipment. Introducing technology-driven solutions in collaboration with telecom providers to enhance connectivity and accessibility for small-scale farmers. Creating mutually beneficial ecosystems where small and large farms coexist, driving sustainability and resource optimization.

Abu Dhabi Food Hub and End-to-End Logistics

The Abu Dhabi Food Hub was positioned as a game-changing solution to address logistics and

food waste challenges.

With access to cutting-edge technology, the Food Hub enhances cold storage, optimizes supply chains, and ensures end-to-end visibility for produce.

By reducing inefficiencies and enabling adaptive distribution channels, the hub minimizes food loss while providing seamless services for stakeholders, including government entities, B2B buyers, and cross-border suppliers.

Innovative Projects and High-Impact Announcements

The session concluded with announcements of transformative projects aimed at strengthening food system resilience

Launch of the PALT (Protein Alternatives) Flagship Event.

A strategic initiative to attract alternative protein pioneers to Abu Dhabi, positioning the UAE as a global hub for next-generation food innovations.

AI-Driven Innovations

Development of the first machine learning model for AI-based pest detection, tailored to the UAE's local agricultural ecosystem.

Launch of an open-source geospatial platform to optimize irrigation and fertilizer use, enhancing agricultural efficiency.

Public-Private Collaboration

Highlighting the importance of collaborative efforts in driving projects like the Abu Dhabi Food Hub, which integrates technology, logistics, and value-chain optimization.

Revolutionizing Farming in Arid Lands

The panel discussion “Revolutionizing Farming in Arid Lands” addressed the critical role of arid lands in ensuring sustainable agriculture amid increasing desertification and climate change. The conversation explored practical innovations, soil regeneration techniques, and the potential for global standardization of sustainable practices.

Key Discussions and Insights

Challenges of Arid Land Utilization

The panel underscored the rising importance of arid regions for agricultural development, driven by changing weather patterns and increasing food demand. It was emphasized that addressing soil degradation and water scarcity in these areas is essential to achieving future food security.

Innovative Technologies and Practices

The use of drip irrigation systems was discussed as a proven solution for water-efficient farming in arid regions. Techniques to increase soil organic matter through tropical grasses like Bucha grass and Bengo grass were highlighted as effective methods to enhance soil health and productivity.

Examples of integrated fruit and livestock farming were cited as models of regenerative agriculture, showcasing the ability to balance production and sustainability.

Growing Interest in Regenerative Agriculture

Panelists acknowledged the global shift towards regenerative agriculture to combat desertification and ensure long-term soil health. The need for

scalable and standardized approaches to enhance soil organic matter and restore degraded lands was discussed as a priority for policymakers and practitioners.

Global Standardization and Certification

The panel explored whether regenerative practices should be region-specific or globally standardized.

The consensus highlighted the value of developing international certification frameworks to ensure the credibility, adoption, and effectiveness of sustainable agriculture practices.

Key Takeaways

Action on Soil Health: A concerted focus on increasing soil organic matter through proven techniques, such as the use of tropical grasses, can significantly enhance agricultural productivity in arid regions. Regenerative Agriculture as a Global Model:

Adoption of regenerative practices, including integrated farming systems, can restore degraded lands while ensuring sustainable production.

Standardization and Collaboration: Developing global certification protocols for regenerative agriculture will facilitate knowledge-sharing, ensure consistency, and drive large-scale adoption.



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Emirates Bio Farm

MODERATOR



Dr. Tarifa Alzaabi
Director General
International Center for
Biosaline Agriculture



Cleber Oliveira Soares
Deputy Executive Secretary
Minister of Agriculture and
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Dr. Ismail Abdelhamid
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Dr. Shamal Mohammad
Director, Agtech, Silal



Aly Abousabaa
Regional Director
Central and West Asia and North Africa
CGIAR, and Director General of
the International Center for Agricultural
Research in the Dry Areas (ICARDA), Egypt

Field of Power: Empowering Women in Agriculture



Jessy El Murr
International Journalist
and Presenter

MODERATOR



Nour El Jundi
Proposal Development Specialist
International Center for
Biosaline Agriculture



Huda Alsahi
PhD, Social Policy Officer
Rural Transformation and Gender
Equality Division (ESP) Food and
Agriculture Organization of
the United Nations (FAO)

The panel discussion “Field of Power: Empowering Women in Agriculture” brought to the forefront the challenges, opportunities, and actionable strategies to enhance women’s participation and empowerment in agriculture. The session explored persistent gender gaps, effective policy interventions, climate adaptation strategies, and successful initiatives aimed at transforming women into key agents of change within agricultural systems.

Key Challenges in Women’s Empowerment in Agriculture

The panel began by highlighting systemic challenges that continue to hinder women’s empowerment in agriculture:

Gender Equality Gaps

Persistent inequalities exist in access to land, capital, services, inputs, and technology, limiting women’s ability to fully engage in agricultural systems.

Social Norms and Mobility Constraints

Constraining social norms often restrict women’s roles in the public sector and reduce their mobility, forcing them into unpaid, irregular, or invisible work.

Care Burden and Time Limitations

Women face a disproportionate care burden, making it difficult to balance household responsibilities with productive work in agriculture.

Encouragingly, the panel referenced a recent FAO report showing significant reductions in gender gaps related to access to financial services and technology from 2010 to 2023.

Impact of Climate Change on Women

The discussion underscored the disproportionate impact of climate change on women in agriculture, particularly in regions like Sub-Saharan Africa:

Women are more vulnerable to climate-related challenges due to limited access to adaptive resources.

Effective Strategies discussed included:

Introducing climate-resilient crops, such as drought-tolerant and nutritious varieties.

Actively involving women in decision-making processes related to climate adaptation strategies.

Case studies highlighted

Successful introduction of stress-tolerant crops in desert conditions.

Growing quinoa in Morocco as a solution to food insecurity and climate challenges.

Role of Technology and Data in Empowering Women

The panel emphasized the transformative role of technology and data-driven innovations in supporting women farmers



Digital Advisory Platforms

Examples included the “App” launched in Egypt in 2019, which provides advisory services tailored to women farmers, banks, and extension workers.

Innovative Communication Solutions

Initiatives like the “Talking Box” in Uganda and Kenya use audio content in local languages to reach women with low literacy levels.

Data for Intervention

Leveraging data collected through National Statistics Offices enables targeted interventions to address women-specific needs in agriculture.

Successful Initiatives for Women in Agriculture

The panel showcased impactful initiatives that have enhanced women’s leadership, skills, and access to resources:

Women Leaders in Agriculture Program: This initiative focuses on building leadership and research capabilities among Arab women. To date, it has graduated 58 fellows from countries across the MENA region.

FAO e-Learning Academy: The academy provides free online courses, many of which are CPT-accredited, ensuring women have access to capacity development and applied knowledge to enhance their agricultural practices.

Community-Based Programs: Programs that integrate training, capacity building, and access to

markets were highlighted as pivotal in boosting women’s confidence and decision-making power.

Policy Recommendations for Women’s Empowerment

Capacity Development and Training: Focus on non-livestock skills training and education to equip women as agents of change.

Design flexible training programs around women’s schedules and mobility constraints, with access to subsidized child care facilities.

Access to Resources: Ensure women have access to finance, inputs, equipment, and markets to enable sustainable agricultural practices.

Facilitate opportunities for women to have decision-making power over their farms and agricultural choices.

Climate-Resilient Strategies: Promote the introduction of drought-tolerant crops and involve women in decision-making processes for climate adaptation strategies.

Challenging Social Norms: Partner with local producer organizations to challenge stereotypes about women’s roles and expand their participation in public-sector agriculture.

Soft Skills Development: Provide training in marketing, sales, public speaking, and negotiations to enhance women’s leadership and entrepreneurial abilities.

How Climate Change Reshapes Agriculture



Alexander Lotsch
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Global Department for
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MODERATOR



Gian Luca Bagnara
Chairman, AIFE



Dr. Josef Schmidhuber
Chief Sustainability Officer
Pure Harvest



**Adj. Prof. Dr. Hildegard
Lingnau**
Executive Secretary
Global Forum on
Agricultural Research
and Innovation (GFAiR)
France



Dr. Abdelaziz Hajjaji
Program Manager in-Charge of
Climate Smart Agriculture, Islamic
Organization for Food Security

The discussion explored how climate change is reshaping agriculture and the need for adaptation through innovation, collaboration, and sustainable practices. Panelists emphasized transforming agricultural systems to address the interconnected challenges of food security, climate change, and resource scarcity.

Key Themes and Highlights

1. Research and Innovation in Agriculture

A strong focus was placed on bridging the gap between national and international agricultural research systems. Initiatives like the Global NARS Consortium aim to connect local farmers and researchers with global agricultural solutions.

Crop diversity, soil health, and forgotten foods like quinoa were emphasized as critical areas of innovation to enhance resilience and sustainability.

Controlled environment agriculture, biochar for soil health, and AI-driven farming technologies were highlighted as key innovations addressing climate challenges.

2. Adapting to Climate Change

Agriculture faces critical challenges, including land degradation, water scarcity, and increasing

desertification due to climate change. Panelists advocated for localized solutions tailored to specific regional climates, such as drought-resistant crops, efficient irrigation, and composting techniques for smallholder farmers.

Panelists advocated for localized solutions tailored to specific regional climates, such as drought-resistant crops, efficient irrigation, and composting techniques for smallholder farmers.

Controlled environment agriculture technologies were discussed as scalable solutions for regions experiencing extreme climates and limited natural resources.

3. Scaling Innovation

Franchise models were proposed as a way to scale agricultural technologies and make them accessible globally, much like McDonald's approach to franchising.

The importance of combining high-tech, mid-tech, and low-tech solutions was stressed to ensure inclusivity and applicability for both large-scale and smallholder farmers.

Investments in market discovery and AI applications for agricultural supply chains were seen as vital for optimizing production and reducing waste.

4. Collaboration Across Stakeholders

Collaboration was identified as a cornerstone for addressing food system challenges. Governments, research institutions, private companies, and farmers must align their efforts to achieve sustainable results.

Knowledge sharing among regions, particularly in water use, pest control, and climate-smart practices, was highlighted as a key enabler for transformation.

5. Land Degradation

One-third of agricultural land is degraded, requiring sustainable land management and restoration practices like biochar.

6. Water Scarcity

Agriculture consumes 70% of global freshwater, increasing the need for efficient irrigation systems and desalination technologies.

7. Climate Change

Extreme weather events and rising temperatures necessitate climate-resilient crops and sustainable agricultural practices.

8. Access for Smallholder Farmers

Smallholder farmers face challenges in accessing technology, financing, and markets. Tailored solutions, such as compost training and contract farming, can address these barriers.



Recipe for a Livable Planet

Achieving Net Zero Emissions in the Agri-Food System



Alexander Lotsch

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Climate-Smart Agriculture
Global Department for Agriculture
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The World Bank's flagship report, "Recipe for a Livable Planet: Achieving Net Zero Emissions in the Agri-Food System", provided a comprehensive blueprint for transforming global food systems to achieve net zero emissions while ensuring food security for a growing global population.

Key Findings and Challenges

The report outlined the enormous impact of the agri-food system on global emissions and emphasized its central role in achieving the Paris Agreement goals:

The agri-food system generates 16 gigatons of greenhouse gas emissions annually, representing one-third of global emissions.

Middle-income countries account for two-thirds of these emissions, with land-use change and livestock methane emissions being significant contributors.

The vicious cycle: Growing food demand leads to higher emissions, further driving climate change, which in turn threatens agricultural productivity.

Geographical Distribution of Emissions

The report presented the global distribution of agri-food emissions: Middle-income countries dominate the top 10 emitters, with the Democratic Republic of the Congo being the sole low-income country.

High-emission regions, particularly in Latin America and East Asia, were identified as critical areas for mitigation actions.

Cost-Effective Mitigation Actions

A key highlight of the report was the identification of cost-effective strategies for emission reduction:

30–50% of mitigation potential can be achieved at a cost of \$20 per ton of CO₂, with many solutions being cost-negative.

Cost-effective opportunities exist across all world regions, particularly in: Stopping deforestation and land-use conversion.

Managing livestock methane emissions through sustainable practices. Adopting climate-smart technologies for smallholder farmers.



Transforming food systems is no longer an option—it is a necessity. By scaling up investments, adopting cost-effective solutions, and fostering collaboration, we can achieve net zero emissions while ensuring food for all

Transforming Global Food Security



**H.E. Ambassador
Berik Aryn**
Director General, Islamic
Organization for Food Security

The Global Challenge of Food Insecurity

Ambassador Aryn highlighted the staggering scale of global food insecurity:

733 million people worldwide suffer from hunger, with 12 of the 22 global hunger hotspots located in IOFS member states.

These challenges are exacerbated by climate change, geopolitical tensions, and economic instability, which threaten the resilience of food systems.

He emphasized the critical role of food security in ensuring peace, stability, and human dignity, particularly in vulnerable regions.

IOFS's Mission and Strategic Pillars

The Islamic Organization for Food Security (IOFS) was established to address these challenges through strategic pillars

Governance: Strengthening policies to ensure effective food security frameworks. Resource Mobilization: Securing funds and resources to implement impactful solutions.

Sustainable Agricultural Development: Promoting innovative and environmentally friendly farming practices.

Humanitarian Assistance: Providing direct support to communities affected by crises. The IOFS has made significant progress across its 41 member states, including: Establishing the IFS Gene Bank to preserve agricultural biodiversity.

Supporting Afghanistan, Syria, and Gaza through targeted humanitarian programs.

Empowering Women, Youth, and Smallholder Farmers

A key focus of IOFS is empowering marginalized groups to drive agricultural resilience: Equipping women, youth, and smallholder farmers with the resources, training, and market access needed to thrive. Promoting inclusivity to ensure that food security solutions address the needs of the most vulnerable.

Collaborating with organizations like FAO, ISDB, and CSRIC to extend resources and knowledge to underserved communities.



Empowering women, youth, and smallholder farmers is central to building resilient and equitable agricultural systems.”

Building Resilient and Sustainable Agrifood Systems in Africa



Dr. Mahamadou Tounkara
Regional Director
MENA, Global Green
Growth Institute

MODERATOR



Nadine Gbessa
Director Food Systems
Coordination
External Relations and
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IFAD



Amath Pathe Sene
Managing Director
Africa's Food Systems
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Dr Hamady Diop
CAADP (Comprehensive
Africa Agriculture
Development Programme)
Post-Malabo Process
Coordinator African Union

The “Building Resilient and Sustainable Agrifood Systems in Africa” panel at the Global Food Security Summit 2024 highlighted the critical challenges and transformative opportunities within the African agri-food sector.

With over 700 million people facing hunger, Africa stands at the crossroads of food security, sustainability, and economic empowerment. The panel emphasized the need for systemic change, innovative financing, and strategic partnerships to build a future-ready agri-food ecosystem.

KEY CHALLENGES IN AFRICA'S AGRI-FOOD SYSTEMS

Persistent Food Insecurity and Hunger

Africa continues to have the highest levels of hunger globally, with severe challenges in addressing food security and nutrition.

Food systems are often marked by poverty, inefficiency, and environmental degradation, impacting both producers and consumers.

Financing Gap

Transforming Africa's food systems requires \$76 billion annually until 2030.

Current solutions are insufficiently scaled, with the need for increased investment from domestic

resources, development partners, and the private sector.

Climate and Demographic Challenges

The region faces growing pressures from climate change and a rapidly expanding population, expected to reach 3 billion by 2050.

A significant proportion of the population-70% under 35 years old-requires access to jobs and opportunities to ensure food security and economic stability.

Africa Food System Forum (AFSF)

The largest global platform dedicated to transforming food systems in Africa, bringing together diverse stakeholders.

Aims to align efforts across government, private sector, and development organizations to tackle food security and sustainability challenges.

Provides opportunities for capacity building, youth engagement, and private sector investment, reinforcing Africa's potential as a global food basket.

Key Initiative

The Ten Billion Yes Food Security Program, launched during COP 28, emphasizes partnerships as a cornerstone for driving large-scale impact in the agri-food sector.

Successful Examples of Transformation Market-Driven Partnerships in Nigeria

A partnership responding to market demand for agricultural goods resulted in:

A 30% increase in production.

A 30% reduction in poverty. Improved school attendance and living standards for participants.

The program involved multinationals, small producers, local governments, and the use of sustainable technologies.

Youth and Digitalization

Africa's young population is a key driver for innovation in agriculture, particularly through digital technologies.

Leveraging youth engagement can address the dual challenges of employment and food system transformation.



Market-driven partnerships are not just solutions—they are opportunities to empower communities, enhance resilience, and reduce poverty

Africa's food systems will thrive when partnerships are forged across all sectors, aligning policies, investments, & innovation



Enhancing Food Security Resilience in OIC Member States



**Abdula Manafi
Gulamo Mutualo**
Chief Multilateral Affairs Officer
at the Islamic Organization for
Food Security (IOFS)

MODERATOR



**H.E. Muhammad bin Abd
Rabbuh Alyami**
Director General
Union of News Agencies of
OIC (UNA)



Nadia Asian
Technical Staff, Standards and
Metrology Organizations for
Islamic Countries (SMLie)



H.E. Mr. Azar Bayramov
Director General of OIC
Labour Centre



Anas Shaikh
Agribusiness Specialist at
the Islamic Chamber of Commerce
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Davron Ishnazarov
Researcher in the Economic and
Social Research Department at
the Statistical Economic and
Social Research and Training
Centre for Islamic Countries
(SESRIIC)

The “Enhancing Food Security Resilience in OIC Member States” panel addressed critical initiatives, challenges, and collaborative opportunities to strengthen food security across OIC countries. The discussion underscored the role of research, labor, partnerships, and climate adaptation strategies to build sustainable and resilient food systems.

Key Themes Discussed

Food Security Initiatives by Islamic Organizations

Islamic organizations are actively advancing food security programs across member states to address hunger and resource challenges.

Labor and Employment in Agriculture and Food Production

The OIC Labor Center plays a key role in empowering labor and capital development among member states.

Efforts include promoting decent work, fair labor practices, and addressing employment issues within agriculture and food production.

Labor’s Role in Food Security and Skill Development

Discussions emphasized the need to eradicate child labor, promote fair employment, and develop rural labor markets.

Collaborative approaches, including partnerships with labor centers, were highlighted to reduce duplication of resources and enhance impact.

Research and Capacity Building Initiatives Food Security Indicators and Policy Recommendations

Food security indicators are analyzed through comprehensive reports and databases, such as those developed by CSIS and other international institutions.

Reliable data remains critical for measuring progress and guiding policy actions to enhance food security resilience. Building Human Resource Capacities

Building Human Resource

CapacitiesCapacity-building programs in agriculture, water management, and environmental projects are being implemented across OIC member states.

These initiatives aim to equip local stakeholders with the skills and resources needed to tackle food security challenges effectively.

Research Funding and Partnerships

The panel discussed opportunities to leverage funding mechanisms within OIC institutions, such as the Islamic Development Bank, to support agricultural research.

Research partnerships, particularly in Western Africa, focus on addressing the impact of climate change and improving agricultural productivity.

Addressing Agriculture, Labor, and Climate Change in Africa

Focus on Mandates and Climate Change. The speaker from Burkina Faso emphasized the need for official mandates and project support for agriculture and labor initiatives.

Challenges include the effects of climate change on livelihoods, requiring urgent interventions to safeguard jobs and resources.

Commemorating Food Security Day

The representative from Cameroon announced the upcoming OIC Food Security Day on December 11th.

The event serves as a platform to reflect on challenges and showcase successful programs aimed at improving food security and rural livelihoods.

Key Recommendations and Action Items

Establish an Association of Agricultural Academies. Create a network of research centers and agricultural academies across OIC member states to foster collaboration and capacity building.

Secure Research Funding Mechanisms
Explore funding opportunities within institutions like the Islamic Development Bank to support research in West African countries.

Conduct Joint Research on Climate Change
Launch collaborative research projects to assess the impact of climate change on employment, communities, and food security across OIC regions.



Reducing Food Loss and Waste

Key to Ensuring Food Security



Sabri Hamade
Partner - Energy and
Natural Resources practice
Oliver Wyman

MODERATOR



Mohamed Moustapha
Food Safety and Quality Officer
(FAO) Regional Representative for
Near East and North Africa



Khuloud Al Nuwais
Secretary General, ne'ma and
Chief Sustainability Officer
Emirates Foundation



Bakytzhan Arystanbek
IOFS Program Manager
in-Charge of Food Bank
Related Issues



Daniel Khachab
CEO, Choco
Germany



Malachy Mitchell
Co-founder and
Managing Director
Farrelly Mitchell, Ireland

The discussion underscored the urgent need to address food loss and waste globally, highlighting its far-reaching implications on the environment, economy, and food security. Efforts from the UAE, alongside global strategies and technologies, were analyzed to provide actionable insights and innovative solutions.

Key Highlights

1. UAE's Initiatives to Combat Food Loss and Waste

NEMA Leadership: The UAE's NEMA program has spearheaded initiatives focusing on collaboration, behavioral change, and technology to combat food loss and waste.

Achievements in Hospitality: Measures implemented in the hospitality sector achieved a 40-60% reduction in food waste.

National Awareness Campaigns: Focused on education to promote sustainable practices among consumers and businesses.

Baseline Study: The UAE is working on developing a national baseline to measure food loss and waste across the supply chain.

2. Policy and Measurement Frameworks

Global Progress: While progress towards SDG 12.3 is evident in some regions, challenges persist, particularly in Africa, where significant pre- and post-harvest losses occur.

Effective Policies: Japan's food waste recycling law has been instrumental, repurposing food waste and reducing annual losses by 4.7 million tons. Europe and East Asia have implemented comprehensive food waste reduction strategies, though developing countries face difficulties replicating these frameworks.

3. Leveraging Technology to Reduce Food Waste

AI Applications: Predicting demand and managing inventory to minimize overproduction. Streamlining supply chain processes to enhance efficiency and reduce waste.

Innovative Recycling Solutions

Example from Kazakhstan: Producing 600 tons of animal feed from food waste, though facing challenges in waste separation.

Supply Chain Efficiencies: Pilot programs with supply chain partners demonstrated a 40% reduction in food waste through technology and collaboration.

4. Consumer Awareness and Behavioral Change

Public Campaigns: Education initiatives aim to shift consumer behavior towards mindful consumption and waste reduction.

Economic Incentives: Businesses are encouraged to participate in waste reduction efforts through profitability incentives and policy support.

Key Challenges

Funding Gap in the Global South: Limited financial resources hinder the adoption of advanced technologies and policy implementation.

Policy Implementation in Developing Countries:

Comprehensive frameworks like those in Japan and Europe remain difficult to replicate in resource-limited settings.

Waste Separation: Challenges in segregating food waste for recycling, particularly in large-scale systems.

Actionable Solutions

Promote Collaboration: Build partnerships between governments, private companies, and startups to share best practices and resources.

Leverage Technology: Expand the use of AI and innovative recycling methods to streamline supply chains and reduce waste.

Incentivize Businesses: Provide economic incentives for businesses to adopt waste reduction strategies.

Educate Consumers: Scale up public awareness campaigns to encourage behavioral change.



Navigating Through Innovation & Agri-Tech to Reap the Benefits



Dr. Kayan Akram Jaff
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and Agriculture Organization of
the United Nations

MODERATOR



Harun Lone
CEO, Swiss Bio Shield
Switzerland



Dr. Josef Schmidhuber
Chief Sustainability Officer
Pure Harvest.



Dr. Ahmad Mukhtar
Senior Economist
FAO Regional Representative for
Near East and North Africa



Mohamed Yehia Chahe
Director for Programming
Coordination and Environmental
Information at Ministere delegue
aupres du Premier Ministre charge de
l'Environnement et du Developpement
Durable, Mauritanie

The panel discussion “Navigating Through Innovation and Agri-Tech” explored the transformative role of technology and innovation in agriculture, particularly in developing and low-income countries. The conversation highlighted systemic challenges, opportunities for public-private collaboration, and the role of education and technology in addressing agricultural gaps.

Key Discussion Areas

Global Food Security, Climate Change, and Sustainable Food Systems

The FAO’s SDG 2 Zero Hunger initiative presents an opportunity for innovation and resilience in food systems worldwide.

Discussions emphasized aligning agri-tech innovations with sustainability to combat the challenges posed by climate change.

Technology and Agriculture in Developing Countries

Developing countries face significant hurdles in adopting technology due to lack of access to capital and expensive machinery.

Innovative models are needed to improve affordability and accessibility for small-scale farmers.

Closing the Digital Divide Through Franchising Technology

Bridging the digital divide is essential for empowering farmers in low-income regions.

Franchising models can provide access to technologies and markets while fostering job creation and reducing waste.

Private companies were identified as key enablers of technology diffusion, offering scalable solutions for sustainability and farmer empowerment.

Education and Water Management Innovation

There is a need for initiatives to educate entrepreneurs and farmers on sustainable agricultural practices.

Innovations in water purification and disinfection can play a crucial role in improving agri-food systems.

Access to Agricultural Technologies in Low-Income Countries

The panel highlighted efforts to address technology gaps in low-income countries through private and public sector initiatives: Public Efforts:

Utilizing methods developed by international organizations like the FAO to ensure widespread technology access.

Private Efforts: Franchising businesses to create opportunities for market linkages and technology adoption. Innovative solutions like purification, modification, and disinfection were discussed as methods to close gaps in agricultural systems.

Action Points and Recommendation

Global Platform for Agricultural Innovations: Establish a platform to connect public research and private commercialization, accelerating the adoption of agri-tech solutions.

Government Subsidies for Franchising Models

Explore opportunities for government support to enhance franchising systems that enable

technology access and market linkages for farmers.

Follow-Up and Continued Dialogue: Organize follow-up meetings to maintain momentum and ensure ongoing discussions on the accessibility and affordability of agri-tech solutions.



While private and public sectors have different mandates, their collaboration is critical for providing accessible and affordable agricultural technologies to small-scale farmers.



Cultivating the Future

Engaging Youth in Agriculture



Abdallah Jouaid
Presenter
CNN Business Arabic



**H.E. Sheikh Dr. Majid Bin
Sultan Al Qasimi**
FAO Sub Regional Office for
the GCC States and Yemen



H.E. Khalid Al Nuaimi
Director of the Federal
Youth Authority

The panel discussion “Cultivating the Future: Engaging Youth in Agriculture” spotlighted the United Arab Emirates' strategic efforts to empower its youth and integrate them into the agricultural sector. With youth defined as those aged 15 to 35, the session underscored the vital role of young people in shaping sustainable food systems and driving innovation in agriculture.

Youth Empowerment in the UAE

The UAE has demonstrated a long-standing commitment to youth empowerment, ensuring that the younger generation has a voice and opportunities to actively participate in national development:

The Federal Youth Authority spearheads initiatives focused on: Character building to develop strong, capable leaders.

Creating an enabling environment to foster growth and innovation.

Promoting youth participation in key sectors, including agriculture.

Key Initiative

During COP 28, the UAE showcased its commitment by including 100 youth delegates, many of whom were young Emirati farmers. Their participation highlighted the nation's efforts to involve youth in global climate and agriculture discussions.

Youth Inclusion in Agriculture

The panel emphasized that agriculture is a critical sector for youth engagement, offering opportunities for innovation, entrepreneurship, and sustainability:

The Federal Youth Authority launched a list of 50 young Emirati farmers, celebrating their contributions and providing them with a platform for visibility and growth.

At the COP 28 pavilion, the UAE featured produce and farms managed by young Emirati farmers, showcasing their ability to innovate and adapt in agriculture.

Leadership and Support for Youth in Agriculture

The UAE's leadership has consistently emphasized the importance of youth inclusion, particularly in sectors critical to national sustainability, such as agriculture:

Efforts are directed at supporting youth through the transition from education to employment, ensuring they are equipped with the skills and opportunities to succeed.

Programs and policies focus on providing access, fostering innovation, and encouraging participation at every level of the agricultural value chain.

Key Achievements Highlighted at COP 28

100 Youth Delegates: The UAE included a diverse group of young leaders, including farmers, in the global climate summit, emphasizing their role in tackling pressing food and environmental challenges.

Showcasing Emirati Farmers:

The COP 28 pavilion highlighted produce and practices from young Emirati farmers, providing them with international exposure and recognition.

Launch of the 50 Young Farmers Initiative:

This initiative celebrated and supported the next generation of Emirati agricultural leaders, reinforcing the importance of youth in the UAE's food security strategy.

Conclusion and Call to Action

The "Cultivating the Future" panel underscored the critical role of youth in agriculture, both in the UAE and globally. By providing opportunities, fostering participation, and celebrating their contributions, the UAE is setting an example of how to engage and empower the next generation in building sustainable food systems.

The discussion concluded with a call to: Support and invest in youth-led agricultural initiatives.

Expand platforms for global collaboration and innovation.

Recognize youth as key drivers of sustainability in agriculture and beyond



Empowering youth is not just about giving them opportunities; it's about ensuring they have the tools, support, and platforms to lead, innovate, and inspire in critical sectors like agriculture



Overview of Terr' Ivoire Project

Creating a Brand for Smallholder Farmers in Africa



Sylvia Vitale Rotta
CEO, Team Creatif, France

The Terr' Ivoire Project presentation highlighted the critical role of branding and design in promoting smallholder farmers in Africa, emphasizing the value of sustainable food systems, consumer education, and reducing food waste.

The project aims to create a positive impact by connecting local agricultural products to global markets through strategic branding and social responsibility initiatives.

Key Themes Discussed

Sustainable Food Systems, Design, and Social Responsibility

Promoting Food Sustainability, Education, and Inclusivity

Addressing Inflation and Its Impact on Food Systems

Reducing Food Waste through Sustainable Branding and Packaging

Action Items and Strategic Recommendations

Create a Strong Brand Identity. Develop a distinctive Terr' Ivoire brand that highlights smallholder farmers, celebrates African agricultural heritage, and appeals to global markets.

Utilize creative design to tell the farmers' stories and promote authentic, sustainable products.
Promote Better Eating Habits through Design

Use design and branding to educate consumers on the value of food and the importance of reducing waste.

Develop campaigns to raise awareness about sustainable consumption and local produce.
Optimize Food Systems for Impact

Leverage branding to ensure efficient food distribution, connecting farmers to the right markets and consumers at the right time.

Honor the origins of food by creating a connection between producers, products, and consumers, ensuring value addition for all stakeholders.

Driving Sustainable Solutions through Food Technology & Transformation



**Jose Francisco
Fernandez Serna**
CEO E-motion Foods
and Lead Mentor EIT Food
Innovator Fellowship

MODERATOR



Dr. Giorgi Shuradze
CEO and Co-founder of
CinSOIL, Germany



Dr. Mario Roccaro
Program Director for Innovator
Fellowship EIT, Belgium Milena
Corredig Professor, Department of
Food Science Food Technology
Aarhus University, Denmark



**Katherine Dybdal
Grasberger**
Researcher, Aarhus University
and Co-founder of Nola



Dr Patrick Noack
Executive Director - Future
Foresight and Imagination
Dubai Future Foundation



Simona Grande
Researcher, Department of
Management University of Turin
Italy and Department of
Management and Innovation
University of Agder, Norway

The discussion centered on the transformative role of the European Institute of Innovation and Technology (EIT) Food in advancing the agri-food sector. Established in 2008 by the European Commission, EIT Food focuses on enhancing innovation capacity through collaboration, impact, and inclusion. The session highlighted key initiatives, such as the Innovator Fellowship program, alongside challenges and opportunities for the global food system.

Key Highlights

1. EIT Food's Mission and Approach

Core Objectives: EIT Food aims to transition the agri-food sector toward a healthier, net-zero, and equitable system.

Focus Areas: Addressing social, health, environmental, and entrepreneurial challenges through collaboration, skills development, and innovation.

European Skills Agenda: A key driver in equipping individuals with the knowledge and competencies needed for transformation.

2. Innovator Fellowship: Bridging Academia and Industry

Program Overview: Designed to teach researchers entrepreneurial skills, enabling them to transform lab ideas into market-ready business concepts.

Mentorship: A diverse group of mentors provides technical expertise, market insights, and strategic guidance to bridge the gap between theory and practice.

Success Stories, Sin Soil: Uses satellite imaging to monitor soil organic carbon levels, promoting regenerative agriculture.

Nola: Developed proprietary technology to extract protein from rapeseed, contributing to alternative protein markets.

3. The Role of Technology in Food Systems

Precision Fermentation and Alternative Proteins: Highlighted as transformative technologies with the potential to reduce environmental impact and enhance food security.

AI and Soil Health Monitoring: Tools like MRB solutions enable accurate measurement of soil organic content and carbon levels, advancing regenerative agriculture.

Regenerative Agriculture: Recognized for increasing productivity and offsetting carbon emissions through sustainable soil practices.

4. Challenges and Opportunities

Regulatory Frameworks: Startups face hurdles in navigating regulations, emphasizing the need for adaptive policies.

Public-Private Partnerships: Collaboration is vital to bridging funding gaps and accelerating technology adoption.

Innovation Sandboxes: Proposed as a way to test emerging technologies in controlled environments to ensure market readiness.

5. UAE's Role in Food Technology Transformation

Leadership in Innovation: The UAE has the potential to lead advancements in food security and sustainable technologies, leveraging its strategic initiatives and global partnerships.

Adoption of Emerging Technologies: By reducing the gap between innovation and regulation, the UAE can position itself as a global leader in agri-food transformation.

Actionable Insights

Fostering Collaboration: Strengthen connections between academia, industry, and government to accelerate the transition from research to market.

Scaling Successful Models: Expand programs like the Innovator Fellowship to other regions to promote entrepreneurial skills and innovation.

Public and Private Funding: Increase investments in startups and technologies that contribute to a sustainable food system.

Regulatory Adaptation: Develop frameworks that support the rapid adoption of emerging technologies while ensuring safety and efficiency



Role of Private Sector in Supporting the Food Security Strategy



Mahmoud Adham
Founder, Munchbox

MODERATOR



Ananya Narayan
CEO, Hunter Foods



Yousuf Saleem
Managing Director
Al Barakah Dates Factory



Ahmad Shamieh
General Partner
Homegrown CPG



Olaf Abi Aad
CEO, AGZIA



Mohamad Khachab
Co-founder of BMB Group

The panel discussion emphasized the critical role of the private sector in driving the UAE's food security strategy through local production, smart investments, mentorship for startups, and fostering innovation. Key insights were drawn from successful businesses like Hunter Foods, Baraka Dates, and Axia Food Industry Brainiacs, highlighting the importance of collaboration, sustainability, and infrastructure.

Key Themes and Highlights

1. Promoting Locally Made Products

Export Success: Hunter Foods, a leading snack manufacturer, has achieved remarkable export milestones, such as becoming the second-largest imported potato snack brand in Japan.

Market Penetration: The discussion highlighted the importance of having the right product, partners, and logistical strategies to enter and thrive in competitive global markets.

Local Sourcing: Plans to grow potatoes locally and adopt vertical farming were discussed as part of

efforts to localize production and reduce reliance on imports.

2. Mentorship and Startup Support

Knowledge Sharing: Mentorship programs were emphasized as essential for guiding startups in navigating operational challenges and scaling globally.

Cost Efficiency: The UAE's competitive cost structure was cited as an advantage for fostering entrepreneurship.

Investor Role: Venture capitalists and other investors were encouraged to provide financial support, operational expertise, and strategic guidance to young companies.

3. Intersection of Private Sector and Food Security

Manufacturing Capabilities: Local production and value-added manufacturing were recognized as vital for enhancing food security and reducing import dependence.

Sustainability: The integration of clean energy solutions, such as solar power, and sustainable practices in manufacturing were highlighted as long-term imperatives for the industry.

Policy Support: Encouraging retailers to prioritize local brands was seen as a key step to strengthen the domestic food ecosystem.

4. Fostering a Supportive Ecosystem for SMEs

SMEs as Drivers: Small and medium enterprises (SMEs) were recognized as critical feeders for larger manufacturers and the broader supply chain.

Infrastructure Needs: Developing local manufacturing infrastructure and providing access to capital were identified as critical to supporting SMEs' growth.

Collaborative Efforts: Private initiatives and ventures were seen as integral to nurturing young entrepreneurs and helping SMEs scale into larger businesses.

5. Challenges and Solutions for Startups

Scaling Hurdles: Startups face financial and operational challenges, such as high costs and limited resources.

Smart Investments: Investors were encouraged to focus on capital efficiency, innovative technologies, and knowledge sharing to help startups succeed.

Operational Excellence: Emphasizing efficiency and sustainability in operations was seen as crucial

for startups to optimize revenues and scale effectively.

6. Sustainability and the UAE's Role as a Global Hub

Sustainability Practices: Companies like Baraka Dates demonstrated the benefits of integrating sustainable practices, such as solar energy and clean manufacturing, to reduce costs and meet client expectations.

Global Leadership: The UAE's logistical and infrastructure advantages, combined with its commitment to sustainability, position it as a global hub for food investments.

Long-term Vision: Investors were urged to incorporate sustainability into projects to achieve lasting benefits.

Actionable Insights

Local Manufacturing: Explore opportunities to manufacture top imported food products locally to enhance the UAE's food security.

Mentorship Programs: Establish structured mentorship programs for startups, providing access to expertise and networks.

Retailer Support: Encourage retailers to prioritize and promote locally made products.

Sustainability Focus: Integrate clean energy and sustainable practices into manufacturing processes.

Startup Ecosystem: Foster a supportive ecosystem by providing capital, infrastructure, and guidance to SMEs and startups.



Collaborative effort between key UAE organizations

Organized By

ADNEC
مجموعة أدنيك **GROUP**

KEY PARTNERSHIPS

Strategic Partner



Host Partner of GFSS



Strategic Partner
of ADDPE



Knowledge Partner



IGO Partner



Retail Partner



Key Partner of GFSS



Official Airline



Destination and
Cultural Sponsor



PARTICIPATION OVERVIEW

70+
Countries

80+
Speakers

350+
Registered CEOs

3500+
Delegates

20+
Ministers and senior
government officials

The summit's global participation emphasized its significance in uniting diverse stakeholders to address pressing food security challenges.

Countries and Key Organizations Represented

High-ranking ministers, officials, and representatives from over 70 countries and leading international organizations convened to share insights, solutions, and innovations.

This landmark event emphasized building resilient food systems, addressing hunger, and ensuring sustainable agriculture, showcasing the significance of partnerships in tackling these issues globally.

The summit featured notable participants from the following countries:

AFRICA

BURKINA FASO

Mr. Alassane Guire, Director of Cabinet, Ministry of Agriculture

Dr. Diakalia Son, Executive Secretary, National Food Security Council

REPUBLIC OF CAMEROON

H.E. Gabriel Mbairrobe, Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development

CHAD

Mrs. Fatime Brahim Nokour, Secretary General, Ministry of Production and Agricultural Industrialization

EGYPT

H.E. Alaaeldin Farouk Zaki Elsayed, Minister of Agriculture & Land Reclamation

ASIA

JORDAN

H.E. Khaled Alhuneafat, Minister of Agriculture

HRH Princess Basma Bint Ali

Eng. Shadi Alwreikat

KAZAKHSTAN

Mr. Yerbol Tashhurekov, Vice Minister of Agriculture

Mr. Zhaiyk Sharabassov, Director of Department

OMAN

H.E. Dr. Ahmed bin Nasser bin Abdullah Al-Bakri, Undersecretary, Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries & Water Resources

Dr. Mohammed bin Khalaf bin Saeed Al Naabi, Director of the Office of the Undersecretary for Agriculture

EUROPE

TURKEY

Mrs. Şule Özge İmamoğlu, Head of the International Organizations Department

GUINEA-BISSAU

Mr. Dino Seidi, Ambassador

NIGERIA

Mr. Manir Umar, Special Assistant

SOMALIA

Ms. Zahra Ige, Deputy Minister of Agriculture

Mr. Zeinulabidin Sufi, Senior Advisor, Ministry of Agriculture

UGANDA

Hon. Frank K. Tumwebaze, MP, Minister, Minister of Agriculture, Animal Industry & Fisheries

Dr. Agaba Hillary, Principal Grants Officer, National Agricultural Research Organization

QATAR

Eng. Fahad Mohammed Al-Qahtani, Undersecretary Assistant for Agriculture and Food Security Department

Dr. Massoud Jaralla Al-Marri, Director of Food Security Department

SAUDI ARABIA

H.E. Mr. Basil bin Mohammed Al-Suwaidan, Deputy Governor for Branch Affairs

TAJIKISTAN

Mrs. Nigina Anvari, Vice-Minister of Agriculture

SOUTH AMERICA

BRAZIL

Mr. Cleber Oliveira Soares, Deputy Executive Secretary

A Dynamic Platform for Collaboration and Innovation



The Food Talks 2024, held from November 26–28, 2024, at the Global Food Security Summit (GFSS) in Abu Dhabi, brought together 23 distinguished speakers across 17 sessions, encompassing keynote presentations, fireside chats, panel discussions, cluster presentations, and the unveiling of the NutriMark Launch.

As a flagship component of GFSS 2024, Food Talks served as a pivotal platform for exchanging ideas, fostering collaborations, and developing actionable strategies to address pressing food security challenges. Attendees included government officials, industry leaders, academics, and innovators within the global food and agriculture sectors, reflecting a collective commitment to advancing sustainable, resilient, and inclusive food systems.

DAY 1 Inspiring Conversations and Actionable Insights

The first day set a professional and engaging tone, with **Mira El Ghaziri** opening the event by acknowledging the UAE's leadership in agrifood innovation and sustainability. The contributions of sponsors—Silal, Lulu, Central Testing Lab, Spinneys, Mahsool, Zomato Gold, and Agthia—and strategic partners—ADAFSA and the Khalifa International Award—were recognized for their pivotal roles in

supporting this knowledge-driven event.

Key Sessions and Highlights

KEYNOTE ADDRESS: “How Do We Feed a Future Population of 10 Billion People?”

Dr. Gunhild A. Stordalen, Founder & Executive Chair of EAT, Norway, delivered a thought-provoking address on aligning food systems with planetary boundaries. Her emphasis on sustainable production, healthy diets, and systemic reforms laid the foundation for impactful discussions throughout the day.

FIRESIDE CHAT: “Global Food Security in a Clustering Economy”

Panelists: H.E. **Dr. Farah Al Zarooni** (Ministry of Industry and Advanced Technology) and **H.E. Maria Hanif Alqassim** (Ministry of Economy).

Focus: How clustering economies can drive regional partnerships, innovation, and resilience in addressing global food security.

Alternate Proteins: Pioneering a Sustainable Future for Global Nutrition

Moderated by Mira El Ghaziri, the fireside chat featured Gustova Burger (Believer Meats), who discussed alternative protein technologies as a solution for sustainable nutrition. Key themes included scaling production, consumer acceptance, and



23
Speakers

17
Sessions

environmental benefits.

Regional Overview on Food Security and Nutrition 2024

Ahmad Mukhtar, Senior Economist at FAO, presented a sobering analysis of food insecurity challenges in the Arab region, highlighting the need for financing agrifood systems, improving access to nutrition, and building resilience.

Panel Discussion: “Consumer Trends in Health, Wellness, and Value Orientation”

Moderated by Sithara Hatim (SGS), with insights from Sahil Majeed (SGS) and Garima Gogia (FreshonTable).

Focus: Evolving consumer demand for organic and plant-based foods, the role of e-commerce, and balancing affordability with quality.

Cluster Strategy Initiative Presentations

The Cluster Strategy Initiative Presentations on Day 1 of Food Talks 2024, spearheaded by the UAE Ministry of Economy, showcased global best practices in fostering innovation, collaboration, and sustainability within regional food systems. Three internationally recognized food clusters—The Netherlands, Basque Country (Spain), and Australia—presented their transformative models, emphasizing their unique approaches to addressing food security challenges through regional strengths and innovation.

1. The Netherlands: Foodvalley Model

Representatives: Paola Giavedoni and Sake Kolhoff

Focus: The Foodvalley cluster in the Netherlands is globally recognized for its integrated approach to food system

innovation.

Key Highlights:

Leveraging technological innovation and public-private partnerships to develop sustainable food production practices.

Promotion of precision agriculture and digital farming solutions to enhance productivity while reducing environmental impact.

Collaborative platforms bringing together startups, research institutions, and industry leaders to foster cutting-edge solutions in agrifood systems.

Impact: The presentation highlighted Foodvalley’s role as a model for global food cluster development, showcasing how collaboration accelerates agricultural advancements, improves resource efficiency, and builds climate-resilient food systems.

2. Basque Country (Spain)

Innovation in Agri-Technologies

Representatives: David Fernandez Terrors and Maria Isabel Ochoa

Focus: The Basque Food Cluster presented its efforts to address food security challenges through sustainable practices, agri-technological advancements, and regional economic growth.

Key Highlights:

Adoption of cutting-edge technologies for sustainable farming and resource-efficient food production.

Promotion of regional innovation hubs focused on creating solutions for climate-resilient agriculture and reducing carbon emissions.

Success stories of collaboration between research institutions, smallholder farmers, and agribusinesses to scale innovation.



AUSTRALIA

Dr. Nicola Watts and **Dr. Mirjana Prca** showcased how their food systems leverage technology, collaboration, and innovation to ensure resilience and sustainability.

Impact: The presentation underscored the Basque region's ability to drive regional economic development through agriculture, serving as a blueprint for integrating sustainability into food systems.

3. Australia: Technology-Driven Resilience and Sustainability

Representatives: Dr. Nicola Watts and Dr. Mirjana Prca

Focus: Australia showcased its commitment to creating resilient food systems through the integration of technology, collaboration, and innovation.

Key Highlights

Development of technology-enabled solutions such as smart farming, robotics, and AI to optimize food production.

Initiatives to address challenges in water management, supply chain efficiency, and food waste reduction.

Collaborative programs uniting government bodies, research organizations, and agribusinesses to drive innovation in sustainable agriculture.

Impact: Australia's presentation demonstrated its leadership in adopting advanced technologies to mitigate the effects of climate change, improve productivity, and ensure long-term food security.

The Cluster Strategy Initiative Presentations highlighted diverse and actionable approaches to enhancing food systems at a

regional level. These models showcased how innovation, collaboration, and technology-driven solutions can address global food security challenges and inspire the development of localized strategies to foster sustainability and resilience.

DAY 3

Advancing Nutrition Security and Sustainability

The day commenced with Mira El Ghaziri recapping the impactful discussions underscoring the importance of collective action and innovative solutions in food security.

Key Sessions and Highlights

Panel Discussion: "Advancing Nutrition Security – A Collaborative Approach"

Moderated by **Mira El Ghaziri**, with panelists:

Fatima Alzarooni (Ministry of Health and Prevention)

Professor **Carine Platat** (UAE University)

May Ali (Ministry of Education)

Focus: Integrating health into food production systems, ensuring equitable access to nutritious food, and promoting education-driven nutrition security strategies.

NutriMark Launch

The NutriMark Launch on Day 3 of Food Talks 2024 was one of the event's most anticipated moments, marking a significant milestone in promoting consumer empowerment, food safety, and healthier dietary choices.



This was followed by the Nutri Mark Launch, presented by **Khalifa Mohammed Alremeithi** of the Abu Dhabi Quality Conformity Council. The Nutri Mark initiative was unveiled as a step forward in empowering consumers to make healthier food choices while promoting transparency and trust in food quality standards. The presentation underscored the UAE's commitment to enhancing food safety and fostering consumer education.

Presented By
Khalifa Mohammed Alremeithi, Abu Dhabi Quality and Conformity Council (QCC)

Purpose and Vision:

The NutriMark initiative aims to provide consumers with clear, transparent, and trustworthy food labeling, enabling them to make informed decisions about their health and nutrition. The launch emphasized the UAE's proactive approach to Promoting nutritional transparency by ensuring accurate food labeling. Encouraging the adoption of healthier eating habits among consumers. Supporting food safety standards and fostering trust in food systems.

Key Features

Comprehensive Labeling: NutriMark introduces a clear and standardized nutritional grading system, enabling consumers to evaluate food products based on key health metrics such as:

Caloric content

Nutrient density

Sugar, fat, and salt levels

Empowering Consumers

Provides accessible, science-based information to help consumers make health-conscious food choices. Encourages awareness about the importance of balanced nutrition for individual and public health.

Promoting Accountability

Establishes a framework for manufacturers and retailers to uphold food quality and safety standards.

Incentivizes the production of healthier, more sustainable food products.

Consumer Trust: NutriMark sets a benchmark for food quality and transparency, empowering consumers to make choices aligned with their health goals.

Industry Advancement: The initiative encourages food manufacturers to prioritize healthier product development, aligning with global best practices.

UAE's Leadership: NutriMark positions the UAE as a pioneer in advancing consumer education and nutrition security, reflecting the country's commitment to enhancing public health and achieving its food security objectives.

The NutriMark Launch not only introduced a transformative initiative for food transparency but also reinforced the UAE's role in driving sustainable food systems and promoting healthier communities. By aligning innovation with consumer needs, NutriMark exemplifies the UAE's leadership in achieving a future where food safety, quality, and sustainability coexist seamlessly.

Panel Discussion: "Enabling Circular Economy in the UAE F&B Sector"

Moderated by

Aruna Narayanan (Real Impact), with speakers:

Nadine Benchaffai (Food People)**Jose**

Francisco Fernandez Serna (E-motion Foods)



Focus: Adopting sustainable practices such as recycling, waste reduction, and eco-friendly innovations to transition toward a circular economy.

Keynote Presentation: “Strategic Growth and Future Roadmap of the UAE’s F&B Sector”

Abdul Vaheed, Secretary General, UAE Food & Beverage Manufacturers Group, highlighted the UAE’s leadership in sustainability and innovation, providing a future roadmap for growth, collaboration, and investment opportunities.

UAE Foodverse Presentation

Sam Clever, CEO of Nostra, presented the transformative role of digital innovation in agrifood systems. The session explored strategies for integrating technology into sustainable food production and management.

Robust Participation

The event engaged stakeholders from across the food and agriculture value chain, fostering partnerships and knowledge exchange.

Key Themes:

Sustainability and nutrition security
 Technological innovation in food systems
 Consumer trends and circular economy solutions

Innovation and Collaboration:

The launch of NutriMark and discussions on cluster strategies, alternate proteins, and digital food systems showcased actionable solutions to global challenges.

Knowledge Sharing:

Thought leaders shared insights into the critical role of innovation, policy, and collaboration in building resilient, sustainable, and equitable food systems.





Investors Pavilion at the Global Food Security Summit 2024

The Investors Pavilion was a landmark initiative aimed at fostering global collaboration to address pressing food security challenges. Jointly organized by the Abu Dhabi Agriculture and Food Safety Authority (ADAFSA), the Islamic Organization for Food Security (IOFS), and the International Food Processing Association (IFPA), the pavilion operated under the theme, “Connecting Strategic Food Security Projects with Investments, Fostering Impactful Collaborations.”

Designed as a vibrant hub for networking and dialogue, the pavilion served as a catalyst for forging partnerships between policymakers, investors, industry leaders, academics, and international organizations. It underscored the critical role of strategic investments in building resilient and sustainable food systems worldwide.

Key Features and Structure

The Investors Pavilion prominently featured 16 country-specific investment boards, each presenting transformative food security projects. These boards offered a comprehensive overview of ongoing and upcoming initiatives designed to tackle global food security challenges. The projects

emphasized innovation, sustainability, and inclusivity, creating a platform for identifying synergies between national strategies and global investment opportunities.

Key elements of the pavilion included:

Detailed Project Portfolios: Each investment board highlighted specific initiatives, providing critical insights into their objectives, scope, and required funding. From modernizing agriculture and promoting climate-resilient farming to enhancing food supply chains and reducing waste, the projects showcased diverse and impactful strategies.

Global Engagement: The pavilion attracted a distinguished audience of high-ranking officials, institutional investors, and sector specialists, fostering meaningful interactions and collaborative opportunities.

Interactive Format: By hosting dedicated sessions for networking, presentations, and bilateral discussions, the pavilion bridged the gap between strategic projects and actionable investments, facilitating measurable outcomes.

Country-Specific Investments and Opportunities

The Investors Pavilion presented an impressive array of investment opportunities from 16 countries, reflecting a diverse range of strategies and initiatives aimed at enhancing food security. Highlights included:

KAZAKHSTAN: Projects focused on modernizing agriculture and livestock development with investments totaling over \$11 billion. The National Agro-Industrial Complex Plan (2021–2025) and the Sustainable Livestock Development Program (2022–2026) emphasized innovation and eco-friendly practices.

BRAZIL: As a global agricultural powerhouse, Brazil highlighted initiatives such as the Global Alliance for Hunger (2024) and the Centre of Excellence Against Hunger (2011), collectively valued at \$4 billion, to reduce poverty and malnutrition.

INDIA: The National Food Security Act (NFSA) and PM-KISAN programs demonstrated the scale of India's commitment to food security, with annual investments surpassing \$37 billion to support over 800 million people and smallholder farmers.

EGYPT: Initiatives like the Food Security Project and the Building Resilient Food Security Systems in Southern Egypt showcased investments exceeding \$500 million to promote climate-smart agriculture and ensure affordable food access.

NIGERIA: Agro-industrial development initiatives, including the Special Agro-Industrial Processing Zones (SAPZ) Program and Nigeria Integrated Agriculture Activity, spotlighted innovative approaches to reduce post-harvest losses and improve climate resilience with investments of over \$168 million.

Other participating countries, such as Jordan, Tunisia, Indonesia, and Côte d'Ivoire, contributed additional models of success in areas such as water efficiency, climate-smart agriculture, and value chain optimization.

Strategic Objectives

The Investors Pavilion was structured to achieve several strategic objectives:

Promoting Investment in Food Security: By showcasing high-impact projects, the pavilion encouraged global investors to contribute to transformative food security initiatives.

Fostering Collaborative Dialogues: The pavilion served as a platform for multi-stakeholder engagement, enabling knowledge exchange and the creation of actionable partnerships.

Strengthening Resilience: The featured projects emphasized the development of climate-resilient and sustainable agricultural systems, aligning with global Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Outcomes:

ENHANCED GLOBAL COLLABORATION: The pavilion facilitated partnerships between governments, investors, and private stakeholders, resulting in strengthened commitments to address food security challenges.

HIGHLIGHTING BEST PRACTICES: Participating countries shared innovative strategies and success stories, inspiring cross-border cooperation.

ACTIONABLE ROADMAPS: The pavilion provided stakeholders with detailed frameworks for innovative financing models and joint ventures, ensuring measurable impact.





UAE FIRST PAVILION AT THE GLOBAL FOOD SECURITY SUMMIT 2024

26-28 NOVEMBER 2024
ABU DHABI

The UAE First Pavilion was a testament to the UAE's leadership and dedication to addressing global food security challenges. Organized under the guidance of the Ministry of Economy, the Ministry of Climate Change and Environment (MOCCA), and the Ministry of Industry and Advanced Technology (MoIAT), the pavilion brought together 18 exhibitors from government, academia, and the private sector. Sponsored by ADQ and ADNEC, the pavilion became a focal point for collaboration, innovation, and knowledge-sharing.

PURPOSE AND OBJECTIVES

Representation of the UAE Ecosystem

Highlighting the interconnected efforts of government, private entities, and academic institutions within the UAE's food security framework.

Showcasing Collaborative Initiatives

Demonstrating the role of the UAE Food Cluster Strategy in driving innovation, fostering collaboration, and strengthening regional food security leadership.

Promoting Sustainability

Emphasizing the UAE's commitment reducing food loss and waste through the Ne'ma Initiative, encouraging participation from entities and individuals.

Driving Digital Transformation

Launching the UAE Foodverse, a digital ecosystem integrating technology and sustainability to revolutionize food systems.

Engaging Global Stakeholders

Providing a platform for over 5,000 attendees, including policymakers, industry leaders, academics, and students, to exchange ideas and forge partnerships

NOTABLE FEATURES AND HIGHLIGHTS

Cluster Pledge Signing:

The Ministry of Economy spearheaded the signing of the Cluster Pledge by over 70 companies, marking a significant step towards advancing the UAE Food Cluster Strategy.

Launch of the UAE Foodverse

Attracting more than 600 attendees, the UAE FoodVerse highlighted the country's advancements in digital innovation and its integration with sustainable food systems.

Workshops and Seminars

Interactive sessions led by the Prime Minister's Office and global cluster leaders, focusing on strategies and knowledge-sharing to address food security challenges.

Interactive Exhibits and Demonstrations

Exhibitors engaged visitors with live demonstrations, product trials, and interactive presentations, leaving a lasting impact on attendees.



Contributions by Ministries



وزارة التغير المناخي
والبيئة
MINISTRY OF CLIMATE CHANGE
& ENVIRONMENT

Led the launch of the UAE Food Cluster Strategy.

Facilitated discussions on policy frameworks to support private sector growth and enhance food security ecosystems.



وزارة الصناعة
والتكنولوجيا المتقدمة
MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY
& ADVANCED TECHNOLOGY

Introduced the Ne'ma Initiative, targeting food loss and waste reduction.

Presented sustainability-driven programs aligned with national climate goals.



وزارة الاقتصاد
MINISTRY OF ECONOMY

Showcased the Make it in the Emirates initiative, promoting local manufacturing in the food and beverage sector.

Highlighted the use of advanced technologies to enhance self-sufficiency and global competitiveness.

Sponsors



Abu Dhabi Developmental Holding Company
Provided strategic support, ensuring impactful collaborations and showcasing innovative projects.



Abu Dhabi National Exhibitions Company
Offered world-class infrastructure and logistical support, delivering an engaging experience for visitors.



Key Exhibitors and Contributions



IFFCO Group
Presented advancements in plant-based protein and eco-friendly packaging, demonstrating a commitment to sustainable food production.



Al Ghurair Foods
Shared insights into resilient food supply chains and advanced food processing technologies.



UAE Food SME Hub
Focused on empowering small and medium enterprises to drive sustainability and innovation within the UAE's food ecosystem.



Khalifa University
Showcased research in agritech, including water-efficient farming, climate-resilient crops, and vertical farming systems.

Impact and Outcomes Unified Ecosystem

Representation: The pavilion demonstrated the UAE's integrated food security ecosystem, showcasing collaboration across ministries, companies, and academic institutions.

Strategic Commitments

Over 70 companies pledged support for the UAE Food Cluster Strategy. Hundreds of attendees committed to reducing food loss and waste through the Ne'ma Pledge.



Emirates Association of Poultry Breeders:

Highlighted innovations in disease management, sustainable feed practices, and production techniques critical for protein self-sufficiency.

Increased Global Engagement

With over 5,000 attendees, the pavilion fostered networking and meaningful partnerships.

Advancing Sustainability

Highlighted innovative solutions such as waste-to-energy technologies and sustainable packaging.

Empowering SMEs and Innovation

Supported small enterprises and showcased their vital contributions to sustainable food systems.



IOFS PAVILION AT THE GLOBAL FOOD SECURITY SUMMIT 2024

26-28 NOVEMBER 2024
ABU DHABI

IOFS Pavilion at the Global Food Security Summit 2024

The Islamic Organization for Food Security (IOFS) Pavilion was a key highlight at the Global Food Security Summit (GFSS) 2024. Organized in collaboration with the International Food Processing Association (IFPA), the pavilion exemplified IOFS's commitment to addressing food security challenges across its member states and fostering sustainable agricultural practices.

PURPOSE AND OBJECTIVES

Showcasing Key Initiatives

The pavilion highlighted IOFS's impactful programs and projects aimed at tackling food insecurity and building agricultural resilience within the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) region.

Fostering Strategic Partnerships

By engaging with international organizations, member state representatives, and global stakeholders, the pavilion emphasized the importance of collaboration in achieving food security.

Knowledge Sharing and Engagement

The pavilion provided a platform for knowledge exchange through interactive sessions, high-level meetings, and strategic discussions.

Strengthening IOFS's Leadership

Demonstrating IOFS's pivotal role in food security within the OIC and beyond, the pavilion reinforced its vision for sustainable and inclusive food systems.

Partner Institutions

The pavilion featured contributions from IOFS's partner institutions, reflecting a cohesive and integrated approach to food security. Participating entities included:

Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC)

International Food Processing Association (IFPA)

Statistical, Economic and Social Research and Training Centre for Islamic Countries (SESRIC)

Union of News Agencies of the OIC Member States (OIC UNA)

OIC Labour Centre
Islamic Chamber of Commerce and Development (ICCD)

Standards and Metrology Institute for Islamic Countries (SMIIC)

Key Projects Showcased

The IOFS Pavilion presented a diverse portfolio of projects that address critical food security issues in member states. Notable initiatives included

Food Banking in Africa: Supporting hunger relief and promoting sustainable food redistribution networks.

North Africa Regional Initiative: Enhancing agricultural productivity and regional food trade.

Palestinian Agriculture Development: Building resilience and supporting agricultural development in Palestine.

Afghanistan Food Security Program: Tackling food insecurity through targeted interventions and capacity building.

IOFS International Gene Bank: Preserving genetic resources to support biodiversity and sustainable agriculture.

Strategic Engagement and Knowledge Exchange

The IOFS Pavilion served as a hub for high-level discussions and collaboration. Representatives from 41 member states and international organizations engaged with IOFS to explore partnership opportunities, share insights, and align strategies.

Key meetings and discussions included

Global Green Growth Institute (GGGI)

Collaborating on green growth initiatives for sustainable agriculture.

Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)

Aligning efforts to combat global food insecurity.

Ministers of Agriculture from Uganda and Egypt

Sharing best practices and exploring opportunities for agricultural development.

African Green Revolution Forum (AGRF)

Strengthening regional cooperation to address food security challenges.

Effective Outreach and Participation

The IOFS Pavilion attracted widespread attention at the summit, leveraging interactive sessions, engaging presentations, and targeted outreach to maximize its impact. Key outcomes included:

Increased Awareness: Participants gained a deeper understanding of IOFS's projects, priorities, and achievements.

Strengthened Partnerships: The pavilion facilitated meaningful connections between IOFS and key stakeholders, enhancing its influence within the global food security agenda.

Enhanced Engagement: The pavilion's dynamic format encourages active participation and collaboration from member states and international organizations.

Impact and Outcomes

International Cooperation The pavilion served as a platform to foster global partnerships and align efforts toward sustainable food systems.





Promoting Sustainability

By showcasing initiatives like the Food Banking in Africa and the IOFS International Gene Bank, the pavilion highlighted IOFS's commitment to long-term agricultural resilience and biodiversity preservation.

Reinforcing IOFS's Vision

The pavilion reaffirmed IOFS's leadership in driving food security solutions for its member states and beyond, emphasizing inclusivity and sustainability.

Knowledge Exchange

High-level meetings and discussions facilitated the sharing of best practices, inspiring collaborative solutions to food security challenges.

The IOFS Pavilion at GFSS 2024 was a resounding success, embodying IOFS's mission to ensure food security for all member states. Through its strategic

initiatives, impactful projects, and high-level engagements, the pavilion demonstrated the power of collaboration and innovation in addressing global food security challenges. It reinforced IOFS's role as a leader in advancing sustainable agricultural practices and fostering resilience within the OIC region and beyond.





AGENDA

DAY ONE | 26 November 2024

SPEECH

H.E. Dr. Amna Bint Abdullah Al Dahak
Minister of Climate Change and Environment, UAE

FOOD CLUSTER PROGRAM LAUNCH

H.E. Abdullah bin Touq Al Marri
Minister of Economy, UAE

SPEECH

H.E. Alaa Eddine Farouk Zaki El-Sayed
Minister of Agriculture and Land Reclamation, Egypt

SPEECH

H.E. Abdulla Balalaa
Assistant Minister Of Foreign Affairs for Energy and Sustainability, Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA), UAE

SPEECH

HRH Princess Basma bint Ali
FAO Regional Goodwill Ambassador for the Near East and North Africa

Zero Food Waste Launch Guide

H.E. Mariam Al Mheiri
Head of the International Affairs Office at the Presidential Court

FIRESIDE CHAT

Role of Innovation and Startups in Enhancing the Agriculture Sector

Moderator - Faisal Bin Huraiz, Presenter,
Skynews Arabia

Panelists

H.E. Mariam Al Mheiri, Head of International Affairs Office at the Presidential Court

H.E. Alia bint Abdulla Al Mazrouei, Minister of State for Entrepreneurship, UAE

SPEECH

Collective Responsibility in Achieving Food Security

Mansour AlMulla, Deputy Group Chief Executive Officer, ADQ

SPEECH

Enhancing Food Security with Microfinance for Small and Medium Farmers

H.E. Dr. Obaid Saif Hamad Al Zaabi, Chairman of Board, Arab Authority for Agricultural Investment and Development

SPEECH

Endowments as Catalysts: Economic Strategies for Advancing Food Security

H.E. Fahed Al Qassim, Director General, Awqaf Abu Dhabi

PRESENTATION

Leveraging Export Strategies to Strengthen Food Supply Chains

Khalil Fadhel Al Mansoori, Director General, Abu Dhabi Exports Office (ADEX)

KEYNOTE PRESENTATION

Navigating the Maze of Global Food Security Challenges

Dr. Stefan Schmitz, Executive Director, Global Crop Diversity Trust, Germany

PANEL DISCUSSION

Food Cluster Strategy - Global Success Stories

Moderator - H.E. Maria Hanif Alqassim, Assistant Undersecretary, Policies and Economic Studies Sector, Ministry of Economy

Panelists

Dr Mirjana Prica, Managing Director, Food Innovation Australia

Jon Ander Egaña, Managing Director, Basque Food Cluster

Paola Giavedoni, Lead Global Collaborations, Foodvalley NL, Netherlands

PANEL DISCUSSION

UAE's High-Impact Projects for a Resilient Food System

Moderator - Seifallah Rabie, LOGIC UAE Managing Partner

Panelists

Fatima Al Dhaheri, Head of the AGWA Cluster, Abu Dhabi Investment Office (ADIO)

Suresh Vaidyanathan, CEO Special Projects, Ghassan Aboud Group & CEO, Abu Dhabi Food Hub

Hassan Halawy, CEO, Elite Agro Projects

Mohamed Al Breiki, Executive Director - Sustainable Development, Masdar City

PANEL DISCUSSION

Revolutionizing Farming in Arid Lands

Moderator - Yazen Al Kodmani, General Manager at Emirates Bio Farm

Panelists

Cleber Oliveira Soares, Deputy Executive Secretary, Minister of Agriculture and Livestock, Brazil

Dr. Tarifa Alzaabi, Director General, International Center for Biosaline Agriculture

Dr Shamal Mohammad, Director - Agtech, Silal

Aly Abousabaa, Regional Director, Central and West Asia and North Africa, CGIAR, and Director General of the International Center for Agricultural Research in the Dry Areas (ICARDA), Egypt

Dr. Ismail Abdelhamid, Director of Projects Department, IOFS

FIRESIDE CHAT

Field of Power: Empowering Women in Agriculture

Moderator - Jessy El Murr, International Journalist and Presenter

Panelists

Huda Alsahi, PhD, Social Policy Officer, Rural Transformation and Gender Equality Division (ESP),

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)

Nour El Jundi, Proposal Development Specialist, International Center for Biosaline Agriculture

Report on Recipe for a Livable Planet: Achieving Net Zero Emissions in the Agrifood System

Alexander Lotsch, PhD, Senior Climate Finance Specialist, Climate-Smart Agriculture, Global Department for Agriculture and Food, World Bank

PANEL DISCUSSION

How Climate Change Reshapes Agriculture

Moderator - Alexander Lotsch, PhD, Senior Climate Finance Specialist, Climate-Smart Agriculture, Global Department for Agriculture and Food, World Bank

Panelists

Adj. Prof. Dr. Hildegard Lingnau, Executive Secretary, Global Forum on Agricultural Research and Innovation (GFAiR), France

Dr Josef Schmidhuber, Chief Sustainability Officer, Pure Harvest

Dr. Abdelaziz Hajjaji, Program Manager in-Charge of Climate Smart Agriculture, Islamic Organization for Food Security

Gian Luca Bagnara, Chairman, AIFE

DAY TWO | 27 November 2024

DAY 1 RECAP AND OPENING ADDRESS

Saleh Lootah, Chairman, UAE Food & Beverage Business Group

SPEECH

H.E. Abdulhakim Elwaer, Assistant Director General, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) Regional Representative for Near East and North Africa

SPEECH

IOFS Perspectives of Advancing Sustainable Food Security in OIC Geography

H.E. Ambassador Berik Aryn, Director General, Islamic Organization for Food Security (IOFS)

PANEL DISCUSSION

Building Resilient and Sustainable Agrifood Systems in Africa

Moderator - Dr. Mahamadou Tounkara, Regional Director - MENA, Global Green Growth Institute

Panelists

Nadine Gbessa, Director, Food Systems Coordination, External Relations and Governance Department, IFAD

Dr Hamady Diop, CAADP (Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme) Post-Malabo Process Coordinator, African Union

Amath Pathe Sene, Managing Director, Africa's Food Systems Forum (AGRF)

PANEL DISCUSSION

Enhancing Food Security Resilience in OIC Member States

Moderator - Abdula Manafi Gulamo Mutualo, Chief Multilateral Affairs Officer at the Islamic Organization for Food Security (IOFS)

Panelists

H.E. Muhammad bin Abd Rabbuh Alyami, Director General, Union of News Agencies of OIC (UNA)

H.E. Mr. Azar Bayramov, Director General of OIC Labour Centre

Davron Ishnazarov, Researcher in the Economic

and Social Research Department at the Statistical, Economic and Social Research and Training Centre for Islamic Countries (SESRIIC)

Anas Shaikh, Agribusiness Specialist at the Islamic Chamber of Commerce and Development (ICCD)

Nadia Aslan, Technical Staff, Standards and Metrology Organizations for Islamic Countries (SMIIC)

PANEL DISCUSSION

Reducing Food Loss and Waste: Key to Ensuring Food Security

Moderator - Sabri Hamade, Partner - Energy and Natural Resources practice, Oliver Wyman

Panelists

Mohamed Moustapha, Food Safety and Quality Officer, (FAO) Regional Representative for Near East and North Africa

Khuloud Al Nuwais, Secretary General, ne'ma and Chief Sustainability Officer, Emirates Foundation

Malachy Mitchell, Co-founder and Managing Director, Farrelly Mitchell, Ireland

Daniel Khachab, CEO, Choco, Germany

Bakytzhan Arystanbek, IOFS Program Manager in-Charge of Food Bank Related Issues

PANEL DISCUSSION

Navigating through innovation and agri-tech to reap the benefits

Moderator - Dr. Kayan Akram Jaff, Adviser and Head of Mission of the Subregional Office of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

Panelists

Dr. Ahmad Mukhtar, Senior Economist, FAO Regional Representative for Near East and North Africa

Dr Josef Schmidhuber, Chief Sustainability Officer, Pure Harvest

Harun Lone, CEO, Swiss Bio Shield, Switzerland

Mohamed Yehia Chahe, Director for Programming, Coordination and Environmental Information at Ministère délégué auprès du Premier Ministre chargé de l'Environnement et du Développement Durable, Mauritanie



AGENDA

DAY ONE | 26 November 2024

KEYNOTE PRESENTATION

How do we feed a future population of 10 billion people, within our planet's boundaries?

GUNHILD A. STORDALEN, Founder and Executive Chair, EAT, Norway

FIRESIDE CHAT

Global food security in a clustering economy

Moderator - Dr. Kayan Akram Jaff, Adviser and Head of Mission of the Subregional Office of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

Panelists

H.E. Dr. Farah Al Zarooni, Assistant Undersecretary for the Standards and Regulations Sector, Ministry of Industry and Advanced Technology

H.E. Maria Hanif Alqassim, Assistant Undersecretary, Policies and Economic Studies Sector, Ministry of Economy

Kaltham Ali Hussain Kayaf, Director of Animal Development and Health, Ministry of Climate Change and Environment

FIRESIDE CHAT

Alternate Proteins: Pioneering a Sustainable Future for Global Nutrition

Moderator - Mira El Ghaziri, Founder, My Health Path

Panelist - Gustova Burger, Believer Meats

PRESENTATION

Regional Overview on Food Security and Nutrition 2024

Ahmad Mukhtar, FAO Senior Economist, FAO Regional Representative for Near East and North Africa

PANEL DISCUSSION

Consumer Trends in Health, Wellness, & Value Orientation

Moderator - Sithara Hatim, Regional Manager, SGS

Panelists

Nasser Abdullah, CEO, Low Calories

Sahil Majeed, Technical Manager, SGS

Garima Gogia, VP Commercial, FreshonTable

FOOD CLUSTER PRESENTATION - NETHERLANDS

Paola Giavedoni, Lead Global Collaborations, Foodvalley NL, Netherlands

Sake Kolhoff, Project Coordinator, Foodvalley, NL

FOOD CLUSTER PRESENTATION - BASQUE, SPAIN

David Fernandez Terrors, Head of Cluster Development, SPRI Group, Basque Country

Maria Isabel Ochoa

FOOD CLUSTER PRESENTATION - AUSTRALIA

Dr Nicola Watts, Principal, C4 Impact, Australia

Dr Mirjana Prica, Managing Director, Food Innovation Australia

FIRESIDE CHAT

Feeding Hope: Emergency Food Aid in Crisis Zones

Moderator - Mira El Ghaziri, Founder, My Health Path

Panelists

Emre Yuksek, IOFS Humanitarian Affairs Manager

Dr. Wael, Medical Director and Environmental Sciences, M42

DAY TWO | 27 November 2024

A brief introduction to the session's focus on food security and sustainability, setting the stage for the talks.

Head of the Department of Food Science/Research Office, CAVM, UAEU

Innovations in Sustainable Agriculture

Prof. Kobus Hunter, Professor, University of Stellenbosch, South Africa.

Advancements in Agricultural Technology for Food Security

Prof. Susanne Schmidt, Professor, University of Queensland, Australia

Cutting-edge Food Science Solutions for Food Security

Prof. Laura Nyström, ETH University, Zurich, Switzerland

Enhancing Food Security through Food Science Innovations

Prof. Shao-Quan Liu, National University of Singapore

Food Security Initiatives in the UAE

Prof. Afaf Kamal Eldin

PANEL DISCUSSION

Challenges and Opportunities in Food Security and Sustainability

Speakers at GFSS 2024



**H.E. Abdullah bin Touq
Al Marri**

Minister of Economy
United Arab Emirates



**H.R.H. Princess Basma
bint Ali**

FAO Regional Goodwill
Ambassador for the Near
East and North Africa



**H.E. Dr. Amna bint
Abdullah Al Dahak**

Minister of Climate Change
and Environment, United
Arab Emirates



**H.E. Alia bint Abdulla
Al Mazrouei**

Minister of State for
Entrepreneurship, United
Arab Emirates



H.E. Dr. Farah Al Zarooni

Assistant Undersecretary for
Standards and Regulations,
Ministry of Industry & Advanced
Technology



**H.E. Dr. Mohamed
Salman Alhammadi**

Assistant Undersecretary for
Biodiversity & Marine Life Sector



**H.E. Dr. Obaid Hamad
Saif Al Zaabi**

Chairman of Board, Arab
Authority for Agricultural
Investment and Development



**H.E. Ambassador
Berik Aryn**

Director General, Islamic
Organization for Food
Security (IOFS), Kazakhstan



H.E. Abdulhakim Elwaer

Assistant Director-General, Food
and Agriculture Organization
of the United Nations (FAO)
Regional Representative for Near
East and North Africa



H.E. Khalid Al Nuaimi

Director of the Federal
Youth Authority



Mansour AlMulla

Deputy Group Chief Executive
Officer of ADQ



H.E. Fahad Al Qassim

Director General of Awqaf
Abu Dhabi



H.E. Dr. Fikru Regassa

Minister for Agriculture,
Ethiopia



Fatima Al Dhaheri

Head of the AGWA Cluster
Abu Dhabi Investment
Office (ADIO)



Dr. Stefan Schmitz

Executive Director
Global Crop Diversity Trust
Germany



**Khalil Fadhel Al
Mansoori**

Director General, Abu
Dhabi Exports Office
(ADEX)



Alexander Lotsch

Senior Climate Finance
Specialist, Global Department
for Agriculture and Food, The
World Bank



Gunhild A. Stordalen

Founder and Executive
Chair, EAT, Norway



Abdelbagi M. Ismail

Director for Africa,
International Rice
Research Institute, Kenya



Aly Abousabaa

Regional Director, Central and West
Asia and North Africa, CGIAR, and
Director General of the International
Center for Agricultural Research in
the Dry Areas (ICARDA, Egypt)



**Adj. Prof Dr Hildegard
Lingnau**

Executive Secretary, GFAR - Global
Forum on Agricultural Research and
Innovation, France



Dr. Kayan Jaff

Chief Economist and
Director, World Food
Programme



Malachy Mitchell

Co-founder and Managing
Director, Farrelly Mitchell,
Ireland



Arturo Elizondo

Chief Executive Officer
EVERY, United States
of America



Arnoud van den Berg

Group Chief Executive Officer
Al Dahra Group



GLOBAL FOOD SECURITY SUMMIT

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Khuloud Al Nuwais

Secretary General, ne'ma
Committee and Chief
Sustainability Officer at
Emirates Foundation



Gian Luca Bagnara

Chairman, AIFE



Dr Shamal Mohammad

Director - Agtech, Silal



**José Francisco
Fernández Serna**

CEO, E-motion Foods & Lead
Mentor EIT Food / Innovator
Fellowship



Mohamed Al Breiki

Executive Director,
Sustainable Development,
Masdar City



Suresh Vaidyanathan

Chief Executive Officer -
Special Projects, Ghassan
Aboud Group & Chief
Executive Officer, Abu Dhabi
Food Hub



Dr. Ismail Abdelhamid

Director of Projects
Department, Islamic
Organization for Food
Security (IOFS)



Dr. Abdelaziz Hajjaji

Program Manager
in-Charge of Climate
Smart Agriculture, Islamic
Organization for Food
Security (IOFS)



Mahmoud Adham

Founder and CEO,
Munchbox



Dr. Mario Roccaro

Senior Programme Manager
European Institute of
Innovation & Technology (EIT)
Food, Belgium



Milena Corredig

Professor, Department of Food
Science - Food Technology,
Aarhus University, Denmark



Fernando Marquez

Projects Advisor, Special
Projects Department, UAE
Ministry of Economy



Seifallah Rabie

Managing Partner, LOGIC UAE



Dr. Mirjana Prica

Managing Director, Food
Innovation Australia



Sabri Hamade

Partner - Energy and Natural
Resources practice
Oliver Wyman



Dr. Josef Schmidhuber

Chief Sustainability Officer
Pure Harvest



Nadine Gbessa

Director, Food Systems
Coordination, External
Relations and Governance
Department, IFAD



Daniel Khachab

Chief Executive Officer
Choco



Emre Yuksek

Humanitarian Operations
Manager, Islamic Organization
for Food Security



Dr. Patrick Noack

Executive Director - Future,
Foresight and Imagination,
Dubai Future Foundation



Simona Grande

Researcher, Department of
Management, University of
Turin, Italy, and Department of
Management and Innovation,
University of Agder, Norway



Katherine Grasberger

Researcher, Aarhus University
Co-founder of Nola



Hassan Halawy

Chief Executive Officer
Elite Agro Projects



Ananya Narayan

Chief Executive Officer
Hunter Foods



Ahmad Mukhtar

FAO Senior Economist, FAO
Regional Representative for
Near East and North Africa



GLOBAL FOOD SECURITY SUMMIT

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**Dr. Majid Bin Sultan
Al Qasimi**

FAO Sub Regional Office for
the GCC States and Yemen



Sylvia Vitale Rotta

Chief Executive Officer
Team Creatif



Amath Pathe Sene

Managing Director Africa's
Food Systems Forum
(AGRF)



Mohamed Moustapha

Food Safety and Quality
Officer, (FAO) Regional
Representative for Near East
and North Africa



**Bakytzhan
Arystanbek**

IOFS Program Manager
in-Charge of Food Bank
Related Issues



Dr. Giorgi Shuradze

Founding Team Member,
Cinsoil



Abdula Manafi

Chief Multilateral Affairs Officer,
Islamic Organization for Food
Security (IOFS)



Ahmad Shamieh

General Partner, Homegrown
CPG



Olaf Abi Aad

Chief Executive Officer
AGZIA



Yousuf Saleem

Managing Director
Al Barakah Dates Factory



Mr. Khaled Eltaweel

Senior Coordinator, UN
Food Systems Hub (FAO)



Harun Lone

Chief Executive Officer, Swiss
Bio Shield



**Dr. Mahamadou
Tounkara**

Regional Director - MENA,
Global Green Growth Institute



Mohamad Khachab

Co-founder of BMB Group

International Cluster Workshop Attendees



Dr. Armin Vikari

Cluster Manager, Bavaria Food
Cluster (Germany)



Giedrius Bagušinskas

Cluster Manager, Smart Food
Cluster (Lithuania)



Jon Ander Egaña

Cluster Manager, Basque Food
Cluster (Basque Country)



Lars Visbech Sørensen

Cluster Manager, Danish Food
& Bio Cluster (Denmark)



David Fernandez Terrors

Head of Cluster Development
SPRI Group, Basque Country



Virginia Matesanz

Director of Innovation, Basque Food
Cluster - University, Basque Country



Kim Seagram

Chair Women
FermenTasmania, Australia



Ander Caballero

Secretary General, Foreign
Affair, Basque Country -
Government, Basque Country



Louise Albeck Larsen

Innovation Manager
Food and Bio Cluster, Denmark



Susanne Baden Jorgensen

Senior International Manager
Food and Bio Cluster, Denmark



Laura Uturyte

Project Manager, Smart Food
Cluster, Lithuania



Simon Maas

Chairman, Smart Sensors,
Lithuania



**Anna Loraine
Hartmann**

Project Manager,
Innovation, Germany



Dr. Simon Reitmeier

Managing Director,
KernBayren, Germany



Rod Arenas

General Manager,
Commercial, Fial Cluster,
Australia



Irini Agollari

Board Director, Fial
Cluster, Australia



Ministerial Meeting





GLOBAL FOOD SECURITY SUMMIT

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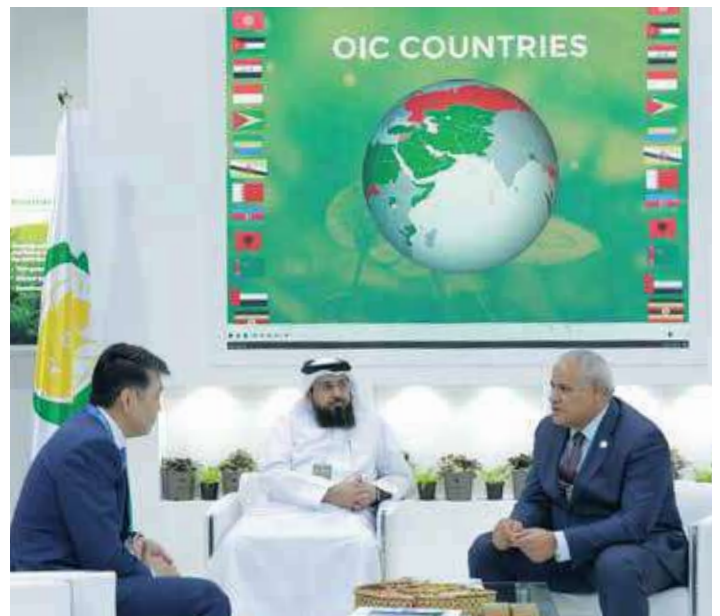




UAE 1st Pavilion



IOFS Pavilion





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