



Improving Food and Nutrition Security, Reducing Poverty: Lessons from GAFSP, a Multi-Stakeholder Partnership

Official Side Event at HLPF | Tuesday, July 19th, 2016 | 1:15-2:30 PM | Conference Room 1 | UN Building, New York

The [Global Agriculture and Food Security Program \(GAFSP\)](#) together with [Zero Hunger Challenge](#) held a side event at the Ministerial Segment of the [2016 High-Level Political Forum \(HLPF\): Follow-up and Review of the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals](#), entitled '[Improving Food and Nutrition Security, Reducing Poverty: Lessons from GAFSP, a Multi-Stakeholder Partnership](#)'. The event showcased the GAFSP's results on a large stage and highlighted how such a partnership – between governments, multilateral organizations, farmers, civil society and the private sector – aimed at increasing investments in healthy and sustainable food systems, can contribute to achieving global food security and poverty reduction. The event was well attended, with over 50 attendees from a broad range of stakeholders, including recipient countries, current and potential donor countries, supervising entities, knowledge partners, civil society, and the private sector.

The format of the event was a moderated panel, representative of key GAFSP stakeholders. It opened with a powerful video message from **David Nabarro, GAFSP Steering Committee member and Special Adviser on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development**, who underscored GAFSP's important role in helping to achieve all 17 SDGs, and [ensuring that no one is left behind](#). **Homi Kharas, Senior Fellow and Deputy Director at Brookings Institution**, expertly moderated the event, leading a lively panel discussion that reflected on the Program's results on the ground and lessons learnt:

- **Dede Ekoue, co-chair of IDA18 and former holder of several ministerial portfolios in the Togolese government**, conveyed compellingly how Togo – exemplifying country ownership and implementation – engaged with GAFSP to tackle its daunting poverty and unemployment challenges, and spur sustainable economic growth through agriculture.
- **Deirdre McGrenra, Chief of IFAD's Americas Liaison Office**, emphasized the need for long term, scaled-up investments in agriculture and food security and highlighted the invaluable partnership and complementarity between GAFSP and IFAD.
- **Raul Socrates Banzuela, GAFSP Steering Committee member and representative of Asian Farmers Association**, emphasized the importance of listening directly to farmers' voices and highlighted how civil society is an integral part of GAFSP's identity.
- **Nichola Dyer, Program Manager of GAFSP**, highlighted the unique and innovative features of GAFSP, explained its inclusive approach to all levels of the private sector, and drew attention to the broad range of partnerships it supports in the interest of smallholders, including on climate.