

2025 FiCS Summit Breakout Session



Breakout Session (Roundtable)

Sustainable Food Systems, global challenges: the catalytic role of National PDBs

Date: 28/02/2025

Time: 10:45-12:15

Location: ICC1 Hall 2

Coordinator(s)

Coordinator 1, Latreille, Thierry, Lead Global Technical Advisor, IFAD, t.latreille@ifad.org

Coordinator 2, Paul Smith, Climate Change Specialist, UNEP FI, paul.smith@un.org

Detailed information about the session

Rationale	Sustainable food systems face several global challenges, including climate change, which disrupts crop production through extreme weather events. Biodiversity loss and resource depletion, like water and arable land, threaten the stability of food systems. Urbanization and a growing population increase demand for food. Inequities in access to nutritious food persist, and economic pressures and political instability often hinder sustainable practices. These challenges require coordinated global efforts to build resilient, equitable, and sustainable food systems. Investing in the transformation of food systems is a global imperative, requiring an additional USD 350 billion annually by 2030 to achieve sustainability, resilience, and inclusivity while addressing climate goals and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Public Development Banks (PDBs) , which account for over two-thirds of formal agricultural financing globally, play a pivotal role in closing this financial gap. With
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their development mandate, PDBs are uniquely positioned to drive sustainable agriculture, promote inclusive finance, and advance climate resilience in rural areas.

The complexity of financing projects that address both environmental and social issues—such as reducing greenhouse gas emissions, promoting biodiversity, and improving access to nutritious food—can make risk assessment and portfolio management difficult. National, regional and global Public Development Banks play a catalytic role as providers of nearly two-thirds of formal agricultural financing to support food system transformation. National Development Banks (NDBs) are complementary to other actors, Multilateral Development Banks (MDBs), philanthropy, and traditional DFIs. The cooperation among PDBs of all sizes and their partners is essential to provide technical assistance, concessional finance, blended finance, derisking financial instruments. To better direct financial flows toward the transformation to more sustainable food systems, PDBs must continually adapt their processes and financial services. With a catalytic role, PDBs not only finance but also attract additional public and private investments for sustainable agriculture and food systems, including support to small-scale producers.

Discussions will focus on the practical strategies and tools that Public Development Banks (PDBs) and their partners can use to implement sustainable food system financing. This includes integrating capacity building, peer-to-peer knowledge exchange, and operational approaches to promote green and inclusive finance, build nutrition-sensitive projects and integrate agro-ecological approaches into the banks' operations. The session will highlight concrete examples of how PDBs are applying financial instruments—such as green bonds and guarantees—to translate investment into impactful action on the ground.

Since 2021, the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), in partnership with Finance in Common (FiCS), hosted by the French Development Agency (AFD), host the Agricultural Public Development Bank Platform (Agri-PDB Platform). The platform facilitates green, inclusive, and sustainable investments in agriculture and food systems through knowledge exchange and sharing of best

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practices. It provides a platform for national PDBs and their partners to exchange regularly on good practice, innovative strategies and practical tools around the themes of adaptation to climate change, sustainable agriculture, and inclusive finance in rural areas. Members benefit from training, capacity building, and peer-to-peer exchange activities, including peer expertise and study tours. This dynamic network is made possible through the active participation of Agri-PDBs, regional networks, experts, and philanthropic organizations, all contributing to the shared objective of leveraging knowledge to enhance the financing of sustainable food system transformation.

This event seeks to build on these objectives by:

1. **Promoting Green and Inclusive Finance:** Exploring ways for PDBs to leverage innovative financing instruments, such as **green bonds** and **climate adaptation bonds**, to support sustainable agricultural systems.
2. **Highlighting the role of PDBs in a Nutrition strategy:** Public development banks (PDBs) play a crucial role in advancing nutrition through their alignment with government mandates and their connections to national financial ecosystems, including partnerships with commercial and microfinance institutions. Applying a nutrition-lens, PDBs intentionally finance nutrition-sensitive projects, such as agriculture, which improves food security, promotes sustainable practices, and enhances nutritional outcomes. They also invest in infrastructure (e.g., transportation, storage) and social initiatives, such as nutrition education. By integrating financial resources with public policy, PDBs foster a holistic approach to improving nutrition for individuals and society.
3. **Fostering Knowledge Exchange and Capacity Building:** Sharing tools, strategies, and best practices for integrating agroecological approaches and sustainability metrics into PDB operations.
4. **Showcasing Success Stories:** Highlighting case studies, PDBs' journeys toward innovative financing solutions.
5. **Strengthening Global Partnerships:** Aligning PDB financing with international standards, including the Paris Agreement, and the SDGs, while

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	<p>mobilizing investments through collaboration with private and public entities.</p> <p>By combining discussions on agroecology, green bonds, climate adaptation finance and nutrition this joint event aims to accelerate the transformation of food systems, foster innovation, and strengthen the role of PDBs as catalysts for sustainability and resilience.</p>
Objective	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Foster on-going collaboration between PDBs and other institutions. 2. Enhance Public Development Banks' funding for nutrition initiatives. 3. Promote knowledge sharing and dissemination of best practices between PDBs 4. Facilitate Knowledge Sharing on Innovative Financial Mechanisms.
Target audience	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Public Development Banks (PDBs) ● Investors and Asset Managers ● Government Representatives ● Multilateral Development Banks (MDBs) ● Private Sector Partners ● NGOs and Civil Society Organizations ● Academia and Think Tanks ● UN Agencies and International Organizations
Outcome of the event	<p>Reaffirm PDBs' ambition to innovate and expand their support to countries by leveraging climate adaptation bonds, consistent with their mandates and governance frameworks, to contribute to the SDGs and tackle global challenges, including climate change.</p> <p>Leveraging diverse stakeholders and Public Development Banks to bridge the nutrition financing gap.</p>

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	<p>Increase the visibility of the FiCS Coalition for Agriculture, created in the 1st FiCS Paris 2020 showcasing the benefits of sharing experiences and best practices between PDBs. Highlight the role of the AgriPDB platform as a forum for promoting adaptation policies through knowledge exchange and sharing of best practices among PDBs.</p> <p>Improve the quality and impact of PDB financing by enhancing coordination between institutions, particularly in areas related to the SDGs, the objectives of the Paris Agreement, and the Global Biodiversity Framework.</p>
Session format Select which applies:	Roundtable (U-shaped table): 1 keynote/chair, 1 moderator/facilitator and maximum 10 speakers/experts around the table
Session partners	IFAD, AgriPDB platform, UNEP FI
Proposed Chair/Keynote	Alvaro Lario, President, IFAD
Proposed Moderator	Diana Kos, Senior Sustainability Strategy Officer FMO
Proposed Speakers/Experts	<p>Speakers:</p> <p>Global thematic:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Chris Chijiutomi, Head of Africa Managing Director, BII 2. Adebayo Babalola Director, OPEC fund for International Development 3. Briec Pont Envoyé spécial pour la Nutrition et Secrétaire général du Sommet « Nutrition for Growth » 4. Adolfo Cires Aonso DG INTPA.E. 5. Themba Rikhotso, CEO, Land Bank, South Africa 6. Dr. Kao Thach, ARDB Cambodia 7. Ibrahim Adama Touré, Directeur de la Banque de Détails, BNDA Mali 8. Enrique I. Florencio, Secretary-General, ADFIAP 9. Sandra Martinsone, Policy and Advocacy Manager, Bond