

Title: “Boosting the Role of the Private Sector to Address Development and Climate Challenges via Food Systems Transformation”

Context: Achieving the SDGs depends on increased investments in rural areas, where extreme poverty and hunger are concentrated. Official development assistance (ODA) is not sufficient to close the US\$330 billion funding gap needed to eradicate hunger by 2030 as detailed in the [Ceres 2030 report](#). Uneven economic recovery and limited fiscal space have reduced the capacity of many countries to invest in their long-term food security. Now more than ever, it is essential to bring in the private sector to boost rural economies and invest in sustainable rural development and food production. However, this remains a complex challenge.

Objectives: This session aims to bring together experts from private sector, governments, international organizations and civil society to explore strategies for mobilizing private sector engagement for food systems, thereby contributing to poverty reduction, broader economic development, and climate adaptation and mitigation. It will examine how the public sector is delivering on its work with the private sector in this field, along three main dimensions:

- (1) Enabling - creating an enabling environment for private players to collaborate with, buy from and invest in small producers, through investments in capacity building and public goods, setting-up of multi-stakeholder platforms such as FARM and improving transparency of value chains.
- (2) Catalyzing – providing financing to private sector entities operating along rural value chains, to unlock investments and/or financial service provision to rural communities.
- (3) Assembling – creating large-scale investment platforms, including blended financial structures, aiming to attract private sector businesses and/or financiers as co-investor.

Key objectives include:

1. Assessing the current state of private sector engagement in food systems and rural agriculture, in particular for climate adaptation.
2. Identifying barriers to private sector involvement in food systems and rural agriculture and exploring potential solutions.
3. Showcasing innovative public-private partnerships for climate-resilient food systems and rural agriculture, where the private sector is seen as an active contributing partner and not just an additional source of finance.