



# CFS 51

23-27 October 2023

## Side event 03 | Innovative approaches to sustainable finance for food systems transformation

### Organized by:

- Global Donor Platform for Rural Development (GDPRD)
- Shamba Centre for Food & Climate
- UK Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO)
- Western Cape Department of Agriculture, South Africa
- World Food Programme (WFP) – Regional Bureau, Nairobi

**Monday, 23 October; 13.30 – 14.45 (UTC+2)**  
**Sheikh Zayed Center & via Zoom**

[Register here](#)

### Abstract

The global community is facing escalating acute and chronic food insecurity, with ever tighter cycles of crises due to climate change, the Russia–Ukraine conflict, and COVID-19 shocks. Simultaneously, donor and public funds face budget constraints and limited fiscal capacity, reducing their ability to alleviate food insecurity. A lack of available investment opportunities, combined with the complexities of investing in the food and agriculture sector in particular in emerging and frontier markets pose a barrier to attracting investments, which is particularly acute in value chains sourcing from smallholder farmers.

This session will provide examples of how donors can mobilize responsible investment from the private sector. It will present the results of a new research by the GDPRD and the Shamba Centre on how donors can develop value-added partnerships with public and private funders to drive investment in smallholder commercial agriculture for food systems transformation and high development impact. Examples from the UK Government’s Commercial Agriculture for Smallholders and Agribusiness (CASA) programme and the Western Cape Department of Agriculture’s partnership approach in South Africa will highlight how the private sector and donors are working together. The WFP will end the session on opportunity costs of funding cuts for food security and resilience building.

### Objectives

- Discuss experiences of innovative funding strategies and how governments can make their funding more catalytic;
- Showcase an example from South Africa, with a focus on the support provided to smallholder farmers, the need for tracking and accountability and the role of data collection to enable evidence-based decision making;
- Showcase an example from Nepal where the UK’s Commercial Agriculture for Smallholders and Agribusiness programme (CASA) is supporting small and medium-sized agribusinesses with significant smallholder supply chains to grow and attract investment, helping build inclusive, climate-resilient agri-food systems;
- Understand the cost of inaction and its implications on the resilience of food systems and on food insecure communities.



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