



#IFADiNNovationTalk

# EMERGING TECHNOLOGIES FOR RURAL PEOPLE

Africa Food Systems Forum 2024

Innovate, Accelerate and Scale: Delivering food  
systems transformation in a digital and climate era

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Date: Monday 2 September 2024

Time: 17.00 - 18.00 GMT+2

Location: Kigali, Rwanda

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## About the session

Discover how open innovation collaboration can enhance the resilience of rural smallholder farmers, at IFAD's side event during the Africa Food Systems Forum (AFS) 2024. Join the session to understand how open innovation collaboration can catapult your innovation from a Moonshot to a practical, scalable solution.

The session will be co-led by the International Fund for Agricultural Development, the Asian Development Bank and the Innovation Lab of the Inter-American Development Bank. During the session, we will discuss how your organization can leverage on the multiplier effect of open innovation collaboration to deliver sustainable and equitable development to rural smallholder farmers. Key innovative interventions that will be unpacked during the session include: [TRACE blockchain](#), AgroWeb3 powered by [LACChain](#), and the [Africa Rural Climate Adaptation Finance Mechanism](#).

We call on all innovators attending the world's premier forum for African agriculture and food systems to join us and discover opportunities to streamline innovations across the globe. Don't miss this chance to transform your visionary ideas into reality and drive impactful change!

The IFAD Innovation Talk will aim to:

- Showcase opportunities for regional actors to leverage on the multiplier effect of open innovation collaboration, through partnerships such as the [Moonshots for Development Alliance](#).
- Call for open innovation collaboration on active global/regional innovations focused on enhancing the resilience of rural smallholder producers by accelerating the replication and scale-up of successful innovative solutions, driving more coherent and impactful outcomes for vulnerable communities.
- Reaffirm the importance of streamlined open innovation collaboration, to enable sustainable development outcomes for marginalized communities, with emphasis on rural smallholder producers.
- In particular, the session is intended to inspire regional development partners, particularly those with niche/ regional mandates to leverage on the multiplier effect of open innovation collaboration, to scale innovations through streamlined open innovation systems and processes (e.g., through the Moonshots for Development Open Innovation Alliance, which runs joint open innovation challenges, and is currently developing an Open Innovation Financing Facility).



## Why is this side event relevant to the Africa Food Systems Forum's 2024 Summit?

A dedicated side event at the AFS Forum 2024 will underscore the immense potential of open innovation collaborations to drive sustainable agricultural development. By highlighting initiatives such as the Moonshots for Development Open Innovation Challenge and AgroWeb3 powered by LACChain, we will showcase how strategic partnerships can amplify the impact of innovations, enhance effectiveness, and scale successful solutions from national to global levels. This event will foster collaboration among stakeholders, streamline innovation processes, and identify co-financing opportunities, ultimately bolstering the resilience of rural smallholder farmers across Africa.

## Hosting organization

IFAD is an international financial institution and specialized United Nations agency based in Rome, the UN's food and agriculture hub. Since 1978, the Fund has provided US\$23.2 billion in grants and low-interest loans to projects that have reached an estimated 518 million people. At the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) we invest in rural people, empowering them to increase their food security, improve the nutrition of their families and increase their incomes. We help them build resilience, expand their businesses and take charge of their own development.

About the AFS Forum 2024: <https://agrf.org/event/africa-food-systems-forums-2024-summit/>

The AFS Forum 2024 will be held from September 2-6, 2024, in Kigali Rwanda. Hosted by the Government of Rwanda and the AFS Forum Partner's group, the Africa Food Systems Forum is the world largest annual summit on agriculture and food systems on the continent. This year, the annual summit will spotlight the continental agenda on food systems, showcase innovative approaches, solutions, proven business models, best practices and latest technologies that could transform agriculture and food systems to ensure food and nutrition security in Africa while creating jobs and opportunities youth and women. We invite you to save the date and join us in our collective journey of fostering healthier, inclusive, resilient, and sustainable food systems.



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## Background to IFAD Innovation Talk

Founded in 1977, IFAD has a unique role as both a specialised UN agency and an international financial institution, seeking to eradicate rural poverty by strengthening food security and resilience. In 2021, IFAD ranked as number one by the Quality of Official Development Assistance Report, which evaluated the capacity of 49 countries and multilateral agencies to deliver impactful long-term assistance to countries in need. In March 2022, IFAD adopted a new definition of and approach to innovation. IFAD now defines innovation as a new process, product or approach that adds value and delivers a sustainable, equitable, inclusive and/or new contextual solution to rural development challenges.

For IFAD, the most important innovations are those that impact poor rural people directly. IFAD aims to catalyse the generation, testing and scaling up of solutions that have the potential to contribute to deliver equitable, better and greater impact for the rural poor by leveraging on learning, strategic partnerships, digitalization and the implementation of sustainable tools and guidelines.

## About the IFAD INNOVATION TALKS

IFAD Innovation Talks are a series of learning and knowledge sharing sessions, lasting one hour. They feature innovative approaches, tools, products and services developed by IFAD, its partners and the members of the IFAD Innovation Network in order to further the aims of the network. The Talks follow various formats: from interviews and panel discussions to TEDx talks and demonstrations of new technological tools. Watch the IFAD Innovation Talk series here: <https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLHLkfcOqwaxfcOsMqgSQte8K7yQ8zru5>

## About the IFAD INNOVATION NETWORK

The IFAD Innovation Network is an informal, democratic, non-hierarchical space to share ideas, good practices, tools and lessons learned on how members can use innovation to improve performance and better address the needs and challenges of our target groups and beneficiaries. This group is open to IFAD staff, representatives of IFAD's members, fellow United Nations and Development Finance Institutions colleagues, representatives of academia, research centres, think tanks and the private sector, and those who wish to contribute to advancing innovation for the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals.

Don't hesitate to get involved and share your ideas with us! If you're not a member yet, apply to join us here: <https://ifad.dgroups.io/g/IFADInnovation>



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