



# WORLD CONGRESS ON RURAL AND AGRICULTURAL FINANCE

## CONCEPT NOTE

# WELCOME TO THE 8TH WORLD CONGRESS ON RURAL AND AGRICULTURAL FINANCE

## Building Resilient Local Agrifood Systems

The Role of Robust Financing Mechanism and Policy

📍 27th – 31st October 2025 📅 Sarova Whitesands Beach Resort & Spa, Mombasa, Kenya



# INTRODUCTION

The 8th World Congress on Rural and Agricultural Finance convened every three years will be hosted by AFRACA and partners in Kenya, Africa. This global event is being organized in collaboration with four other Regional and global Associations: the Latin American Association of Development Financing Institutions (ALIDE), the Asia-Pacific Rural and Agricultural Credit Association (APRACA), the Near East–North Africa Regional Agricultural Credit Association (NENARACA) and the Confédération Internationale du Crédit Agricole (CICA).

The common objective is to bring together financial institutions and key development actors from all continents to share best practice and discuss topical global development issues with the purpose of raising critical policy recommendations that influence the flow of finance to rural and agricultural sectors. The theme for the 8th World Congress, based on consultations with our partners, is 'Building Resilient local agrifood systems: The Role of Robust Financing Mechanism and Policy.'



## BACKGROUND

The world's attention was effectively drawn to Food Systems in 2021, when the United Nations convened a Food Systems Summit as part of the Decade of Action to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by 2030. The objective was about transforming Food Systems to achieve healthier, more sustainable and equitable food systems to deal with the challenge of malnutrition and food insecurity. Since then, global and regional institutions like the FAO and IFAD have championed food systems transformation globally while the African Union Commission and other regional bodies such as AGRA are championing that in Africa.

The countdown to deliver on the SDGs by 2030 period is rapidly coming to an end with barely six years to go, against 15 years since its adoption by world leaders in September 2015. Together with other RACA's the 8th World Congress on Rural and Agriculture is a collective consensus to continue amplifying the call to achieve SDG's targets, particularly SDG2 on 'zero hunger' of which food systems remain the main focal point. Transforming food systems offers one of the single strongest opportunities we have to realize the vision of Agenda 2030 (U.N. April 2020). Yet, evidence for building food systems' resilience has so far been slow and requires our collective determination to truly give meaning to inclusive efforts towards delivering on food systems transformation and

the SDGs through robust financing and policy, as we approach the 2030 benchmark.

Local food systems have interrelated units or activities that are rooted in a particular place, be it a community, a metropolitan area, or a region; and may focus on ways of producing food or develop alternative marketing channels that connect farmers and consumers. Often, farmers face challenges in gaining access to certain markets, forcing many to focus on direct-to-consumer outlets. Markets and trade are therefore important enablers for the achievement of food systems resilience, because they can serve as driver for increased productivity and sustainability of the value chain of local food systems. This could be a strategy to use innovative finance to link the development of local, regional and international trade to sustain food systems resilience.





## Robust Financing Mechanisms and Policy in building resilient local agri-food systems: **Rationale**

According to the 2023 “State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World Report”, between 691 and 783 million people faced hunger in 2022, an increase of 122 million people compared to 2019. The World Food Program even estimates that, from 78 of the countries where it works (and where data was available), more than 333 million people were facing acute levels of food insecurity.

Food systems resilience may involve the capacity over time of a food system and its units at multiple levels, to provide sufficient, appropriate and accessible food to all, while preserving the environment in the face of various and even unforeseen challenges. It may include everything from personal and commercial food production (including fisheries and aquaculture) to processing, marketing, distribution, retailing and consumption of food products, in addition to handling food waste. The base of local Agri food systems comprises millions of small and medium-sized businesses and smallholder farmers who produce one third of the food consumed worldwide. Yet they are among the most disadvantaged when it comes to access to finance (IFAD, 2022). Key structural barriers such as weak enabling business environments for agricultural investments; inadequate rural infrastructure in terms of roads, storage and processing facilities, unsustainable and fragmented land-use practices impede agri food systems’ resilience.

During the UN Food Systems Summit+2 Stocktaking Moment in July 2023, the UN Secretary-General called on nations to align national food systems transformation strategies with national priorities on climate, biodiversity, nutrition, and resilience/decent jobs/social protection.

The Secretary-General further, launched a Call to Action for accelerated Food Systems Transformation.

Ensuring long-term, concessional finance for food systems transformation was one of the six concrete objectives that calls for concerted action to accelerate food systems transformation.

During The COP28 UAE Declaration on Sustainable Agriculture, 159 Heads of States committed to work collaboratively to achieve critical objectives. Key among them was Scaling-up adaptation and resilience activities and responses in order to reduce the vulnerability of all farmers, fisherfolk, and other food producers to the impacts of climate change, including through financial and technical support for solutions, capacity building, infrastructure, and innovations.

The 2024 SOFI report acknowledges the grave challenges of the current trends of hunger, food insecurity and malnutrition present, and states that implementing the policies, investments and legislation needed to revert it requires more efficient use of innovative financing tools, and reforms to the food security and nutrition financing architecture. This calls for a more collaborative policy setting, where financial regulation, government policies and private sector initiatives are robust, pro investment promotion and supportive of food systems resilience.

This theme for the World Congress resonates well with the global agenda being adopted by the United Nations and its affiliate organs, governments, development partners and the private sector. The 8th World Congress on Rural and Agriculture Finance is therefore part of a concerted effort to deliberately build on other ongoing efforts and events to promote enhanced policies and advocate for more robust investments into Agri food systems for resilience building. The Congress will also aim to provide critical input to national food systems pathways and adaptation plans in all member states.



## CONGRESS STRUCTURE AND OBJECTIVES

The congress features global speakers and panelists from the members of regional/global associations as well as experts from the development sector around the world. It offers attendees insights during high-impact panel discussions.

The main events of the Congress will be held from October 29th - 31st 2025 at Sarova Whitesands Hotel, Mombasa Kenya. This will be preceded by partners' side meetings on 27th and 28th October 2025. Partners are invited to leverage on the diverse and high-level attendance to host side meetings/events to showcase and discuss achievements, research results and key projects findings. There will be a special side meeting on "Promoting effective RACAs & Development Partners' collaboration towards achieving the global development goals including the SDGs" on 28th October 2025 (AFRACA/RACAs Day). All Development Partners will be invited to be part.

## WHAT TO EXPECT

With over 300 delegates expected to attend the meeting, the 8th World Congress on rural and agricultural Financing aims to provide the following outcomes:

- ✓ The Congress will provide the opportunity for financial institutions to come up with policies and considerations on robust financing mechanisms to effectively address agrifood system challenges.
- ✓ Raise more awareness about the critical role that robust finance and policy can play in the achievement of the SDGs and the urgency of food system resilience as well as identify emerging patterns and solutions across regions in response to the UNFSS+2 call to action by the UN Secretary-General.
- ✓ Enhance the readiness and capabilities of financial institutions to mobilize and deploy customized financial products with minimal risks towards local agrifood systems.
- ✓ The event will contribute to the elaboration of a future knowledge and capacity building agenda for financial institutions, food systems value chain actors and development organizations across the globe.
- ✓ Wide dissemination of congress recommendations regarding the efficient use of innovative financing tools and reforms to the agrifood ecosystem that will seek to improve collaboration between food system actors.



# PROGRAM OUTLINE

- ✓ **Global Session with global speakers**
- ✓ **Special Sessions by Regional Associations**
  - African Rural & Agricultural Credit Association (AFRACA)
  - Asia-Pacific Rural & Agricultural Credit Association (APRACA)
  - Confederation Internationale du Crédit Agricole (CICA)
  - Latin American Association of Development Financing Institutions (ALIDE)
  - Near East–North Africa Regional Agricultural Credit Association (NENARACA)
- ✓ **Side Meetings Include:**
  - Youth Policy on Agrifood systems
  - Assessment of African Public Development Banks' (PDBs) use of Technology, Innovation & Policy
  - Promoting Effective Regional Associations & Development Partners' Collaboration Towards Achieving Global Development Goals
  - Other Partner Side Meetings & Exhibition  
Invite members/ Development Partners to organize side meetings and exhibitions to tell their achievements, results of research or future program/strategy.
- ✓ **Excursion**

**SCAN ME FOR MORE INFORMATION  
ABOUT THE PROGRAM**





## CONTACT US

For inquiries regarding partnership opportunities and registration, please reach out through;

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