

Side Event #15:

Catalyzing CFS uptake: A guide to philanthropic funders using CFS policy to transform food systems



Wednesday 21st October 2026



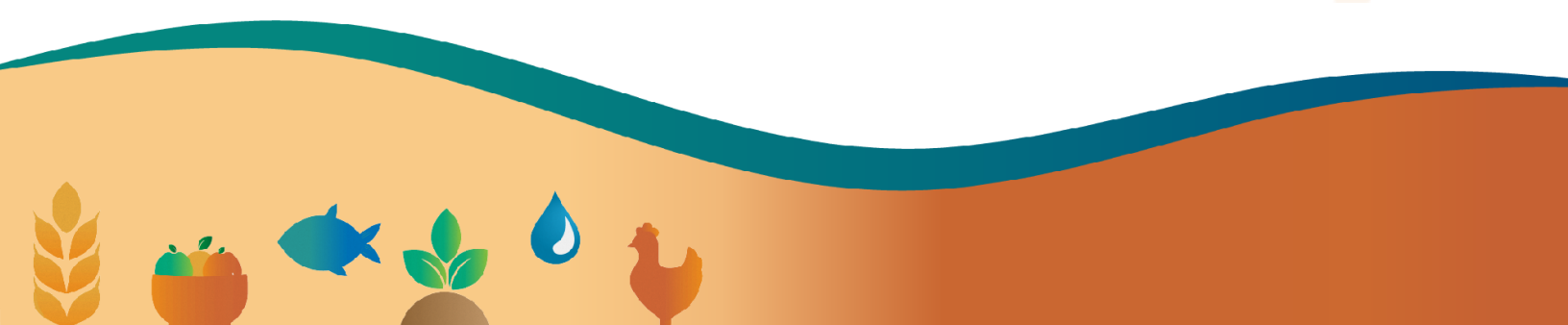
Room C277 (Philippines Room), Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, Rome, Italy



13.30 - 14.45 Rome Time



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Overview

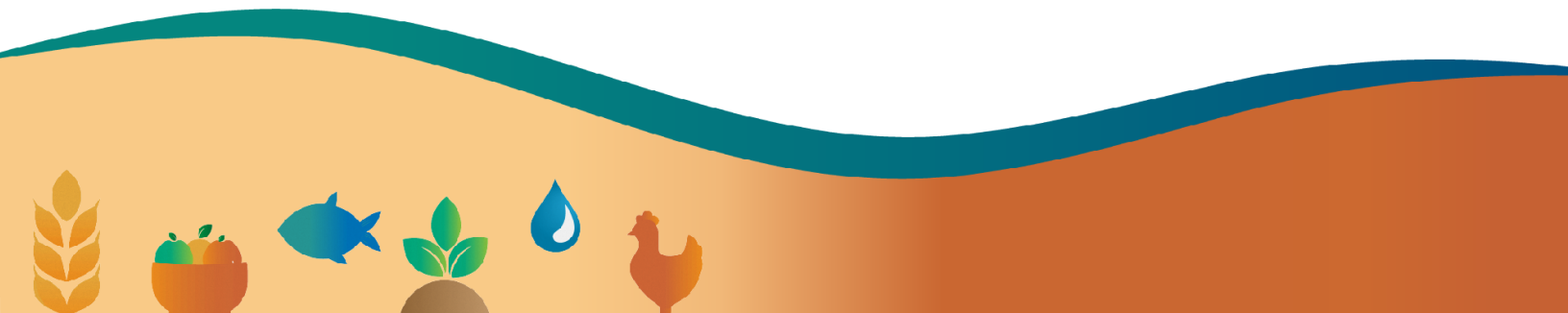
Putting CFS policy products into action is the responsibility of all actors. Philanthropic foundations can help catalyse this shift.

The CFS offers philanthropies a rare opportunity: a set of globally agreed, scientifically grounded, and inclusive roadmaps for their programmes. The more consistent usage of CFS policy recommendation and guidelines could save foundations from duplicating work, it could ensure their investments are aligned with national laws, and it could help embedding the most marginalized voices in strategy development from day one, ultimately transforming philanthropy from funders into legitimate co-architects of global food governance

The PFM is developing a Guidance Document to encourage philanthropic foundations to make stronger use of CFS policy products in their work. Aiming to increase the visibility of CFS policies in the philanthropic community and beyond, the Guidance suggests pathways for increasing the uptake of CFS policies by foundations.

The Guidance Document is informed by research and consultation with philanthropic foundations, CFS and civil society stakeholders, and global experts on food systems governance. It includes case studies where philanthropic foundations have worked with partners and governments to advance the implementation of CFS policies. Philanthropic foundations are uniquely positioned to help translate CFS policy recommendations into action across scales, aligning their funding strategies, partnerships, advocacy, and support to food systems actors aligned with CFS recommendations. The Guidance Note identifies the following three pathways that foundations can explore:

1. Drawing on CFS policy guidance to shape and inform philanthropic strategies for food security and nutrition;
2. Integrating CFS recommendations into project and programme design, working with partners to apply CFS policy products on the ground;
3. Using CFS policies as an evidence-based, consensus-driven tool to campaign and advocate for food systems that support food security and nutrition for all.



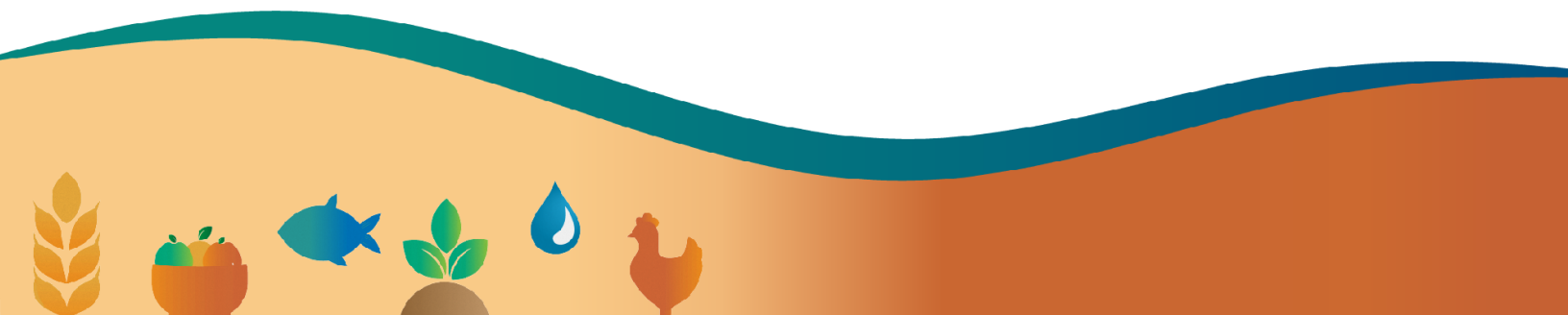
This side event will launch the guidance document and open a discussion on how to strengthen the role of philanthropy in advancing inclusive and policy-coherent food systems transformation in collaboration with other stakeholders.

Speakers from across the CFS community will reflect on practical pathways to strengthen the uptake and implementation of CFS policy recommendations, followed by an interactive exchange with participants.

Objectives

The side event will launch the PFM Guidance Document, its key findings and recommendations, and spark a conversation on multistakeholder collaboration to advance the implementation of the vast and valuable library of CFS policy products developed to date. The objectives of this side event are therefore to:

- Contribute to the **CFS uptake agenda** by encouraging a wide range of stakeholders to commit to increased implementation of CFS policy products.
- Invite **creative reflection** on different pathways to uptake of CFS policy products.
- Assess **what works and what is needed** for different CFS stakeholders in implementation of CFS policy products, and how philanthropic foundations can **catalyse bridging the gaps**.
- Lay the groundwork for **effective multistakeholder uptake** of the upcoming and existing CFS policy recommendations.



Time	Item	Speaker
13.30 – 13.35	Opening remarks	Anna Lappé, Global Alliance for the Future of Food
13.35 – 13.45	Presentation of the Guidance Document	Carlotta Cramer, PFM
13.45 – 13.55	Philanthropic perspectives on uptake of CFS policy products - Why is the CFS relevant for philanthropic foundations? - How does your foundation contribute to the implementation of CFS policy products? - What works, and what could be improved?	Jane Maland Cady, McKnight Foundation Allison Greenberg, Rockefeller RF Catalytic Capital
13.55 – 14.05	Government perspectives - How can the work of philanthropic foundations facilitate national governments to incorporate CFS policy products into national law, policies and programmes? - Why does this matter?	Ms. Valéria Burity, Extraordinary Secretary for the Fight Against Hunger and Poverty, Ministry of Social Development, Brazil
14.05 – 14.15	Civil society perspectives What are civil society organizations doing to put CFS policies into practice, and how can foundations best support these efforts on the ground?	Bridget Mugambe, AFSA CSIPM Working Group representative
14.15 – 14.35	Open discussion - Questions for speakers - Examples from the audience of successful use and uptake of CFS policy products - Ideas and discussion for new approaches to uptake - What works? What barriers are there to uptake?	Audience open discussion; moderation, Anna Lappé
14.35 – 14.45	Closing remarks and thank yous	Ammad Bahalim, Gates Foundation

