

2025 FiCS Side Meeting Concept Note Proposal



CLOSED DOOR SIDE MEETINGS # 15

Meeting of the members of the FiCS Coalition for Sustainable and Inclusive Food Systems

Date: 27/02/2025

Time: 11:00-12:00

Location: Westin Seal & Robben Island

Coordinator(s)

Coordinator 1: Latreille, Thierry, Lead Global Technical Advisor, IFAD, t.latreille@ifad.org

Coordinator 2: Trabelsi, Mohamed Ali, Technical Analyst, IFAD, m.trabelsi@ifad.org

Detailed information about the session

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Rationale	<p>The transformation of food systems is a global imperative, requiring coordinated efforts to ensure sustainability, inclusivity, and resilience in the face of mounting challenges. Climate change, biodiversity loss, resource depletion, and economic inequalities continue to threaten food security, particularly in vulnerable regions.</p> <p>Public Development Banks (PDBs) play a critical role in addressing these challenges by mobilizing finance, driving investment toward sustainable agriculture, and facilitating partnerships that can scale up impactful solutions. However, despite their mandate and financial capacity, PDBs often operate in silos, facing difficulties in aligning priorities, mobilizing additional resources, and</p>	<p>The rationale is well articulated, pertinent, and convincing.</p>

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coordinating effectively with multilateral institutions, donors, and the private sector.

This closed-door discussion, organized on the margins of the Finance in Common Summit (FiCS) 2025, seeks to reinforce collaboration, mobilize resources, and outline a clear roadmap for collective action in financing sustainable and inclusive food systems. It will serve as a strategic platform for assessing progress, exchanging best practices, and evaluating ongoing initiatives, including impact assessment tools and knowledge-sharing platforms.

By bringing together key financial actors, the session will create opportunities to strengthen institutional collaboration and foster strategic partnerships between PDBs, international organizations, and donors. This will be essential to enhance financial coordination and scale up investment in food systems transformation, ensuring that financing mechanisms are tailored to the needs of farmers, agribusinesses, and local communities.

As part of FiCS 2025, this session aligns closely with the summit's main themes, which emphasize financial innovation, public-private collaboration, and climate resilience. The growing investment gap in food systems—estimated at USD 350 billion annually—demands urgent action and innovative financing solutions. The session will explore how PDBs can mobilize climate finance, leverage concessional funds, and integrate blended finance approaches to attract private sector participation. The discussion will also highlight the need for greater alignment between financial institutions, ensuring that investment flows support sustainable agriculture, nutrition-sensitive programs, and climate adaptation strategies that protect both livelihoods and ecosystems.

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A key component of the discussion will be reinforcing institutional collaboration to break down financial silos and improve coordination between national and regional development banks. By bringing together PDBs, donors, and development partners, the session will strengthen synergies and define common objectives. Participants will examine mechanisms for aligning financing strategies with both global commitments—such as the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the Paris Agreement—and national policy priorities. Additionally, Participants will discuss impact assessment tools, best practices from existing partnerships, and explore ways to strengthen knowledge-sharing platforms that enhance capacity building among PDBs. This exchange of expertise will help create more effective investment strategies, ensuring that financial flows not only reach those most in need but also drive long-term transformation in food systems.

By connecting with FiCS's forward-looking objectives, this discussion will contribute to the broader agenda of aligning public financial institutions with sustainability goals. It will serve as a key moment for coalition-building, defining strategic priorities, and setting a clear roadmap for 2025-2030. Thematic working groups will facilitate targeted discussions on key areas such as nutrition, agroecology, inclusive finance, carbon credits, and climate finance, ensuring that PDBs have the necessary tools and frameworks to enhance their impact.

The session will further reinforce the Agri-PDB Platform as a key mechanism for knowledge exchange, capacity building, and policy dialogue among financial institutions. Strengthening institutional foundations for collaboration will be crucial in ensuring that financing efforts are not fragmented but instead coordinated, efficient, and responsive to both global and local needs. By bringing together leading financial actors in a focused, solution-driven dialogue, this closed-door session will serve as a pivotal



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	<p>moment to drive coordinated action. Expected outcomes include a strengthened coalition, enhanced coordination on green finance, a clear roadmap for the next phase, and the announcement of the first Agri-PDB Platform Steering Committee in 2025.</p>	
<p>Objective</p>	<p>Session objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Facilitate a high-level dialogue among PDBs, donors, and international organizations to strengthen institutional collaboration and enhance financial coordination for sustainable and inclusive food systems. Exchange best practices and assess progress on ongoing initiatives, including impact assessment tools and knowledge-sharing platforms, to improve the effectiveness of food system financing. Identify key challenges and opportunities in mobilizing resources and scaling up investment in sustainable agriculture, nutrition-sensitive projects, and climate-resilient food systems. Align financing priorities with global commitments such as the SDGs and the Paris Agreement, ensuring that investment flows support sustainable and inclusive development. <p>Post-Event Objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Enhance the role of the Agri-PDB Platform as a hub for knowledge exchange, capacity building, and peer-to-peer learning among financial institutions. Foster long-term partnerships among PDBs, multilateral development banks, and private sector actors to increase investment in food systems transformation. 	<p>The objective is clear, strategic, relevant, and realistic.</p>



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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Implement recommendations from the session into ongoing initiatives, including the development of innovative financial instruments such as green bonds and de-risking mechanisms.</i> 	
<p>Target audience <i>Select which applies</i></p>	<p>Restricted attendance (Maximum capacity: 40 participants) Closed-door session – Participation is limited to representatives from:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public Development Banks (PDBs) • Regional Association of PDBs and DFIs • Multilateral Development Banks (MDBs) • Donors supporting sustainable agriculture • Experts in climate finance, agroecology, and nutrition-sensitive financing 	
<p>Outcome of the event</p>	<p>The closed-door discussion will strengthen institutional collaboration among Public Development Banks (PDBs), multilateral banks, and donors, fostering improved financial coordination and alignment with global sustainability goals. The meeting will highlight the role of the Agri-PDB Platform as a key mechanism for knowledge exchange, capacity-building, and policy dialogue, ensuring that national PDBs (NPDBs) and regional networks can actively contribute to sustainable food system financing.</p> <p>The session will identify key financial instruments—such as green bonds, climate adaptation finance, and de-risking mechanisms—to scale up investments in food systems transformation. Additionally, it will enhance knowledge-sharing through impact assessment tools and capacity-building initiatives, while outlining concrete strategies to mobilize additional resources from private sector actors and climate finance funds. A crucial focus will be placed on cooperation with regional networks, which can facilitate thematic</p>	<p><i>The outcome is concrete and clear.</i></p> <p><i>The outcome promotes or encourages new thinking on the role of PDBs in sustainable/ carbon neutral/resilient development.</i></p>

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	<p>working groups, co-organize training programs, and support National PDBs in addressing climate challenges, agricultural transformation, and agroecology.</p> <p>Strategically, the session will reinforce PDBs' role within the FiCS Coalition for Sustainable and Inclusive Food Systems, ensuring alignment with the SDGs, the Paris Agreement, and broader food security frameworks. A clear roadmap for collaboration will be established, defining expectations for NPDBs, regional networks, and coalition members in tackling climate resilience, agriculture, and adaptation to climate change (ACC).</p> <p>The discussion will also focus on leveraging agroecological approaches to enhance climate-smart investments and ensure that financial mechanisms align with both global commitments and local priorities. Through dedicated working groups and follow-up mechanisms, participants will track progress, exchange best practices, and refine strategies for scaling up investment in sustainable agriculture. The insights from this session will feed into policy dialogues at FiCS and beyond, influencing future investment strategies and strengthening the long-term impact of financing sustainable and inclusive food systems.</p>	
Format	<p>Roundtable (O-shaped table):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 keynote/chair : IFAD President Alvaro Lario • 2 facilitator: Thierry Latreille & Mohamed Ali Trabelsi • Maximum 40 officers, experts around the table 	
Proposed Chair/Keynote	<p>IFAD President Dr. Alvaro Lario IFAD AVP Federica Diamanti (closing remarks)</p>	
Proposed Moderator	<p>Pieterneel Boogaard, MD OTD</p>	
Proposed Speakers/Experts	<p>PDBs</p> <p>1. Themba Rikhotso, CEO, Land Bank *</p>	<p><i>Session organizer(s) to ensure diversity and appropriate</i></p>

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	<p>2. Kao Thach, CEO, ARDB Cambodia *</p> <p>3. Romy Calderon, Head Economic Studies, ALIDE</p> <p>4. Lloyd Banda, CEO, MAIIC *</p> <p>5. Ibrahim Adama Touré, Directeur de la Banque de Détail (Director of Retail Banking), BNDA *</p> <p>6. Shaji Krishnan Vimalanandavally, Chariman, NABARD *</p> <p>7. Enrique I. Florencio, Secretary-General, ADFIAP</p> <p>Partners</p> <p>8. Hélène Djoufelkit, Deputy Executive Director, Sustainable Finance and Economy, AFD *</p> <p>9. Diana Kos, Senior Sustainability Strategy Officer, FMO</p> <p>10. Serge Ekue, President, BOAD</p> <p>11. Antón Leis Garcia, Director General, AECID</p> <p>12. Megumi Muto, Vice President, JICA (TBC)</p> <p>13. CIRES ALONSO Adolfo, Policy Officer - Private Sector and Financial Markets Development, Access to Finance, DG INTPA *</p> <p>14. Sandra Martinsone, Policy manager – Sustainable economic development, Bond Society Building *</p> <p>15. FinDev Canada (TBC)</p>	<p><i>balance – criteria to be considered: gender, youth, North/Global South, technical expertise, political ownership and leverage; CSO participation to be considered</i></p> <p><i>* speaking role confirmed</i></p>
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