

Concept Note

Side Event at the 176th Session of the FAO Council

Hybrid, Sheikh Zayed Centre, FAO | 2 December 2024 | 12.30–14.00 CET

Promoting Sustainable Transformation of Agrifood Systems through GDI to accelerate the SDGs: a high-level panel event

Context:

The scale of the current global hunger and malnutrition crisis is enormous. Many regions are facing increased food insecurity as a result, with vulnerable populations experiencing the greatest impacts. A combination of factors, including conflicts, climate change, and disasters, have left as many as 733 million people worldwide facing hunger, significantly weakening the resilience of global agrifood system. More sustainable, inclusive, and resilient agrifood systems are essential for rescuing and accelerating progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Enough food is produced today to feed everyone on the planet. However, in the face of the current challenges, we can only reverse the trend by promoting agrifood systems transformation. While food assistance is important in the short term, the longer-term solution lies in helping relevant countries strengthen their capacities and eventually reduce their reliance on external aid.

Three years ago, Chinese President Xi Jinping proposed the Global Development Initiative (GDI) at the general debate of the 76th session of the United Nations (UN) General Assembly, calling for building a consensus on pursuing development, promoting shared growth and helping accelerate the implementation of the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. GDI focuses on key areas that align closely with SDGs, such as no poverty and zero hunger. To further deepen cooperation and create a more practical platform for experience exchange and knowledge sharing, the Group of Friends of GDI was established in 2022, which represents a major step forward in building the mechanism for GDI cooperation. So far, more than 80 countries have joined this group.

To strengthen cooperation among the Group of Friends of GDI countries in the food and agriculture sector, enhance alignment with FAO's "Four Betters" strategy, and promote the achievement of SDGs, the Chinese government aims to hold a seminar on global agricultural development in hybrid seminar on December 2, coinciding with the opening of the FAO 176th Council.

Objective:

1. Introduce the key areas of cooperation and achievements in agriculture and food sectors under GDI, as well as its contributions toward building a sustainable agrifood systems;
2. Discuss and exchange on the goals and priority areas for the Group of Friends under the GDI framework to jointly enhance global food security and build a sustainable agrifood systems;
3. Strengthen the alignment between the GDI and main strategies of FAO, IFAD and WFP, expanding the scope and impact of collaboration.

Target audience:

- On-site: Country representatives of Group of Friends of GDI, and senior managers from FAO, IFAD and WFP etc.
- Virtually: delegates from relevant institutions and academic experts in China.

Provisional agenda:

Moderator: Mr. Mei Hongyong, Deputy Permanent Representative of China Mission

12.30	Opening
12.35	Opening Remarks <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Ambassador, China Mission- Representative from Ministry of Foreign Affairs, China/ or Embassy of China in Italy- FAO Director-General- Senior official from IFAD- Senior official from WFP- Representatives from Group of Friends of GDI
12.55	Panel Discussions Panel I: Sustainable agricultural production <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Expert from Chinese Academy of Agricultural Science- Delegates from FAO NSP and NSA- Delegates from Group of Friends of GDI Panel II: Poverty reduction <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Delegate from International Poverty Reduction Center in China- Delegate from FAO OSL- Delegate from WFP- Delegates from Group of Friends of GDI Panel III: Agriculture financing <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Delegate from China International Development Cooperation Agency- Delegates from FAO PST and CFI- Delegate from IFAD- Delegates from Group of Friends of GDI
13.55	Concluding Remarks <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Ambassador, China Mission
14.00	<i>Light meal</i>