



Rome Nutrition Week 2025

*Coherent Policy and Action for Better
Nutrition*

Programme Overview

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Monday May 26th

Venue for Monday May 26th: Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) – Sheikh Zayed Center

11:00 – 12:15

The Power of Joining Forces for Policy Coherence, Optimized Efficiencies and Nutrition Impact

Organizer: UN-Nutrition

Languages: English, French, Spanish

Description:

Good nutrition is both a driver and indicator of progress toward the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The Rome Nutrition Week opening session will emphasize the importance of integrating nutrition and the power of collective action to improve efficiency through shared understanding and coherent policies.

Achieving SDG impact requires embedding nutrition across all sectors to address all forms of malnutrition and tackle root causes like poverty and hunger. The UN-Nutrition Chair will underscore the importance of collaboration, thought leadership, and coordinated advocacy in enhancing UN effectiveness in supporting country-level nutrition outcomes. Four Permanent Representatives to FAO, International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) and World Food Programme (WFP) will be invited to discuss how their countries are integrating nutrition into development strategies and cooperation frameworks, and the value of coordination at the country level. One Representative will focus on the need for coordination and policy coherence in fragile contexts.

Three high-level speakers will reflect on the panel discussion, sharing lessons learned and exploring how to further support country action. They will be encouraged to highlight the role of UN collaboration in driving policy coherence and efficiency: the Scaling-Up Nutrition (SUN) Coordinator will outline opportunities presented by SUN 4.0; the Secretary-General of the successful Nutrition for Growth (N4G) Paris will share lessons learned and its legacy; and the Representative of Brazil will speak on the country's leadership in establishing the Global Alliance Against Hunger and Poverty and highlight how the Alliance can support policy coherence around its nutrition policy basket.

The Representative of Ireland will conclude by summarizing key takeaways, emphasizing

the importance of aligning development partners to support strong nutrition governance and integration at the national level.

12:15 – 13:45

Intersessional Event of the FAO Committee on Commodity Problems (CCP): Food Trade and Nutrition: The Role of Nutritional Labelling

Organizer: FAO Committee on Commodity Problems (CCP)

Languages: English, French, Spanish, Arabic, Russian, Chinese

Description:

The event aims to foster dialogue and collaboration among stakeholders, ensuring that trade policies, especially nutritional labelling, can contribute effectively to improving nutritional outcomes.

Participants will have the opportunity to explore the impact of labelling as a measure to promote healthier dietary choices and improve public health outcomes. They will also discuss how this can be compatible with trade policies and regulations to support achieving the food security and nutrition objectives.

This event will convene policymakers, public health experts, trade representatives and consumer advocacy groups to discuss best practices and strategies for effective nutrition labelling. A diverse panel of speakers from different regions will share their experiences in implementing regulations. In addition, the event will be an opportunity to highlight the role of FAO and other international organizations in supporting evidence-based decision-making and providing guidance on labelling policies.

14:00 – 15:15:

Priorities for Unlocking Progress and Driving Impact on Nutrition

Organizer: World Bank

Languages: English

Description:

This session will seek to reflect on ways to progress on nutrition and drive impact by alleviating barriers around three key areas: political commitment, institutional capacity, and multi-sector approaches. Building on the Bank's Investment Framework and other

initiatives, the session will open the space for discussion on the actions and adjustments required from all partners to move the needle across these areas. It will bring together United Nations (UN), World Bank, bilateral partners and beyond, connecting Geneva and Rome-based ecosystems.

15:30 – 16:45:

Scaling Systematic and Holistic Climate Action for Better Nutrition

Organizer: Food and Agriculture for Sustainable Transformation (FAST) Partnership, Initiative on Climate Action and Nutrition (I-CAN), FAO, World Health Organization (WHO), Global Alliance for Improved Nutrition (GAIN), Scaling Up Nutrition (SUN), United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), Alliance for Transformative Action on Climate and Health (ATACH)

Languages: English, French, Spanish

Description:

The FAST Partnership and I-CAN are organizing this high-level side event aiming to foster a shared understanding of climate–nutrition integration by facilitating dialogue across nutrition, climate, agrifood and health communities. The session will highlight the key entry points integrating nutrition into the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) negotiations, climate finance, and national policy instruments such as Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), while showcasing Member-led climate actions and innovations that deliver co-benefits for nutrition. The discussions and outcomes are intended to contribute to the UNFCCC process, including the discussions at SB62 in Bonn, COP30 and other relevant global processes including United Nations Food Systems Summit +4 (UNFSS+4), 2025 Global Conference on Climate and Health, among others.

Tuesday May 27th

Venue for Tuesday May 27th World Food Programme (WFP) – Aula Delegatis

09:30 – 10:45:

Experiences in School Food in Latin America and the Caribbean: Key to Nutrition in the Early Stages of Life

Organizer: Latin America and Caribbean Region and the School Meals Coalition

Languages: English

Description:

Round table: Each speaker will provide a brief description of their experience, and the moderator, together with the audience, will pose thought-provoking questions aimed at identifying globally replicable public policies. These policies should involve the participation of community leadership, women, and indigenous peoples in local production and self-management to promote sustainable and inclusive food systems. Evidence will be presented on the positive impact of implementing these policies in ensuring better nutritional status during the early stages of life, leading to improved future health conditions.

11:00 – 12:15:

Enhancing Policy Coherence Towards Delivering Healthy Diets from Sustainable Food Systems Through Agroecological Practices

Organizer: Agroecology Coalition and the Coalition of Action on Healthy Diets from Sustainable Food Systems (HDSFS) with Alliance of Bioversity International and the International Center for Tropical Agriculture (CIAT)

Languages: English, French, Spanish

Description:

Current food systems face major environmental, climate and health challenges, more than 2 billion people cannot afford a healthy diet, and the global nutrition targets are not on track. Countries have negotiated and adopted the Global Action Plan on Biodiversity and Health at the Convention on Biological Diversity's COP16 in Cali last October 2024. Simultaneously, in March 2025, countries and partners committed a record \$28bn for nutrition at the Nutrition for Growth Summit, demonstrating a continued and growing awareness and interest of good nutrition, key to achieving the SDGs. In a literature review

from 2021, a majority of studies (78%) found evidence of positive outcomes on food security and nutrition of households in low and middle-income countries through the use of agroecological practices. Indeed, the Agroecology Principles and Elements, constitute a holistic approach, aiming to provide nutritious food with multiple co-benefits for biodiversity, climate adaptation and mitigation, and human and soil health. This side event will highlight evidence from the ground, academia and policymakers, on the role of agroecology in ensuring good nutrition and healthy diets, while producing food sustainably.

14:00 – 15:15:

Joint Action to Stop Wasting: addressing the nutrition crisis

Organizer: World Food Programme (WFP) and United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF)

Languages: English, French

Description:

This session will engage Member States, technical and financial partners in an event designed to further the partnership and commitment to address wasting in children and women in humanitarian contexts.

15:30 – 16:45:

Progress Towards Locally Owned and Locally Led Action on Nutrition in Humanitarian Crises: Vision and Action on Localisation

Organizer: Government of Canada with the Global Nutrition Cluster (GNC), UNICEF, Action Against Hunger (Canada), WFP and Nutrition International

Languages: English, French

Description:

This hybrid event will consist of a panel discussion, facilitated by Canada, exploring progress toward locally owned and led nutrition responses in humanitarian settings, highlighting the achievements of the Global Nutrition Cluster (GNC) and partners in advancing localisation. The session will present GNC’s localisation vision and Roadmap, its linkages with the Humanitarian Reset, and the implications for Local and National Actors (LNAs) in coordination, policy and programming implementation, drawing from real-world experiences in crisis contexts.

The event will consist of brief presentations and a facilitated question and answer session. The panel will consist of the following: GNC localisation vision, roadmap, and linkages to Humanitarian Reset – Denis Kioko (Localisation Specialist, UNICEF), virtual, Perspectives

of local/national authority on nutrition cluster leadership – country representative (TBD), virtual, Experiences of local/national NGO on technical support provided through GNC – country representative (TBD), virtual and Lessons learned in supporting LNAs for nutrition policy development across the humanitarian-development nexus – Laura Rowe (Technical Director, Large Scale Food Fortification, Nutrition International), virtual

Wednesday May 28th

Venue for Wednesday May 28th: Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) – Ethiopia Room (unless indicated)

09:30 – 10:45:

Bridging the Divide – Exploring Coherence Between Food Fortification and Noncommunicable Disease (NCD) Prevention

Organizer: World Health Organization (WHO) and United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF)

Languages: English

Description:

The global nutrition landscape is marked by the coexistence of micronutrient deficiencies and a rising burden of noncommunicable diseases (NCDs), both linked to poor diet quality. Large-scale food fortification (LSFF) is a proven and cost-effective strategy to combat micronutrient deficiencies, it is among the most listed intervention in the food system transformation pathways and in Nutrition for Growth (N4G) commitments. However, fortification efforts may operate detached from broader nutrition and health efforts, particularly those targeting the prevention and control of NCDs which are reaching growing momentum.

This session will explore how greater policy coherence between LSFF and NCD prevention can be achieved—particularly across key policy domains such as nutrition labelling, food marketing restrictions, and taking into consideration underlying nutrient profiling systems, including those for food reformulation targets like sodium reduction. In many cases, policy measures in one area may inadvertently undermine efforts in another, reducing their overall effectiveness.

11:00 – 12:15:

***Supporting Healthy Diets Through Regulatory Capacity Building,
Advocacy and Data for Action and Accountability***

Organizer: International Development Law Organization (IDLO), Government of Switzerland, and WHO

Languages: English

Description:

Diet-related NCDs, including obesity, are a major challenge for development, and are a threat to progress towards the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Evidence-based policy and regulatory measures may be cost-effective strategies to create healthier food environments and promote healthy diets. The event showcases successful country experience of building enabling policy and regulatory environments to promote healthy diets, to contribute to reducing overweight, obesity and diet-related NCDs, from the Global Regulatory and Fiscal Capacity Building Programme (Global RECAP). Global RECAP has been implemented since 2019 by IDLO and WHO in coordination with the International Development Research Center and with support from the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation and the European Union. To date, the Programme has supported ten low- and middle-income countries in Africa (Ghana, Kenya, Mauritius, Tanzania, Uganda) and Asia (Bangladesh, Indonesia, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Thailand).

Through a roundtable discussion, representatives from RECAP country stakeholders, implementing agencies, and donors, will present the Programme's integrated methodology and share insights on challenges, good practices and achievements experienced in the implementation of the Programme. The event will also display videos and recorded interviews from RECAP country stakeholders from government, civil society, and academia, sharing insights from initiatives to promote healthier food environments using regulatory and fiscal measures through a multisectoral approach, tailored to each country context. A moderated discussion will engage the audience to promote cross-country and cross-regional experience sharing and provide an opportunity for questions.

14:00 – 15:15:

High-Level Flagship Event – Coherent Policy and Action for Better Nutrition: World Nutrition Day 2025

Venue: Sheikh Zayed Center

Organizer: Government of the United Kingdom, UN-Nutrition, WFP, IFAD and FAO

Languages: English, French, Spanish, Arabic, Russian, Chinese

Description:

Nutrition lies at the heart of sustainable development. It is an important factor in economic growth, poverty reduction, resilience to climate change and shocks, and other development goals. Yet, despite progress made, malnutrition remains a leading cause of death globally, accounting for almost 50% of child deaths, mostly in low- and middle-income countries. Making progress requires substantial improvement and expansion of focused actions across health, food and agriculture, economic, social, humanitarian and environmental sectors.

Key to driving these nutrition outcomes for all is better collaboration. While numerous governments, multilateral organisations (the Rome-Based Agencies and beyond), foundations, civil society organisations, universities and research organisations, and the private sector are already working on tackling malnutrition through interventions in different sectors, a comprehensive and coherent approach to nutrition-specific and nutrition-sensitivity is still lacking. To have impact across and between sectors, more is needed to bring stakeholders together.

This is why Rome Nutrition Week 2025 is being held under the overarching theme of ‘Coherent Policy and Action for Better Nutrition.’ Building on the momentum from the N4G Summit and the World Health Assembly and looking ahead to the United Nations Food Systems Summit +4 (UNFSS+4) Stocktake, United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) COP30 and other high-level moments, Rome Nutrition Week provides a dynamic, inclusive platform for collaboration, convening and shared dialogue on nutrition.

The high-level event on World Nutrition Day is the flagship moment of Rome Nutrition Week and will bring together UN Senior Leadership, Permanent Representatives to the UN and others, to offer insights and strategic direction, with the aim of renewing collective commitments to putting nutrition at the heart of sustainable development.

15:30 – 16:45:

Towards Coherent and Effective Action: Aligning Biodiversity and Nutrition Instruments

Organizer: FAO, Government of Brazil, Government of the Netherlands, Alliance of Bioversity International and CIAT, Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)

Languages: English

Description:

In alignment with Element 2 of the international initiative on biodiversity for food and nutrition, this event will explore how coherent policy and programmatic action can be achieved through the bi-directional integration of biodiversity and nutrition. It will showcase case studies where biodiversity has been mainstreamed into nutrition-related instruments—such as school meals, food-based dietary guidelines, and social protection—and where nutrition considerations have been incorporated into biodiversity policies, including the National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs). The session will foster cross-sectoral dialogue to support alignment across global processes and national action.

Thursday May 29th

Venue for Thursday May 29th: International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) – Oval Room, Floor -1

09:30 – 10:45:

Driving Meaningful Action on Nutrition Integration: Lessons, Challenges and Priorities for the Global Compact on Nutrition Integration

Organizer: Government of the United Kingdom and Scaling Up Nutrition (SUN) Movement Secretariat

Languages: English, French

Description:

Greater integration of nutrition objectives and related actions into interventions in other sectors is needed to accelerate progress in the fight against malnutrition. The Global Compact on Nutrition Integration was launched at the 2025 Nutrition for Growth Summit and has received the support of 84 countries and organisations and remains open for others to sign up. Collaboration in tackling key problems and challenges that prevent nutrition from playing a more integral role in policies and investments in relevant sectors is central to the success of the Compact.

This session at Rome Nutrition Week will be an opportunity to come together and learn from each other about different nutrition integration experiences. It will serve as the beginning of a process to identify key challenges and bottlenecks that Compact members can address together through shared learning, joint advocacy, collective commissioning of work, coordination in intervention design and delivery, or other means.

11:00 – 12:15:

***Joint Action to Tackle Diet-Related Noncommunicable Diseases
(NCDs): Country Support in Practice***

Organizer: Nutrition Working Group of the United Nations Interagency Task Force on Non-Communicable Diseases, FAO, WHO, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), and UN-Nutrition

Languages: English

Description:

This session, moderated by UN-Nutrition, will highlight the joint efforts of United Nations agencies in supporting national responses to reduce the burden of diet-related non-communicable diseases (NCDs).

The United Nations Inter-Agency Task Force on NCDs will open the session by outlining its role and that of its Nutrition Technical Working Group in assisting governments and preparing for the Fourth High-level Meeting of the United Nations General Assembly on NCDs in September 2025.

WHO will set the scene by presenting the Technical Package to Stop Obesity, including its collaboration with UNICEF and the World Bank. International Development Law Organization (IDLO) and WHO will underscore the importance of social mobilization and community engagement in creating enabling environments for policies and regulations that promote healthier diets, as part of their Joint Global Regulatory and Fiscal Capacity Building Programme (RECAP). UNDP will present its National Nutrition Investment Case Methodology, featuring Zimbabwe as a case example. The United Nations Special Rapporteur on the Right to Food will close the panel by sharing insights on rights-based approaches to addressing diet-related NCDs.

The session will end with a moderated discussion, offering space for reflections, questions, and dialogue among participants.

14:00 – 15:15:

Feeding Change: Cross-Sectoral Approaches and Strategic Investments to Combat Malnutrition

Organizer: IFAD and International Finance Corporation (IFC) / World Bank Group

Languages: English, French

Description:

Join us for a panel event focused on how development partners, governments, financial institutions, and agribusiness companies operating in low- and middle-income countries (LMICs) can play a pivotal role in addressing malnutrition in emerging markets.

The first part of the event will focus on the work of international development organizations and governments and how they catalyse investments in nutrition-sensitive solutions across agriculture, social protection, health, and education sectors.

The second part of the discussion will tap into experience of private sector actors, including financial institutions and agribusiness companies, in promoting nutrition solutions and the business drivers they see that pull investment in nutrition.

The event will feature key players such as the Global Alliance for Improved Nutrition (GAIN), Global Agriculture and Food Security Program (GAFSP), African Union/Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP), Member States, the World Bank Group/IFC, and IFAD as well as private sector companies that already invest in nutrition along their value chains. The event will foster dialogue on how to better leverage public and private investments for nutrition outcomes. The experts will discuss the drivers, opportunities, good practices, business case, and enabling environment for accelerating nutrition financing. This session will provide actionable insights and inspire collaboration between the stakeholders to tackle one of the most pressing challenges of our time.

15:30 – 16:45:

Building Resilience and Enhancing Nutrition in Africa's Food Systems

Organizer: Global Panel on Agriculture and Food Systems for Nutrition and United Against Malnutrition and Hunger

Language: English

Description:

The lack of resilience in today's food systems in Africa is in urgent need of being addressed, given the significant impact on the goal of universal access to sustainable, healthy diets, as well as many other far-reaching effects.

The Global Panel on Agriculture and Food Systems for Nutrition published a report, launched in early 2025, to look into and address this set of issues. This event will present that work and its vision for building resilience and enhancing nutrition in African food systems– what is needed to deliver, and how that might best be achieved, in line with the potentially transformative Kampala Declaration for African food systems and the next phase of the African Union’s Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP). The report focused on three countries (Ethiopia, Malawi and Sierra Leone), but has lessons for the whole continent.

The event, supported by United Against Malnutrition and Hunger, will help to enhance understanding of these issues, share knowledge about how to address them, foster regional collaboration, and inform the delivery of the Kampala Declaration. There will be speakers from across Africa, providing their insights and responses will be provided by Permanent Representatives based in Rome.

Friday May 30th

Venue for Friday May 30th: Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) – Ethiopia Room

09:30 – 10:45:

Innovative and Successful Experiences in Latin America and the Caribbean for Better Nutrition

Organizer: Latin America and Caribbean Region

Languages: English, Spanish

Description:

Expert panel. Each country will present a successful nutrition policy, outlining objectives, actions, achievements, and scope for implementation in global policy (Duration: 10 minutes). Question-and-answer session (10 minutes) and event closing: General conclusions and recommendations. A summary of the contributions from this expert panel will be published digitally.

11:00 – 12:15:

The Importance of Food Composition Data to Enhance Nutrition

Organizer: FAO

Languages: English

Description:

This event will underscore the importance of knowledge-based actions based on reliable food composition data. The session will raise awareness about reliable sources of information on food composition, highlight recent uses of such data in FAO's work, highlight ongoing collaborations and provide opportunities for future collaboration and network expansion.

14:00 – 15:15:

Women's Rights and Empowerment in Agrifood Systems: A Driver for Nutrition and Maternal Health

Organizer: FAO, IFAD, WFP, United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)

Languages: French, Spanish

Description:

Empowering women and girls in agrifood systems is critical to achieving the commitments made at the Nutrition for Growth (N4G) 2025 Summit and ensuring coherent and impactful action on nutrition ahead of key global moments, as well as the ongoing implementation of the United Nations Decade of Action on Nutrition.

The proposed high-level event aims to strengthen collaboration and knowledge exchange among stakeholders to accelerate progress in nutrition, women's empowerment and maternal health through a human rights-based approach in line with their right to adequate food and international nutrition and gender equality commitments.

It seeks to enhance recognition of effective, gender-transformative practices for improving the nutrition and health outcomes of women in agrifood systems, showcasing lessons learned from joint FAO–UNFPA initiative in Malawi. The event will increase visibility and awareness of UN partnerships featuring the synergies and complementarities between the Rome-Based Agencies (RBAs) and UNFPA in empowering women in agrifood systems and highlighting the importance of policy instruments and rights-based approaches that address the unique nutritional needs of women and girls across their life course.

Additionally, the event will facilitate a strengthened policy and investment dialogue on women's and girls' nutrition and maternal and reproductive health in agrifood systems, underscoring the critical roles of governments, UN agencies, humanitarian actors, and other stakeholders in advancing gender-just nutrition through coordinated action.

15:30 – 16:45:

Empowered Farmers Nourish Their Soils to Nourish People

Organizer: FAO Global Soil Partnership

Language: English

Description:

This session will spotlight how practical soil knowledge and capacity-building programmes and tools can empower farmers and promote nutrition-sensitive agriculture, supporting the RNW 2025 theme: “Coherent Policy and Action for Better Nutrition.” This session will showcase the Global Soil Doctors Programme (GSDP), a farmer-led initiative, supported by FAO GSP, that demonstrates soil health linkages and contribution to improved nutrition outcomes.

A brief video, "Saving Soils and Empowering Farmers," will showcase the programme's global impact, followed by a presentation from the GSP Secretariat on GSDP's contribution to the Germany-funded Soils4Nutrition project.

Country success stories will illustrate diverse approaches:

- Mexico: Adapting global tools locally
- Nigeria: Facilitating knowledge exchange
- Argentina: Promoting farmer empowerment
- Thailand: Advancing international cooperation

The session will close with reflections from the GSP Secretary, emphasizing GSDP's value to all FAO Members in scaling up sustainable, nutrition-focused agricultural solutions.