



## ICC-FAO Pathway to the Hand-in-Hand Initiative Investment Forum 2025

### Accelerating investment in agrifood systems transformation

#### C-level reception

#### Concept brief

July-October 2025

*Powered by the ICC's Agrifood Initiative and FAO's Hand-in-Hand Initiative*

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### A strategic partnership for the future of agrifood systems

The transformation of agrifood systems is not only urgent - it is inevitable. Ending hunger and malnutrition in all its forms, while contributing to climate action and addressing biodiversity loss and rising inequality demands a fundamental shift in how we collaborate and invest in agrifood systems.

To accelerate this shift, the **International Chamber of Commerce (ICC)** and the Hand-in-Hand (HIH) Initiative of the **Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)** are joining forces to promote new and innovative investments for agrifood systems transformation. Together we are launching the **ICC-FAO Pathway to the Hand-in-Hand Initiative Investment Forum 2025**: a unique series to raise awareness, promote dialogue, and co-create innovative, impactful solutions between the private sector and global institutions. The Pathway culminates in a high-level Private Sector Networking Reception co-hosted by ICC and FAO during the HIH Initiative Investment Forum 2025 at FAO headquarters in Rome, Italy during the World Food Forum (WFF).

The initiative welcomes companies across the agribusiness value chain - from emerging players to global leaders - committed to advancing the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) through responsible, sustainable, and inclusive investment.

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### The Journey: Three key phases

**PHASE I - Online engagement session | 16 July 2025, 15:00-15:50 CEST**

#### Laying the groundwork for action

The ICC-FAO Pathway will open with a high-impact online session, designed to activate private sector leadership and lay the groundwork for strategic engagement in the lead-up to the WFF.

This session will explain the vision and objectives of the Pathway and present the exclusive opportunities available to businesses within the framework of the FAO HIH Initiative Investment Forum.

On this occasion, the **ICC Recommendations for Effective Public-Private Partnerships in Agrifood Investment** will be introduced. This document aims to outline key principles to foster impactful, inclusive, and resilient collaboration between the public and private sectors in agrifood. Attending companies will learn about its objectives and how they can contribute to its creation by sharing their experiences and insights.

The session will close with a forward-looking overview of the next steps and a dedicated space for participants to provide feedback and suggestions to shape the process ahead.

An additional session may be organized in September to present a selection of country investment plans. The scheduling of this session is currently under consideration.

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## PHASE II - World Food Forum participation | 14-17 October 2025 | Rome, FAO HQ

### Your gateway to high-level engagement

During the WFF participating companies will be supported to make the most of this global moment for agrifood systems transformation. Through the Pathway, they will benefit from:

- **Personalized guidance** to navigate panels, matchmaking sessions, and thematic events aligned with private sector interests.
- **Dedicated meetings** with FAO's investment and private sector engagement teams, to explore collaboration models and clarify entry points.
- **A dedicated private sector networking area**, located within FAO headquarters, designed to foster private sector aggregation and provide space for networking, bilateral meetings and company-led storytelling sessions.

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## PHASE III - Chief Executive Officer/C-level Networking Reception | 14 October 2025, 19:30-21:00 CEST | Rome, FAO HQ rooftop

### The culminating moment of the pathway

The **Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Networking Reception**, hosted on the **rooftop terrace of FAO headquarters on the opening day of the 2025 HII Initiative Investment Forum**, will serve as the culminating moment of the ICC-FAO Pathway - a unique convergence of global leadership, influence, and opportunity.

**Co-hosted by FAO Director-General Dr. Qu Dongyu and ICC Secretary General John W.H. Denton**, this high-level gathering will bring together:

- CEOs of the world's leading agrifood companies
- Senior government officials and ministers
- Heads of international organizations and financial institutions
- Key investment and innovation partners
- Academia experts and thought leaders

Set against the stunning skyline of Rome, this exclusive reception will feature:

- **Curated networking opportunities** to facilitate networking and explore new partnerships
- **Inspiring testimonials** from business and public sector leaders
- **Interactive discussions** around investment challenges, enablers, and breakthrough strategies

- **A private sector spotlight** to elevate voices, proposals, and innovations shaping the future of agrifood systems

More than a formal event, this evening will be a **powerful platform for strategic dialogue about the future of agrifood systems investing** - a moment designed to drive new connections, fresh thinking, and lasting collaboration at the highest level.

### **An invitation to lead**

This initiative is not just about participation - it is about effective partnerships and impactful collaboration around shared agrifood systems priorities. Led by a select group of CEOs, this event is designed to forge new and lasting connections between the private sector and global institutions.

By joining the ICC-FAO Pathway, you will not only be shaping investment strategies - you will be shaping the future of agrifood ecosystems. A future that is **more resilient, inclusive, and sustainable**. And a future that needs your leadership.

The **ICC Recommendations for Effective Public-Private Partnerships in Agrifood Investment** will serve as a key tool to bring the private sector voice into global policy and investment discussions. Developed through direct input from participating companies, it will reflect the real-world insights and priorities of agribusiness leaders, ensuring that public-private collaboration is grounded in experience, aligned with business realities, and aimed at meaningful impact.

## **What participants can expect**

### ➤ **Vision and value**

An exclusive platform for CEOs to shape investment priorities, co-develop strategic recommendations, and gain direct access to curated opportunities aligned with the priorities of FAO's HII Initiative Investment Forum. The Pathway is not just about participating - it is about collaboration.

### ➤ **Peer-level networking and public-private dialogue**

An exclusive space for structured dialogue not only with C-level peers, but also with public sector representatives and country delegations. Designed to foster trust, strategic exchange, and the identification of shared priorities and potential co-investment opportunities.

### ➤ **Influence**

Position your company as a driver of sustainable agrifood systems, with speaking opportunities, and high-profile institutional engagement. Participating CEOs will have the opportunity to engage on the latest investment priorities and policy recommendations emerging from the Pathways dialogues.

### ➤ **Shared reflections and testimonies**

An evening dedicated to listening and reflecting. Hosted on the rooftop terrace of FAO headquarters, overlooking the timeless beauty of Rome's historic skyline, the event will feature firsthand testimonies and open dialogue on challenges and solutions for future agrifood investment.

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