



Second FAO Global Exhibition: From Seeds to Foods

Rome, 8-12 October 2026

Theme: Fostering Innovation for Food Security and Nutrition

Background

The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) is a specialized agency that leads global efforts to eradicate hunger and malnutrition, and to advance food security and nutrition for all, in line with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). With 194 Members, comprising 193 countries and the European Union, FAO works across more than 130 countries to support the transformation of agrifood systems through its Strategic Framework 2022-31, and its vision of the Four Betters – better production, better nutrition, a better environment and a better life, leaving no one behind.

Despite the significant advances in science, technology, and agricultural innovation over recent decades, hunger and malnutrition remain at unacceptable levels. Today, one in eleven people globally still faces hunger, while many farmers and food producers – particularly in the most vulnerable settings – continue to lack access to proven innovations that can strengthen productivity, resilience, and nutrition outcomes across value chains. This reality raises serious questions about whether SDG 2: Zero Hunger can be achieved in the next four years.

To address these challenges, FAO, in collaboration with the Municipality of Rome, hosted the **First FAO Global Exhibition: From Seeds to Foods** in October 2025.

The Exhibition provided a public platform for FAO, its Members, and partners to showcase practical, replicable solutions across agrifood value chains and demonstrate the role that science, innovation, technology and traditional knowledge play in transforming agrifood systems around the world. The first edition attracted about 10 000 visitors over four days, featured over 200 exhibitors from 145 countries and territories, and achieved a global digital reach of more than 32 million people.

Rationale

The strong response to the First FAO Global Exhibition: From Seeds to Foods demonstrated the value of a public, multi-stakeholder platform that brings agrifood systems to life – showing how seeds and inputs are transformed, through innovation and practice, into the foods that sustain people and communities.

At a time when food insecurity and malnutrition are driven by overlapping pressures – conflict, weather extremes and economic shocks – the challenge is not only the availability of solutions, but their visibility and uptake across the agrifood value chain. There is a clear need to better connect proven innovations with the people and partners who can adopt and scale them.

Building on this momentum, FAO will convene the second edition of the Global Exhibition: From Seeds to Foods from 8 to 12 October 2026, under the umbrella of the World Food Forum. The exhibition will bring together governments, producers, private sector, academia, youth and partners to showcase practical, context-specific solutions along the journey from seeds to foods – spanning inputs, production, processing, markets and consumption.

Through this platform, FAO will highlight how innovation, local knowledge and partnerships shape this journey and translate into tangible outcomes for food security, nutrition, resilience and livelihoods, making these connections visible and accessible to a broad public audience.

Theme

Fostering Innovation for Food Security and Nutrition

Aligned with FAO's biennial theme, the second Global Exhibition will demonstrate how specific innovations, technological solutions, local knowledge, and policy innovation can strengthen food security and nutrition outcomes across diverse contexts. It will highlight how innovations evolve across time and geography while remaining anchored in a shared objective: a world in which everyone, everywhere, has access to adequate, nutritious food.



Objectives

The **Second Global Exhibition** will serve as a public-facing platform to demonstrate validated solutions along the value chains of agricultural products, strengthen public awareness, stimulate partnerships and trigger investment for system transformation.

Specifically, the event will:

1. Demonstrate replicable innovations along the value chains of agricultural products from the crops, livestock, fisheries and forestry sectors.
2. Highlight the complementary roles of science, innovation, technology, traditional knowledge and partnerships in improving productivity, nutrition and resilience.
3. Showcase the distinctive products emerging from diverse agrifood systems from different parts of the world, together with the innovations that enable them, while facilitating knowledge-sharing and learning, to support the adoption, validation, and scaling of effective solutions.
4. Make agrifood systems transformation accessible to the wider public, including children and youth, through engaging and relatable experiences.
5. Reinforce FAO's leadership role in advancing global food security and nutrition while broadening strategic partnerships and stakeholder engagement.
6. Demonstrate FAO's role as a trusted source of technical expertise and as a bridge between innovation, policy and practice in advancing food security and nutrition.

Venue

The exhibition will take place at the historic **Circo Massimo** in Rome, adjacent to FAO Headquarters and easily accessible via the recently renovated Circo Massimo / FAO Metro Station.

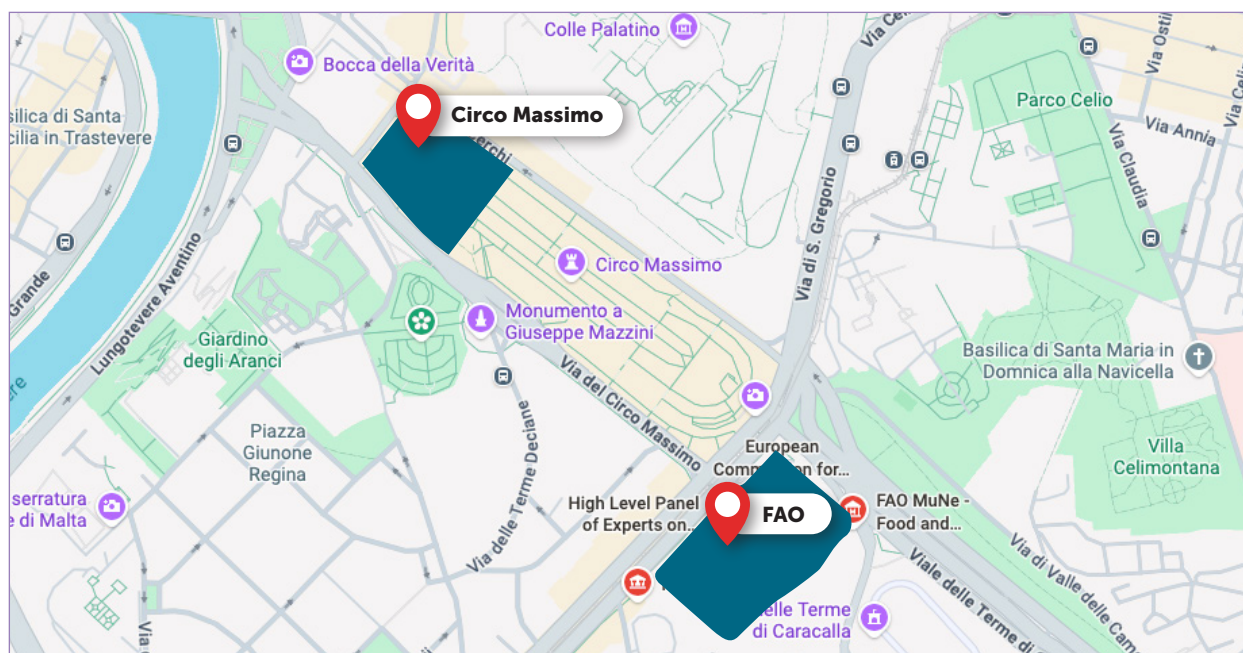


Figure 1. The venue of the exhibition

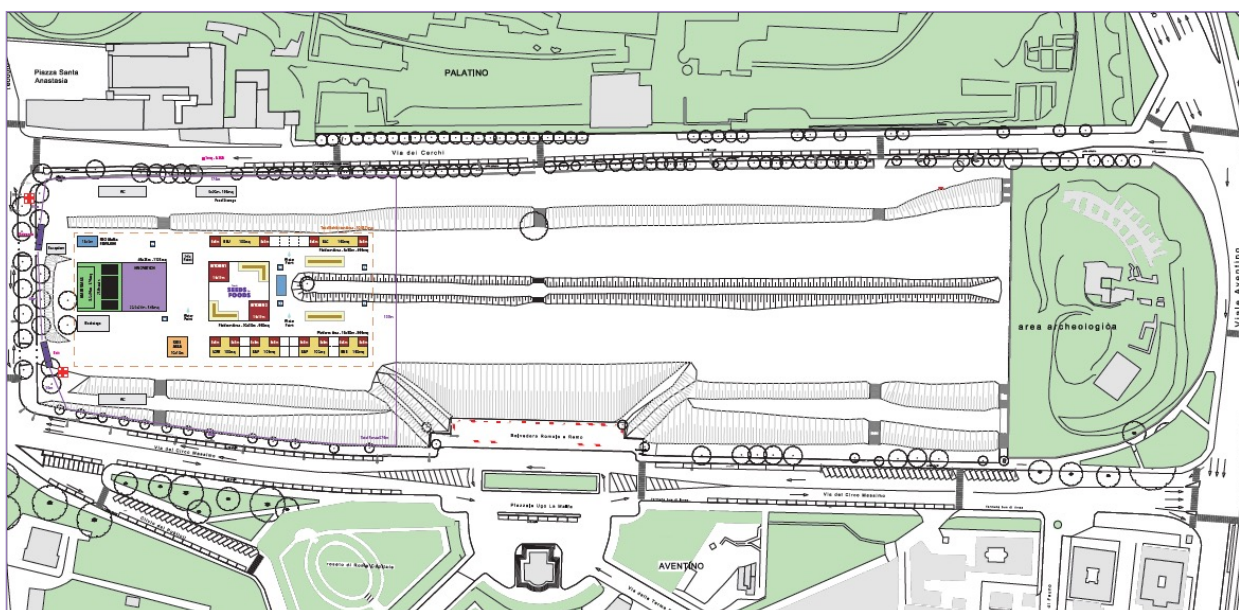


Figure 2. Designated exhibition area within Circo Massimo

Exhibition structure

The exhibition is designed as a guided journey that takes visitors from seeds to foods, illustrating how agrifood systems function in practice. Moving across the different spaces, visitors will experience how inputs, production systems, processing, markets and consumption are connected, and how innovation and knowledge shape each step along the way. The aim is to make this journey tangible, engaging and easy to understand for a broad audience.

Over five days, the second Global Exhibition will bring this journey to life through displays across multiple formats, including agricultural products, modern equipment, machinery and tools, live process demonstrations, and food presentations from different parts of the world. The programme will also include talks that will range from technological and scientific discourses to entertaining cultural events and educational activities for children, youth and the wider public. Through these experiences, visitors will see how seeds – including botanical seeds, seedlings, planting materials, fingerlings, and eggs – are transformed through innovations into the foods that nourish people. The exhibition will draw on examples from the crops, livestock, forestry and fisheries sectors, highlighting solutions that are both adaptable and scalable across diverse contexts.

The exhibition will be organized into the following thematic sections with a dedicated spatial area (Figure 2):

1. **Introductory Pavilion**
2. **Innovation Pavilion**
3. **Main Stage** and **Kids Area**
4. **Regional Pavilions**
5. **Food Area**

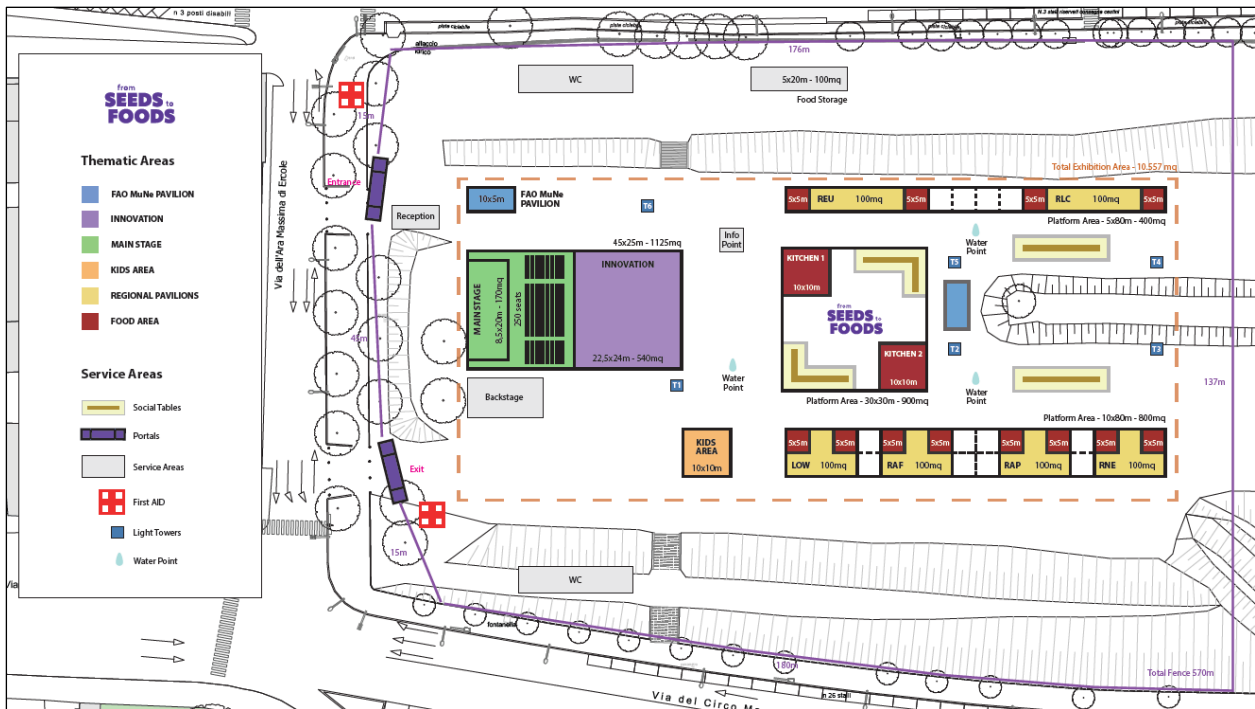


Figure 3. The layout of the exhibition (draft)

1. Introductory Pavilion

Located at the entrance of the venue, the Introductory Pavilion will serve as the gateway to the exhibition and is an immersive welcome space for visitors. It will set the overall context of the event and introduce the themes that shape the visitor's journey. Inspired by the storytelling approach of the Food and Agriculture Museum and Network (FAO MuNe), the pavilion will feature a short, high-impact audiovisual presentation that introduces FAO's mission and the exhibition's central themes. The space will highlight how FAO's work with Members and partners – across science, innovation, technology, policy and practice – has contributed to reducing hunger and malnutrition and continues to support the transformation of agrifood systems worldwide. As the opening experience, the pavilion will provide visitors with a clear and engaging introduction to agrifood systems through the lens of FAO's global work.

2. Innovation Pavilion

The Innovation Pavilion will be a dedicated space showcasing scientific and technological solutions that support the transformation of agrifood systems. Positioned immediately after the Introductory Pavilion, it will introduce visitors to the science and technologies that underpin the journey from seeds to foods across the value chain. Here, replicable examples of FAO's work on innovations, and those of partners, including non-state actors across agrifood systems, will be presented. Building on lessons and feedback from the first exhibition, this space will be significantly enhanced through a curated, modular exhibition design that supports a coherent visitor journey, stronger storytelling, and a more engaging, visually compelling experience, while ensuring that technical content remains accessible to a broad audience.

This pavilion will feature a broad range of technologies for various themes and sectors, including plant production and protection; livestock production and animal health; forest production and protection; fisheries and aquaculture; resource use and preservation; sustainable agricultural mechanization and digitalization; post-harvest and food processing; land and water; and climate resilience.

3. Main Stage and Kids Area

The Main Stage will serve as the central hub for live programming, combining entertainment, cultural expression and knowledge-sharing. The programme will include talks and cultural performances, offering a dynamic mix of content that balances accessibility with substantive discussion. The space will also host the opening ceremony, including opening remarks by the FAO Director-General and statements from the leadership of the Municipality of Rome and other invited dignitaries.

A dedicated Kids Area, located adjacent to the stage, will provide interactive educational and learning experiences for children and school groups.

4. Regional Pavilions

The Regional Area will comprise six Pavilions, each representing one of FAO's regions. Each Pavilion will feature a distinct exhibition format and narrative that reflects the diversity of agrifood systems. The displays will present key information on crops, livestock, fisheries and forestry, including special agricultural products (SAPs) under the One Country One Priority Product (OCOP) initiative, as well as success stories, best practices and significant milestones.

The space will be enhanced to strengthen visitor engagement, regional visibility and ownership. In addition to product displays, each pavilion will include food-tasting experiences, allowing visitors to discover and sample unique cuisines associated with the showcased products and production systems. In line with the exhibition's focus on innovation, the regional pavilions will also highlight solutions and best practices emerging from each region, including initiatives under OCOP, and demonstrate how science, technology and local knowledge are being applied to strengthen value chains and contribute to more sustainable and resilient agrifood systems.

5. Food Area

The Food Area will be organized into two units – a Food Lab and a Kitchen. It will feature a Cooking Show Area, with a rotating programme of chefs from around the world delivering live culinary demonstrations. This will be complemented by a Food Lab, which will offer educational classes and hands-on activities focused on foods, ingredients, nutrition literacy and culinary traditions.

Here, visitors will be able to taste final food products derived from crops, livestock, fisheries and forestry. The area will show the diversity and cultural significance of food, offering visitors an opportunity to explore how food reflects identity, traditions and connections across regions and communities.

The Food Area will also demonstrate how innovation, knowledge and cultural practices shape the way food is produced, prepared and consumed. It will bring together key messages of the exhibition – from food as culture, identity and connection, to food security and nutrition, and the central role of people and practices in building more sustainable agrifood systems. In doing so, it creates a direct and engaging link between what visitors eat and the systems that make it possible



Target audience

The second Global Exhibition is designed as an open and inclusive event, accessible to the public at no charge.

Organization

- 1. Steering Group** – composed of FAO senior management, including Deputy Directors-General, Assistant Directors-General, Regional Representatives and Directors, will provide overall strategic guidance.
- 2. Taskforce Group** – operating at the working level and involving focal points from all participating FAO Divisions and Offices, will ensure coordination and implementation.
- 3. Core Team** – from NSP and DDG-Bechdol's Office, and with strong support of OCC, will be responsible for day-to-day management and operational work of the exhibition.

Timeline

	Feb	March	April	May	June	July	August	Sept	Oct
CN and dates approved									
Venue secured									
Partnerships									
Service Provider Tender									
Communications Campaign									
Exhibitors (call for participation to FAO Divisions and Regional Offices)									

(continued)

	Feb	March	April	May	June	July	August	Sept	Oct
Exhibitors List Confirmed (invitation letters for exhibitors)									
Exhibition Program (talks, workshops, Food Area)									
Exhibition Setup									
GLOBAL EXHIBITION									
Exhibition Dismantling									

Partners

The exhibition will be organized in close collaboration with the Municipality of Rome, as the principal institutional partner. Existing partnerships, including those with ACEA and the Carabinieri Forestali, will be further strengthened, while additional institutional partnerships and sponsorship opportunities will be explored to broaden the exhibition's reach and impact.

Email
Seeds2Foods@fao.org

Website
www.fao.org/seeds-to-foods/en



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