

## YFTAs X WORLD FOOD FORUM

FAO headquarters, Rome, Italy  
17.10.2023 - 18.10.2023

The [World Food Forum \(WFF\)](#) is an independent, youth-led global network of partners facilitated by the [Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations \(FAO\)](#). It aims to spark a global movement that empowers young people to shape agrifood systems to help achieve the [Sustainable Development Goals \(SDGs\)](#) and a **better food future for all**.

The 2023 edition took place from the 16<sup>th</sup> to the 20<sup>th</sup> October and it evolved around the theme “**Agri-food systems transformation accelerates climate action.**”

**Lola Berna Gascón** and **Elena Sbaragli** have been selected as observers at the WFF and have proudly represented the YFTAs during this gathering.

For this occasion, they drafted a [statement](#) advocating for a Global, Fair and Ecological transition. They outlined three levers of change to achieve this: support the **agroecological transition**; achieve **climate justice**, ensure **living incomes** and **living wages**.



They also met with [SchoolFood4Change](#) project members. The initiative sets out to redefine what it means to **eat sustainably at school**.

Together with the YFTAs, they developed a [statement](#) to demonstrate the incredible potential that **school food** has in **supporting children and young people's wellbeing while protecting the planet**.



On October 17, they started the day by attending a policy-to-action session, featuring presentations by deputy director general **Beth Bechdol** and director of food safety **Corinna Hawkes** at FAO.

**Corinna Hawkes** delivered a speech highlighting instances of agrifood policies facing challenges due to their non-bottom-up nature, such as placing healthy snacks in schools without effective communication.

Two roundtables showcased young activists working on food production and sustainability in [YOUNGO](#) as well as entrepreneurs presenting social projects.

Keynote speakers emphasized the **significance of young people making their voices heard and seeking alliances.**

Following, they joined a session focused on the private sector which emphasized the **importance of collaboration with new people, start-ups, and bottom-up approaches.** A masterclass on food waste by **Jamie Crummie**, co-founder of [Too Good To Go](#), shed light on key issues of food waste and creating businesses with a social mission.



On October 18, Elena and Lola attended the session "**Investing in youth climate action**," where they met **Tania Pazos Perez**, a Mexican agricultural engineer studying in Leuven. They also learned about the Next Generation Agriculture Network (NGINAG), crucial for highlighting the potential in African agriculture.

From a start-up perspective, they learned about Spanish [Crowdfarming](#) with Cristina Domecq, aiming to democratize agriculture by investing in organic farms.

The discussions on innovative social businesses, the impact of policies on agrifood practices, and the importance of collaboration across sectors provided valuable insights that the YFTAs are eager to apply in their ongoing efforts to **promote Fair Trade values and sustainable development**.



The Young Fair Trade Advocates found the experience at the gathering to be exceptionally valuable and inspiring:

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Participating in the WFF conference was a truly transformative experience and IT allowed us to reflect on the importance of youth engagement and the need for global collaboration”

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Lola Berna Gascón & Elena Sbaragli