



THE FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS

is inviting Expressions of Interest (EOIs) for the following:

Date of REOI: 10/04/2026

Closing date for receipt of EOI: 30 April 2026

Reference: World Food Forum (WFF) 2026 – Coffee showcasing and service

BACKGROUND

The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) World Food Forum (WFF) is a FAO flagship event, which integrates youth, science and innovation, and investment into a forward-looking, action-oriented global platform for dialogue and collaboration. Designed to bridge generations, sectors and geographies, the Forum aims to catalyze agrifood systems transformation. Through its three core pillars – the Global Youth Forum, the Science and Innovation Forum and the Hand-in-Hand (HIH) Initiative Investment Forum – the WFF convenes governments, youth champions, global financial institutions, the private sector, leading agrifood investors, academia, scientists and researchers, farmers' organizations, civil society, non-profit organizations, and United Nations entities.

In 2026, the WFF flagship event will take place from 8 to 16 October at FAO headquarters in Rome, Italy, as well as online. Based on previous editions, it is expected that approximately 7,000 participants will attend in person.

The Hand-in-Hand (HIH) Initiative Investment Forum is a core pillar of the WFF and is designed to accelerate sustainable agrifood investment in countries and territories where the potential for impact on poverty reduction, food security and resilience is greatest. The Forum provides a platform for governments to present investment plans developed through the HIH Initiative to a global audience of agrifood investors, facilitating partnerships that advance agrifood systems transformation.

In 2026, 35 countries and five Regional Initiatives are expected to present their investment plans at the HIH Initiative Investment Forum, many of which identify coffee as a priority value chain. The HIH Initiative Investment Forum will take place from 13 to 16 October 2026.

DESCRIPTION OF THE OPPORTUNITY

Within this context, FAO intends to provide participating countries with an opportunity to showcase and promote coffee produced in their countries during WFF 2026, particularly within the framework of the HIH Initiative Investment Forum. The initiative seeks to enhance the visibility of coffee value-chain investment opportunities and to facilitate networking in high-traffic event areas.

INTEREST AND FEASIBILITY

To confirm feasibility and ensure that logistical and operational requirements can be met, FAO invites interested parties to submit an Expression of Interest by 30 April 2026. Shortlisted candidates will be invited to a brief call with the Office of the Chief Economist between 2 May and 12 May 2026 to discuss the concept and confirm operational details.

SET-UP AND LOGISTICS

FAO will provide the basic set-up for at least two coffee service points, including:

- A table (approximately 1 m x 1.5 m)
- Power outlets
- A small refrigerator
- Waste bins

Water will be available via water fountains located in nearby areas of the building.

The initial locations are as follows:

- Point A: Investors Networking Lounge (Kazakhstan Lounge), ground floor, Building B (next to the Atrium).
- Point B: Hallway outside the Green and Red Rooms, first floor, Building A.

Additional locations may be identified depending on the level of interest received and operational feasibility (e.g. outside the Iran Room at the first floor of Building B, or in the Atrium).

Participating countries are required to provide the following:

- Coffee (including specification of origin and type)
- Coffee machine(s) suitable for the expected volume
- Disposable compostable cups and related consumables (e.g. stirrers, napkins)
- Sugar and milk (including plant-based alternatives, where possible)
- Trained personnel to operate the coffee stations throughout service hours

Service requirements – Point A (Investors Networking Lounge): The provider must ensure continuous service, for at least one day, from 08:30 to 17:00 hours, and sufficient capacity to

serve approximately 600 beverages per day, reflecting an expected daily attendance of around 200 visitors in the lounge.

Service requirements – Point B (Green/Red Rooms area): To be confirmed based on room booking schedule. Shortlisted candidates will be informed of final requirements during the teleconference stage.

Please note that no financial remuneration or reimbursement will be provided by FAO for the coffee showcasing and service described in this Expression of Interest.

Participating countries and their designated providers will be expected to bear all costs related to the provision of coffee, equipment, consumables, personnel and operations, and to serve coffee free of charge to event participants for the duration of the service.

EVALUATION CRITERIA FOR SELECTION

FAO will assess EOIs using the criteria below (non-exhaustive) and in line with the objectives of the Initiative:

- Eligibility and relevance
 - Sponsored by a country formally participating in the HIH Initiative Investment Forum (individually or as part of a Regional Initiative).
 - Sponsored by a country whose investment plan includes coffee as a priority value chain.
- Technical capacity and experience
 - Demonstrated experience providing similar services at large events and ability to meet volume and service-hour requirements.
- Sustainability and sourcing
 - Coffee sourced from certified schemes (e.g. organic, fair trade) and/or verifiable sustainability standards.
 - Coffee sourced from small producers, cooperatives, and/or women- or youth-led farms (where applicable).
- Quality and offer
 - Quality of coffee (e.g. Arabica/Robusta blend, single origin, specialty grade), roasting profile and freshness.
 - Variety of beverages offered (e.g. filtered, espresso, cappuccino, and non-dairy alternatives).

Applicants are requested to indicate the name and origin of the coffee to be served during the event. Information provided should be supported by verifiable documentation, particularly

regarding sustainability and sourcing (e.g. certifications, supplier information, traceability records).

PROCEDURE FOR SUBMISSION OF EOI

Applicants are requested to complete and submit Annex I – Expression of Interest Application Form as part of their EOI.

Interested parties are invited to submit their Expression of Interest by email no later than 20 April 2026, with subject line “WFF2026 - EOI Coffee showcasing and service”.

Submissions should include, at a minimum:

- Name of the country (or Regional Initiative) sponsoring the service and focal point contact details;
- Description of the coffee to be showcased (origin, type, quantity available, certifications/standards, sourcing model);
- Description of the proposed service set-up (machines, staffing plan, beverage menu, daily serving capacity);
- Confirmation of availability for the service dates and hours, including Point A requirements (08:30-17:00 hours); and
- Supporting documents (certificates, traceability records, supplier information, photos/spec sheets of equipment, as relevant).

EOIs should be sent to: Chief-Economist@fao.org

Copy to: Flavio.Bellomi@fao.org; Ada.Nannetti@fao.org; Paola.Persi@fao.org

Submission of an Expression of Interest implies acceptance of the non-remunerated nature of the service and confirmation that the applicant is willing to provide the service at its own cost and without charge to final users.

Please note that this Request for Expressions of Interest does not constitute a commitment by FAO to award any contract or to reimburse any costs associated with the preparation or submission of an EOI. FAO reserves the right to accept or reject any EOI and to modify the planned approach, locations and/or requirements based on operational considerations.

Selected applicants will be required to sign the declaration form here presented in Annex II for information only (i.e. no need to fill it in at this stage).

ANNEX I

EXPRESSION OF INTEREST – APPLICATION FORM

WFF 2026 - EOI Coffee showcasing and service

1. Applicant Information

Country / Regional Initiative sponsoring the application:

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Name of designated focal point:

.....

Title / Institution:

.....

Email address:

.....

Telephone:

.....

2. Coffee to Be Showcased

Name and origin of the coffee (country/region):

.....

Type of coffee (e.g. Geisha, Arabica, Robusta, blend, single origin, specialty grade):

.....

Brief description (roasting profile, flavour notes, uniqueness):

.....

3. Sustainability and Sourcing

Coffee is sourced from certified schemes (e.g. organic, fair trade)

Coffee is sourced from small producers and/or cooperatives

Coffee is sourced from women- or youth-led farms

Other sustainability approach (please specify):

.....

Supporting documentation attached:

Yes No

4. Proposed Service Set-Up

Coffee machines to be used (model/type):

.....
.....

Daily serving capacity (number of beverages per day):

.....
.....

Beverages offered (please tick all applicable):

Espresso

Filtered coffee

Cappuccino / milk-based drinks

Non-dairy alternatives

Other (please specify):

Personnel provided (number and role):

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.....
.....

5. Availability

Availability confirmed for Point A – Investors Networking Lounge (08:30-17:00 hours, at least one full day)

Availability confirmed for Point B – Green/Red Rooms area (subject to confirmation of final requirements)

6. Cost and no-remuneration Acknowledgement

By submitting this form, the undersigned confirms that:

- The service will be provided free of charge to event participants;
- No payment or reimbursement will be requested from FAO;
- All costs related to coffee, equipment, consumables, personnel and operations will be borne by the applicant and/or the sponsoring country.

7. Declaration

I hereby declare that the information provided above is accurate and complete and that I am duly authorized to submit this Expression of Interest on behalf of the sponsoring country / initiative.

Name:

.....

Signature:

.....

Date:

.....

ANNEX II

DISCLAIMER FORM

Rome,

To: Catering Contract Manager

Infrastructure and Facilities Management (CSLI)

On occasion of the _____ that will be held at FAO on: _____

Ms/Mr/ (or name of Government/Company/Organization and function) _____ would like to offer a selection of food/beverage specialties from _____

We guarantee that the attached list of specialties is delivered following the highest standards of hygiene.

We are also aware that food will be heated/prepared and distributed exclusively by the official Catering Contractors of the Organization.

We, therefore, accept to take full responsibility, should there be any complications arising from the food/beverage offered during the event.

This is to request your approval of the list attached/below and permission to hold this event.

List of food / beverages:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.
- 6.
- 7.

Date and signature.....