



Speakers

Opening and Welcome Remarks



Mr. Kang Ho-dong is the President of the ICAO and the Chairman of the National Agricultural Cooperative Federation of Korea (NACF). He holds a degree in Taxation and Accounting from Daegu Mirae College and completed coursework in Cooperative Management Administration at the Agricultural Cooperative University. Previously, he served as the President of Yulgok Agricultural Cooperative and held director positions at Nongmin Newspaper and NACF.



Mr. Giampaolo Buonfiglio is the Vice President of Alleanza delle Cooperative Italiane Agroalimentare. He also serves as the President of AGCI Agrital, focusing on enhancing the agricultural and fisheries sectors. Buonfiglio advocates for innovation, diversification, and sustainability within the cooperative movement, emphasizing the need for strategic policies and resources to strengthen Italy's agro-food production.

Keynote Address



Ms. Ileana Grandelis is a Programme Officer in the Rural Transformation and Gender Equality Division at the FAO. She specializes in rural development and youth employment, holding an MSc degree in Rural Development, Institutions, and Management of Natural Resources from the IAMM-CIHEAM, a MA degree in International and European Relations. She joined FAO in 2007 and is currently based at FAO Headquarters in Rome, coordinating the programme "Integrated Country approach for boosting decent jobs for youth in the agrifood system".



Presentations



Mr. Leonardo Pofferi is the Head of European Affairs and International Relations at Alleanza delle Cooperative Italiane Agroalimentare. He has been the Permanent Representative at the Brussels office since 2014, managing relations with EU institutions and representing Italian agricultural and fisheries policies. Since 2020, he has been the Vice-President of Cogeca, a board member of Cooperatives Europe, and from 2023, the Treasurer of Copa-Cogeca.



Mr. Hisham Zehni is the Lead Technical Specialist (Youth) and Social Inclusion Cluster Coordinator in the Environment, Climate, Gender, and Social Inclusion Division at the IFAD. He has been actively involved in developing and implementing strategies to improve youth employment and social inclusion in rural areas. Zehni's work focuses on enhancing the resilience of small-scale farmers and addressing the intersection of climate change, conflict, and fragility in various regions.



Ms. Simona Caselli is the President of Granlatte coop and Head of European Affairs for Legacoop Agroalimentare. She has been a significant figure in the Italian cooperative system since 1984, holding key roles at CCFS since 1992, where she served as treasurer and later as Commercial and Development Director. From 2011 to 2014, she was President of Legacoop of Reggio Emilia and Legacoop Emilia Ovest. Since June 2022, she has been the President of CRPA and, since 2016, the President of AREFLH.



Mr. Lee Wook received his bachelor's in law at Jeonbuk National University in Korea. In 2011, he earned his master's in law at Fudan University in Shanghai, China. Since Mr. Lee joined the NACF in 1996, he served diverse, crucial roles in several departments of the NACF such as in research and trade. He also has extensive experience/insights in international affairs through a long dedication to the international cooperation departments and teams.