



GCSAYN UNEA-7 SIDE EVENT APPROVED: 12/5/2025, Venue: CR14, UNON, Time: 9:30 am -11:00 am EAT

Proposed Event Title

Women and Youth as Enablers of Change towards Beating Plastic Pollution through the 3Rs in Enhancing the Achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Proposed Event Date

12/5/2025

Proposed Time of the Event

9:30 – 11:00 EAT (*typical 90-min side-event slot; adjust to venue availability*)

Venue:

Conference Room 14, UNON

Event Description (max 500 words)

The Climate Smart Agriculture Youth Network Global (GCSAYN) proposes an interactive youth-led dialogue on how climate-smart agriculture (CSA) can become a catalyst for beating plastic pollution through the principles of Reduce, Reuse, and Recycle (3Rs). Plastic pollution from agricultural inputs such as mulch films, irrigation pipes, and packaging is an emerging threat to soils, water, and food security. At the same time, climate change intensifies stress on farming systems, demanding innovative approaches that integrate circular economy solutions.

The session will highlight successful youth-driven initiatives that combine CSA practices with plastic-waste reduction and valorization. Examples include:

- the replacement of single-use plastics with biodegradable alternatives.
- farmer-led schemes for collecting and recycling agricultural plastics.
- social enterprises turning plastic waste into irrigation tools or greenhouse materials.

Through a Talanoa-style dialogue and brief expert interventions, participants will explore enabling policies, financial mechanisms, and community engagement models that scale these solutions. Special attention will be given to gender and intergenerational inclusion, linking grassroots youth action with national climate strategies, the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, and the UNEA-7 theme “Effective, inclusive and sustainable multilateral actions to tackle climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution.”

The event will provide a platform for sharing replicable practices and building partnerships between youth, local governments, private sector actors, and international organizations. It will produce actionable recommendations for integrating plastic-pollution mitigation within CSA planning and for empowering young people as change agents in agri-food systems.

https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/resource/366_CSAYN%20Talanoa%20Dialogue_Oct2018.pdf#:~:text=The%20CSAYN%20Talanoa%20Dialogue%20was%20conduct



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Expected number of physical participants
60–80

Proposed Panelists and Moderators
(Ensure all are UNEA-7 registered; insert names/institutions as they confirm)

See Poster and Program attached.

Expected Outcomes of the Event

- Policy brief with youth recommendations for integrating 3Rs into national CSA strategies.
- New partnerships for pilot projects linking CSA and plastic-waste valorization.
- Strengthened youth capacity and visibility in UNEA processes and global climate governance
- Practical ideas to replicate and scale plastic-free and low-plastic agricultural innovations.
- Birth new initiative on feasible and viable means of phasing out single used plastic products and new opportunities for the youth

Comments or Questions

GCSAYN welcomes guidance on opportunities to align the side event with official UNEA-7 plastic-pollution negotiations and on technical support for low-waste event management.