

INVESTMENT IN PRACTICE

E-DIALOGUE SERIES



Food and Agriculture  
Organization of the  
United Nations



**European Bank**  
for Reconstruction and Development

# Robotics and Automation in Agrifood Systems

*Exploring environmental and economic  
opportunities and risks*



ZOOM EVENT / 11 FEBRUARY 2026 / 14:00 – 15:00 CET

# SPEAKERS



**Erik Pekkeriet**  
Program Manager,  
Vision+Robotics,  
WUR

Leads applied research on robotics and automation across agrifood systems, from greenhouses to open-field farming, livestock, marine and food sectors. He founded and coordinates the European Digital Innovation Hub agROBOfood and leads the Agile team of the Agro Food Robotics Program. He is Board member of the topic group on Agricultural Robotics at EU Robotics.



**Rossen Kolev**  
Founder&CEO,  
Smart Farm Robotix

Serial entrepreneur with a strong focus on robotics and agrifood innovation. He has extensive experience in building teams, leading market expansion, and managing sales and marketing across international contexts. With Smart Farm Robotix, he supports the development of fully autonomous, solar-powered weeding robots using AI for plant recognition and non-chemical weed control.



**Christophe Aubé**  
CEO,  
Agreenculture

Leads Agreenculture, a company focused on the robotization of agricultural machinery and tractors to advance precision farming and agroecology. He is President of RobAgri, a European association promoting collaboration between research and industry on agricultural robotics and serves as an ambassador for France 2030 Axis 6 on agricultural production innovation.

 265 participants

 62 countries

 118 companies & startups

 33 financial institutions & investors

 49 universities & higher education

 17 research institutions & labs

 39 international & public sector



joined EBRD-FAO E-Dialogue on Robotics and Automation in Agrifood Systems to tackle one big question:

**How do we unlock the full potential of automation and robotics in agrifood?**

# Erik Pekkeriet

Wageningen University & Research  
Programme Manager Vision  
+ Robotics



*Remote presence and high service levels will be the key to unburdening the farmer with full robot autonomy. Technology should ensure that the farmer can focus on farming.*

# Christophe Aube'

Agreenculture  
CEO



*Robotics is capital-intensive and farmers are being asked to take significant risks in a market where many start-ups fail. To accelerate adoption, we need either more time to mature solutions or stronger collaboration that combines start-up innovation with the credibility of trusted original equipment manufacturers.*

# Rossen Kolev

Smart Farm Robotics  
CEO & Founder



*For robotics to scale in agriculture, reliability and service must come first - machines need to work every day, with immediate support when they don't. Solutions must also fit farmers' routines, backed by continuous training and business models that maximize the benefits from the new technology and reduce financial risks.*

# Iride Ceccacci

EBRD  
Associate Director for  
Agribusiness Advisory



*Bringing together expertise from academia, finance, technology, policy, and industry, allows us to identify the investment pathways required to move from promising pilots to scalable, bankable solutions.*

# Jacopo Monzini

FAO Investment Centre  
Senior Natural Resources  
Management Officer



*Robotics will not solve everything on its own - the system around it must evolve. Addressing this challenge requires continuous learning, research, and shared risk-taking to ensure innovation scales sustainably and leaves no one behind.*