



## UN Announces 10 Small Business Winners Providing “Good Food for All” in East Asia and the Pacific

*The US\$100,000 global competition, held in conjunction with the UN Food Systems Summit, showcases innovative solutions in improving access to healthy, sustainable food*

**Tuesday, July 27, Rome** – Ten inspiring small- and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) from East Asia and the Pacific have been announced amongst the 50 Best Small Businesses of the “[Good Food for All](#)” competition, held in conjunction with the UN Food Systems Summit.

Selected from nearly 2,000 applications from 135 countries, these winners all showcase inspiring, diverse, and impactful solutions in improving access to healthy, sustainable food. They form part of a global set of 50 winners – half of whom are youth-led and nearly half are women-led – who will all share a US\$100,000 cash prize.

“Small businesses are the hidden heroes of our food systems, managing at least half of our food economies and keeping food on our plates throughout the COVID-19 pandemic,” said **Dr Agnes Kalibata**, Special Envoy of the UN Secretary-General for the 2021 Food Systems Summit. “We must understand the challenges they face and work together to ensure they remain at the heart of efforts to improve the future of food.”

Each winner was selected for how their business contributes to healthier, more sustainable, and equitable food for the communities they serve; the strength of their vision for the future; and how well they communicate the current and future impacts of their business.

Among the regional winners in East Asia and the Pacific, several female-led businesses demonstrate the critical role of SMEs in nourishing people and providing inclusive livelihoods and equity. A female-led social enterprise in Indonesia produces high-end organic coconut sugar, amongst other natural food products, whilst ensuring care for local communities, wildlife, and the environment. “At [Aliet Green](#), we concentrate on local resources, and the art of traditional knowledge and skills to produce extraordinary premium products,” enthuses founder **Lastiana Yuliandari**.

“It makes me so happy that my farm not only provides organic produce for the café, but that I am contributing to helping the environment,” reflects **Eileen Chute**, owner of [Bulaccino](#) café. Transformed from an idle sugarcane plantation, the 30 acre agroforestry-based, family-run farm is rich in biodiversity and has become a popular visitor attraction raising further awareness of its farm-to-table approach.

The social and economic wellbeing of local populations is at the core of many small enterprises as they strive to improve nutrition. In China, Yunnan Qitu Agriculture Company Ltd. grows organic fruit and seasonable vegetables for the Veggie Ark community, whilst also providing education through health workshops and at farmer’s markets. “Good quality food nurtures both body and mind,” states general manager, **Ziwei Li**.

Many enterprises are innovating and scaling solutions for nutrition and sustainability – such as [LightBlue Environmental Consulting](#), a Thai company working on food waste prevention, whose



users have reduced their food waste by an average of 35% and one in four have cut their food waste in half.

New Zealand-based [Food Nation](#) also aims to influence consumers' eating habits. "We use ingredients that may have otherwise been wasted, including securing up to 30 tonnes per week of fresh mushrooms and stalks to incorporate with locally-grown, nutrient-rich crops, such as buckwheat, hemp, and quinoa," explains co-founder **Miranda Burdon**.

The future of food and global ecosystems requires adopting the latest technology, and rapid developments in science during recent years is bringing in a tide of new approaches. Australian-based [Soil Carbon Company](#) has developed a seed coating technology, which harnesses microbes to absorb carbon dioxide in the soil and thereby boost soil fertility, resilience, and crop productivity. "We're using the world's smallest organisms to tackle the world's biggest problem of too much carbon in the atmosphere and insufficient carbon in the soil," shares **Stephanie Gardiner**, the company's communication manager.

The competition winners were announced alongside a new [report](#), based on a global survey of these businesses' ambition and needs. The report outlines three critical pathways for supporting small businesses in realising their full promise: creating more conducive business environments, offering more positive incentives, and empowering small business leaders to have greater influence in sector planning.

## ENDS

### **Notes to editors:**

For all media enquiries and interview requests, **contact:** [FSScommunications@un.org](mailto:FSScommunications@un.org)

**Find out more** about the 50 winners on the [Food Systems Summit Community Page](#)

**View** the announcement ceremony via the livestream: [www.facebook.com/UNFoodSystems](https://www.facebook.com/UNFoodSystems)

**Download** the full accompanying report "A Small Business Agenda for the UN Food Systems Summit" (PDF): [www.un.org/sites/un2.un.org/files/unfss-small\\_business\\_agenda.pdf](https://www.un.org/sites/un2.un.org/files/unfss-small_business_agenda.pdf)

**Executive Summary language versions:** [Chinese](#) | [English](#) | [French](#) | [Spanish](#)

### **About the 2021 UN Food Systems Summit**

The UN Food Systems Summit was announced by the UN Secretary-General, António Guterres, on World Food Day last October as a part of the Decade of Action for delivery on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by 2030. The aim of the Summit is to deliver progress on all 17 of the SDGs through a food systems approach, leveraging the interconnectedness of food systems to global challenges such as hunger, climate change, poverty and inequality. More information about the 2021 UN Food Systems Summit and a list of Advisory Committee and Scientific Group members can be found online: [www.un.org/foodsystemssummit](https://www.un.org/foodsystemssummit)

**Additional East Asia and Pacific winners' information and quotes:**



[ADC Aquatic Development Co. Ltd.](#) has become the leading tilapia fish breeding farm in the Lao PDR, offering a steady supply of high quality fingerlings as well as a delivery service and expert advice to local farmers.

[Nutrition Innovation Singapore Pte Ltd.](#) is transforming the world's health through sugar innovation. The company's technology enables sugar companies to produce **Nucane™**, a range of healthier, naturally low-glycaemic sugars designed for refined sugar replacement and to reduce sugar intake by up to 70%.

In the Philippines, **Varacco Inc.** is creating quality jobs whilst sourcing directly from farmers to create delicious coffee blends and Filipino delicacies made of premium glutinous rice, rice flour, and coconut milk.

The Chinese **YouKuai Group** partners with top scientists and chefs to develop tasty, healthy, and sustainable plant-based products. "Our products are designed to be tasty, more nutritious, safer, more accessible, and more resource-efficient," emphasises **Franklin Yao**, CEO of YouKuai.

**List of regional winners with video links:**

ADC Aquatic Development Co. Ltd.	Laos	<a href="#">Link</a>
Aliet Green	Indonesia	<a href="#">Link</a>
Bulaccino Farm/Cafe	Fiji	<a href="#">Link</a>
Food Nation	New Zealand	<a href="#">Link</a>
LightBlue Environmental Consulting	Thailand	<a href="#">Link</a>
Nutrition Innovation Singapore Pte Ltd.	Singapore	<a href="#">Link</a>
Soil Carbon Co.	Australia	<a href="#">Link</a>
Varacco Inc.	Philippines	<a href="#">Link</a>
YouKuai Group	China	<a href="#">Link</a>
Yunnan Qiutu Agriculture Company Limited	China	<a href="#">Link</a>