



AfriFOODlinks

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AfriFOODlinks at Nutrition Week 2026: Showcasing
Tunisia's bread reformulation initiative

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From 25 to 28 May 2026, the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) hosted the Nutrition Week 2026 at its headquarters in Rome and online under the theme *“Shaping the Future of Joint Nutrition Action in a Changing World.”* The event brought together policymakers, researchers, practitioners, and development partners to explore collaborative solutions for improving nutrition outcomes in a context marked by persistent food insecurity, rising diet-related diseases, and limited access to healthy diets.



Photo credits: UN-Nutrition, *Cities Driving Nutrition: Linking Policy and Practice for Sustainable Diets*, Rome Nutrition Week 2026.

As part of the thematic programme *“Local Food Solutions for Global Impact,”* a dedicated session entitled “Cities Driving Nutrition: Linking Policy and Practice for Sustainable Diets” highlighted how cities are translating national nutrition ambitions into concrete local actions. The session showcased innovative initiatives from around the world that are improving food environments, increasing access to nutritious foods, and fostering sustainable food systems.

Among the featured examples was the **reformulation of subsidized bread in the city of Tunis**, implemented through the AfriFOODlinks project by the National Institute of Nutrition and Food Technology (INNTA). The initiative aims to improve the nutritional quality of subsidized bread, the most affordable and widely consumed staple food in Tunisia, through a gradual reduction in salt content while maintaining consumer acceptance and supporting bakery sector engagement. A total of 50 volunteer bakeries participated in the intervention and successfully achieved a gradual 30% reduction in salt content over a three-month period. The progressive reduction of salt content demonstrated that significant nutritional improvements can be achieved without compromising consumer acceptance or disrupting existing production practices.

By addressing a food consumed daily by a large proportion of the population, the intervention demonstrates how local actions can contribute to healthier food environment and support efforts to prevent diet-related non-communicable diseases.

The presentation of the Tunis experience alongside initiatives from Brazil, Cork, and other cities worldwide highlighted the important role of local governments in advancing nutrition-sensitive food policies. It also demonstrated how city-level innovation can generate scalable solutions with wider national and global relevance.

The participation of INNTA in this international event provided an opportunity to share lessons learned from the Tunis pilot and exchange experiences with global partners. It also contributed to the dialogue on sustainable and inclusive approaches to improving diets through local food system transformation.

Through AfriFOODlinks, Tunis continues to demonstrate how evidence-based interventions can drive food system transformation, promote healthier diets, strengthen local food environments, and contribute to more sustainable and resilient urban food systems.