



## Major Abu Dhabi Conference Offers ‘Opportunity to Reshape World Food System,’ say Attendees

*World Union of Wholesale Markets Conference Brings Largest Network of Fresh Food Suppliers to Region in October*

**Abu Dhabi, UAE – August 3, 2022:** The World Union of Wholesale Markets (WUWM) Conference 2022, which will be held in the Middle East for the first time in October, offers an important opportunity to reshape global food systems, according to organisers and attendees.

The conference will take place at a time when the UN General Assembly has warned of rising hunger and malnutrition in the world, with factors including the COVID-19 pandemic, climate change and international conflicts resulting in nearly a billion people going hungry in 2021.

As the world’s largest network of wholesale markets, WUWM represents the industry’s most significant suppliers of fresh food. Attendees at the conference are set to include leading fresh food producers, wholesale markets, retailers, fresh food logistics companies, air and maritime freight providers as well as local, national and regional government representatives and policymakers and food systems experts.

With the theme, “Global food security in the XXIs: Risks, challenges and solutions to ensure resilient and sustainable fresh food supply chains”, WUWM Abu Dhabi 2022 will bring together key stakeholders to discuss the mechanisms required to secure global food supplies. It will review pathways to ensure the transition of food systems into sustainability, opportunities to reduce food loss, increase resilience of the fresh food supply chain and promote innovation and digital tools to ensure long term food security.

Stephane Layani, WUWM Chairman, said: “WUWM is committed to tackling food insecurity and preventing food crises around the world. This conference will offer a vital opportunity to identify risks and anticipate future challenges for maintaining food supplies. Sharing innovations, best practices and new approaches will enable us to mitigate the impact of the current crisis and avoid future disruption to food supply chains.”

“We are very proud to bring the event to Abu Dhabi, our first ever in the Middle East, in recognition of the remarkable steps that leaders and organisations in this region are taking to ensure food security. We have issued an open invitation to all industry actors around the world to participate, so that we can agree a multi-stakeholder approach to fixing and enhancing global food systems.”

The event is being hosted by AD Ports Group, the leading facilitator of global trade, logistics, and industry, which is playing a central role in building infrastructure and encouraging new market entrants in support of food security.



In February 2022, AD Ports Group announced the launch of the 'Regional Food Hub – Abu Dhabi' in partnership with Ghassan Aboud Group and in collaboration with Rungis. The hub will cover a total land area of 3.3 million sqm and feature market areas, complementary activity zones, industrial cold storage, logistics, waste management and water treatment amenities.

Abdullah Al Hameli, CEO, Economic Cities & Free Zones, AD Ports Group, said: "Hosting the WUWM Conference will provide the UAE with an important opportunity to demonstrate the key steps we are taking in support of national, regional, and ultimately global food security. At the same time, it will provide us with a platform to exchange knowledge and learn from some of the largest and the most innovative fresh food suppliers in the world."

As part of the national Food Security Strategy, the UAE aims to become the most secure nation in the Global Food Security Index by 2051, using modern technologies and enhanced local production to ensure the sustainable production of fresh food.

According to experts attending the conference, the resource intensity of food production is a key challenge for global food supply chains, with food production requiring high levels of water and energy. Shifting to alternative energy sources and reducing water wastage are key opportunities for the industry, although this significant transformation will require careful management to avoid increased costs leading to increased food prices.

Other topics under the microscope of WUWM Abu Dhabi 2022 include food security, supply chains, digitalisation, and the role of food hubs.

WUWM Abu Dhabi 2022 will take place on 19-20 October 2022 at Abu Dhabi National Exhibition Centre. Early bird rates are available for delegates who book tickets before 16 September.

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**About WUWM Abu Dhabi 2022**

**Global food security in the XXIs: Risks, challenges and solutions to ensure resilient and sustainable fresh food supply chains**



Two years of the COVID-19 pandemic, the conflict in Ukraine and ongoing challenges linked to climate change are causing significant disruptions to global food supply chains. Staff shortages, border controls and air freight restrictions, increasing fuel prices and widespread sourcing issues are only some of the issues facing the global fresh food industry. It is more important than ever that urgent collective action is taken to mitigate the impact of these disruptions and to build greater fresh food supply chain resiliency in order to ensure food security worldwide.

**WUWM Abu Dhabi 2022** will bring together senior public and private sector practitioners and experts from around the world in productive dialogue around key risks and challenges with the aim of identifying pathways and practical tools to ensure more resilient and sustainable fresh food supply chains and establishing mechanisms to ensure food security.

To register for WUWM Abu Dhabi 2022 please visit [www.wuwmabudhabi.com](http://www.wuwmabudhabi.com)

### **About AD Ports Group:**

Established in 2006, AD Ports Group today serves as the region's premier facilitator of logistics, industry, and trade, as well as a bridge linking Abu Dhabi to the world. Listed on the Abu Dhabi Securities Exchange (ADX: ADPORTS), AD Ports Group's vertically integrated business approach has proven instrumental in driving the emirate's economic development over the past decade.

Operating several clusters covering Ports, Economic Cities & Free Zones, Maritime, Logistics, and Digital, AD Ports Group's portfolio comprises 10 ports and terminals, and more than 550 square kilometres of economic zones within KIZAD and ZonesCorp, the largest integrated trade, logistics, and industrial business grouping in the Middle East.

AD Ports Group is rated A+ by S&P and A+ by Fitch.

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