



## NEWS REPORT: RIKOLTO

### **XI Regional Forum on Sustainable School Feeding Systems in Latin America and the Caribbean**

Around 300 delegates from 23 countries convened at Hotel Copantl in San Pedro Sula, Honduras, for the XI Regional Forum on Sustainable School Feeding for Latin America and the Caribbean. Held from July 15 to 17, 2025, the forum brought together representatives from government agencies, school feeding implementers, civil society organizations, and international cooperation projects— such as RIKOLTO's PCFSy initiative — to facilitate regional dialogue on building inclusive, equitable, and resilient food systems.

Beyond promoting regional collaboration, the forum primarily aimed to advance sustainable school feeding systems as a strategy to guarantee the right to adequate food. Countries across the region shared local experiences and best practices. The forum also spotlighted progress, particularly highlighting Honduras' investment of over 1 billion lempiras to support more than 21,000 schools, benefiting 1.3 million children nationwide.

The forum opened avenues for policy and programmatic innovation across participating countries. In addition to regional commitments and strengthened collaboration, participants witnessed successful on-the-ground practices, including planet-friendly school meals, inclusive financing mechanisms, and community-based menu co-design. Countries such as Peru and Guatemala also launched their Fill the Nutrient Gap analyses as tools to support planning and implementation.

Country leads and implementers also reflected on key challenges and lessons. Ensuring the sustainability, cultural relevance, and consistent funding of school feeding programs remains a major challenge. Participants underscored the importance of community ownership and the co-design of programs. Moreover, regional collaboration and forums like this one play a crucial role in sharing actionable insights and building the political will needed to sustain progress.

