

International Workshop and Regional Expert Consultation on Mountain Agriculture Development and Food Security and Nutrition Governance

FAO and UIR

FAO RAP Regional Initiative on Zero Hunger

Concept Note

1. Background and Justification

Mountains are home to one tenth of the world population and cover 25 percent of the earth's land surface. Around 40 percent of mountain populations resident in developing and transition countries and about 300 million people, is food insecure with half of them suffering from chronic hunger. This is no exception in the Asia region where mountain ranges are many. On the other hand, mountains host approximately one quarter of all terrestrial biodiversity and nearly half of the world's biodiversity hotspots. In addition, mountains provide precious global goods and services in the form of water, hydroelectricity, timber, niche products, mineral resources and flood management. Mountains are also places of cultural meaning and diversity as well as refuge and tourism. In terms of climate change, mountain ecosystems are fragile and subject to natural drivers of change. Meanwhile, mountains represent unique areas for detecting climate change and assessing climate change impacts. In short, mountain areas have high ecological cultural and socioeconomic significance for sustainable development in the context of climate change.

Food and nutrition insecurity remains challenging in mountainous areas in Asia affecting a large amount of people especially in remote mountain areas. The causes of food and nutrition insecurity are multifaceted and intertwined. The mountain agriculture are deteriorating and traditional agriculture systems that could reduce nutrition security, dietary diversity and agrobiodiversity in the ecosystems are declining. In addition, due to the inaccessibility, fragility and seasonality of the mountain areas, there are economic opportunities lost, poor market access and weak institutional services. Therefore, special attention and concentrated solutions targeting mountain and hilly areas in Asia are required to address food security and nutrition governance.

2. Objectives:

The objectives of the International Workshop and Regional Expert Consultation on Strengthening Mountain Agriculture Development and Food Security and Nutrition Governance are to

- (1) To identify constraints, gaps and opportunities on mountain agriculture development for poverty reduction and Zero Hunger;

- (2) To facilitate knowledge sharing, lessons learnt and good practices on agriculture development and food security and nutrition governance in the mountainous areas;
- (3) To identify possible entry points and policy mechanisms promoting mountain agriculture development and strengthen food security and nutrition governance for zero hunger and poverty reduction.

3. Contribution to the Strategic Programmes:

Eradication of poverty and hunger is a global and regional priority. It is an essential component of Regional Initiative on Zero Hunger Challenge, based on the country needs and regional priority, contributing to SDG1 and SDG2, as well as all SPs. It is to address strong desire from countries to have knowledge sharing at the regional level on promoting sustainable mountain agriculture and enhancing food security and nutrition in mountain areas to address Zero Hunger and poverty reduction.

4. Time:

The International Workshop and Regional Expert Consultation on Mountain Agriculture Development and Food Security and Nutrition Governance is tentatively scheduled to be held on 30 October-1 November 2018 in Beijing, in collaboration with partners.

5. Methodology:

The event is interdisciplinary, covering economics, policy, agriculture and environment dimensions of food security and nutrition.

6. Participants:

The participants include experts, national focal point on Zero Hunger/government officials, academia and research partners.

7. Expected results:

- (i) Key challenges, constraints and opportunities identified that agriculture and food systems face in the mountain areas, and
- (ii) good experience and practices collected on agriculture development and food security and nutrition governance in mountainous areas.

8. Partnerships:

The Consultation will be co-organized by University of International Relation (China), in collaboration with FAO Special Ambassador on International Year of Pulses, the International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics (ICRISAT), the International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD), Mountain Partnership, and Center for International Agriculture Research of Chinese Academy of Agriculture Sciences.