



## HAND IN HAND INVESTMENT FORUM 2023

17-20 October 2023

FAO Headquarters, Rome, Italy

### **SCALING-UP CAPACITY, PARTNERSHIPS AND INVESTMENT TO ACCELERATE AGRIFOOD SYSTEMS TRANSFORMATION IN THE SAHEL**

**Hand-in-Hand Regional Initiative for the Sahel**

**Wednesday 18 October 2023**

**8:30 – 9:30 (CEST) – Iran room, B-116 bis**

#### **Background**

The Sahel is a region with significant environmental, political, and social challenges. It is also endowed with abundant natural and human resources, offering tremendous potential for sustainable growth. The Hand-in-Hand Initiative facilitates partnerships and investments to accelerate the transformation of agrifood systems in the region.

Based on lessons learned, three pillars for action have been identified:

- i. Ensuring sustainable land and water management and governance.
- ii. Transformation of agri-food production, postproduction systems and trade.
- iii. Strengthening institutional capacities for resilience building

The UN's Integrated Strategy for the Sahel (UNISS), with governance, resilience, and security as its pillars, is a key programmatic entry point for the Hand-in-Hand Initiative's engagement in the region. Additionally, the investment plans for Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) and the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA), developed with FAO's support, facilitate the Hand-in-Hand Initiative's engagement in the Sahel. Finally, the SD3C, a joint programme for the Sahel in response to Covid-19, conflict, and climate change, also support the HIH Initiative's work in the region.

The core elements of the HIH Initiative in the Sahel is to complement and capitalize ongoing efforts of national governments, regional bodies, and development partners. It amplifies the existing efforts to direct resources on where they can have maximum impact.

#### **The Sahel Alliance Projects and the HIH Initiative**

Currently, the Initiative's task force team is working with the 10 UNISS countries: Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Chad, the Gambia, Guinea, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, and Nigeria, Senegal. Investment priorities have been identified in Burkina Faso, Mali, and Niger.



## HAND IN HAND INVESTMENT FORUM 2023

17-20 October 2023

FAO Headquarters, Rome, Italy

The Initiative targets regions with high rates of poverty and untapped potential for commercially oriented value chain development, including processing and storage facilities, and e-commerce and digital services in agrifood systems.

### Expected outcome

Strengthened partnerships between the Sahel's national authorities and regional bodies, and investors, multilateral development banks, the private sector, and donors to mobilize new investments in Agriculture and food value chains to reduce poverty and hunger in the Sahel.

### Agenda (8:30-9:30)

Note: the event will be held in French and interpretation service to English will be available.

#### Moderator:

Ms Maria Helena Semedo  
Deputy Director-General

#### 08:30 Opening remarks

Ms Maria Helena Semedo, Deputy Director-General

**08:35 Presentation of the Hand-in-Hand Investment Plan** “Scaling-up capacity, partnerships and investment to accelerate agrifood systems transformation in the Sahel”

Dr Abdoulaye MOHAMADOU, Executive Secretary of CILSS

ECOWAS Representative (TBC)

**08:55 Panel discussion** – Moderator Dr Robert GUEI, FAO Sub-Regional Coordinator for West Africa and FAO Representative in Senegal

Discussion theme: “Strategies and opportunities for Sahel countries and regional organizations in mobilizing investments for the proposed plans.

1. What is your country doing to promote irrigation and the integration of regional markets?
2. Considering the three pillars of the regional initiative and the national initiative, can you identify specific opportunities and challenges for mobilizing investments?
3. What strategies and enabling environments are used to attract investors and multiple partners?

WORLD  
FOOD  
FORUMHAND-IN-HAND  
INVESTMENT

## HAND IN HAND INVESTMENT FORUM 2023

17-20 October 2023

FAO Headquarters, Rome, Italy

**Panel members:** head of delegations/Ministers (4 min per panelist)

### **Burkina Faso**

Mr Alassane Guire  
Directeur de Cabinet  
Ministry of Agriculture, Animal and Fisheries Resources  
Burkina Faso

### **Cameroon**

H.E. Gabriel Mbairobe  
Minister for Agriculture and Rural Development  
Republic of Cameroon

### **Guinea**

Ms Hawa Sylla Diallo  
Permanent Secretary  
Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock  
Republic of Guinea

### **Mali**

H.E. Lassine Dembele  
Minister for Agriculture  
Republic of Mali

### **Nigeria**

Mr Aliyu Sabi Abdullahi  
Honourable State Minister for Agriculture and Food Security  
Federal Republic of Nigeria

**09:15 Q&A – Moderator:** Ms Maria Helena Semedo, Deputy Director-General

**09:25 Wrap-up and Closure**

Dr Robert GUEI, FAO Sub-Regional Coordinator for West Africa and  
FAO Representative in Senegal