Smallholders play an essential role in ensuring food security and nutrition today and in the future, including in the increase in food production needed to meet future global demand. Smallholders supply 70% of overall food production, and as much as 80% in some developing countries in Africa. Yet at the same time many smallholders themselves are net buyers of food and still suffer from food insecurity and malnutrition.

The objective of this Forum, which is jointly organized by the Committee on World Food Security (CFS), the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) office in Addis Ababa and the Arab Bank for Economic Development in Africa (BADEA), is to share views and raise awareness on actions that contribute to reducing hunger and malnutrition. It represents an opportunity to present and discuss existing instruments such as global policies, technical and financial instruments to improve smallholders’ access to markets to increase food security and enhance nutrition in West Africa.

The CFS policy recommendations on Connecting Smallholders to Markets, which were endorsed in 2016 and the CFS High-Level Panel of Experts on Food Security and Nutrition (HLPE) Report on Investing in Smallholder Agriculture for Food Security and Nutrition serve as background documents for the Forum.
9.00 - REGISTRATION

9.30 - 10.00 - OPENING SESSION

Opening - Germain Dasylva, FAO Representative in Côte d’Ivoire

Welcome remarks - Arab Bank for Economic Development in Africa (BADEA)

Introductory remarks - Ambassador Amira Gornass, CFS Chair

Official opening - Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development

COFFEE BREAK

10.00 - 12.30 - FIRST SESSION

CFS INITIATIVES

The main elements of the CFS policy recommendations on Connecting Smallholders to Markets - Emilio Colonnelli, Food Security Officer, CFS Secretariat

The CFS High Level Panel of Experts report on Investing in smallholder agriculture for food security and nutrition - Mamadou Goïta, ROPPA

UNITED NATIONS PROGRAMMES AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE IN SUPPORT OF SMALLHOLDERS

Allison Loconto, Visitor Expert on institutional Innovation, FAO

Sebastian Muller, Programme Officer, WFP

Bintou Sumareh, Senior Procurement Associate, WFP

12.30 - 14.30 - LUNCH

14.30 - 16.00 - SECOND SESSION

COUNTRY EXPERIENCES

Stakeholder groups present their experiences and lessons learned. What instruments were useful? What less? What should be done differently?

Questions and answers

16.00 - 16.15 - COFFEE BREAK

16.15 - 17.30 - THIRD SESSION

ADOPTING AN INTEGRATED APPROACH TO ADDRESS THE ISSUE

How to create synergies and adopt integrated approaches to better support smallholders for improving food security and nutrition.

CONCLUSIONS AND NEXT STEPS

Summary and wrap up - Moderator