



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations

17-21 October 2022

FAO SCIENCE AND INNOVATION FORUM

Harnessing science, technology
and innovation for transforming
our agrifood systems

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SIDE EVENT

16:00 - 17:30 CET, 10:00-11.30 EDT | VIRTUAL

14
October
2022

Guiding integration of policies and investments to innovate for food systems transformation: Global Lessons

Strengthening the agricultural innovation system (AIS) is a key step to accomplishing food systems transformation. Lack of policy cohesiveness and limited integration of policies and investment plans have constrained the pathway to achieve the SDGs. This side-event will present a framework that defines pathways to food systems transformation using integration at the policy, capacity and investment levels within AISs. It will also analyse the status of existing policies and financial mechanisms and investments, including lessons learned, experiences, and success factors for implementation of such frameworks in several countries. Based on the analysis, guidelines for a holistic approach to strengthen enabling environments through integrated policies and increasing investments for agricultural innovation at country and regional levels will be discussed and validated.

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Guiding integration of policies and investments to innovate for food systems transformation: Global Lessons

Side event organized by

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
International Food and Policy Research Institute

Background and rationale

Agricultural innovation can bring the needed transformation of agrifood systems to achieve the sustainable development goals (SDGs). Though innovation is central for all SDGs, it is particularly important to end poverty in all its forms everywhere (SDG1) and to end hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture (SDG2).

Strengthening the agricultural innovation system (AIS) is a key step to accomplishing food systems transformation as highlighted in the recently FAO Science and Innovation Strategy. Lack of policy cohesiveness and limited integration of policies and investment plans across agricultural subsectors have constrained the pathway to achieve food and nutrition security. The situation is further exacerbated by challenges due to climate change adaption and mitigation. The "*International Symposium on Agricultural Innovation for Family Farmers: Unlocking the potential of agricultural innovation to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals*" held at FAO, Rome in November 2018 recognized the need for integrated policies, increased investments by public and private institutions. Such policies and investment plans would address renewed agricultural research agenda, reforms of the education and extension systems, use of digital technologies and propose adequate financial mechanisms to promote innovation. Furthermore, the Symposium highlighted the need of holistic approach for strengthening the enabling environment for agricultural innovation, especially in the context of family and smallholder farming, and for a recognized policy and investment framework ensuring access to land, finances, knowledge, education and extension services, markets and infrastructure in ensuring farmer-led and farmer-centred innovation.

FAO in collaboration with IFPRI has reviewed the existing guidelines for reinforcing integrated policies and investments to strengthen AISs by applying a conceptual framework that defines pathways to food systems transformation using integration at the policy, capacity and investment levels within AISs. It also analyses the status of existing policies and financial mechanisms and investments, including documented lessons learned, experiences, and success factors for implementation of such frameworks at the country level. Based on the analysis, guidelines for a holistic approach to strengthen enabling environments through integrated policies and increasing investments for agricultural innovation at country and regional levels have been provided. The guidelines are intended to enable regional organizations and governments to strengthen their integrated policies and increase investments for agricultural innovation.

AGENDA

16:00 – 16:10

OPENING SESSION

Beth Crawford, Director of the Office of Innovation, FAO

Paul Dorosh, Director, Development Strategy and Governance Division, IFPRI

16:10 – 16:30

KEY NOTE PRESENTATION

Framework for policy and investment integration to strengthen AIS: a collaboration between FAO and IFPRI

Suresh Babu, Head of Capacity Strengthening, IFPRI

COUNTRY CASE STUDIES

Natural resource management integration: Example from Malawi – integration of early warning system and natural resource management investments to build resilience

Fundi Kayamba-Phiri, Strategic Learning Lead, Titukulane project

Policy, Investment, Digitalization and Co-creation integration: Agricultural Knowledge and Innovation systems and European Innovation Partnership (EIP-AGRI) operational groups

Inge Van Oost, Senior Policy Officer, DG AGRI, European Commission

Market and value chain integration in Colombia

Diego Mora, FAO Assistant Representative in Colombia, FAO Colombia

17:00 – 17:25

PANEL DISCUSSION

Moderator **Nevena Alexandrova-Stefanova**, Agricultural Extension Officer, Office of Innovation, FAO

17:25 – 17:30

CLOSING

Selvaraju Ramasamy, Senior Agricultural Officer, Office of Innovation, FAO