The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) hosted the first ever Global Conference on Sustainable Plant Production with theme “Innovation, Efficiency and Resilience” at the FAO Headquarters in hybrid format from 2 to 4 November 2022. The Conference was attended by over (TBC) participants from (TBC) FAO Members, stakeholders and partners.

The overall objective of the Conference was to provide a neutral forum for FAO Members, farmers, scientists, development agencies, policy makers, extensionists, civil society, opinion leaders and the private sector to engage in dialogues on innovation that creates efficient plant production systems with resilience to biotic and abiotic stresses, climate change, natural hazards, and geopolitical disruptions. Strategically, the event was a means, through the implementation of FAO Strategic Framework 2022-31, to transform to MORE efficient, inclusive, resilient and sustainable agrifood systems for better production, better nutrition, a better environment and a better life, leaving no one behind, thus contributing to achieving the SDGs, especially SDGs 1, 2, 8 and 12.

The three-day event was opened by the Director General of FAO, Dr QU Dongyu, and featured eight keynote addresses. The closing plenary session included a report on the Conference recommendations and a high-level ministerial segment. In between, there were twelve sub-sessions, two for each of the six themes: Seed Systems, Field Cropping Systems, Protected Cropping Systems, Natural Resource Management, Integrated Pest Management, and Mechanization and Digitalization. A seventh theme, Farmers and Enabling Environment, was held as a plenary.

In order, to maintain momentum consensus was reached on 20 strategic priorities and action-orientated recommendations to develop and implement Sustainable Plant Production Systems towards 2031 to be adapted to local contexts.

**Thematic Areas**

**Farmers and Enabling Environment**

1. *Co-create*, test and up-scale socio-culturally appropriate mechanisms that enable farmers, private sector and governments with support from other stakeholders like international and national organizations to transition towards sustainable production, providing economic and ecological benefits to all.

2. *Enable* the scaling up of sustainable production through systems-level approaches: policies to increase investments, up-skilling of public and private actors, and horizontal farmer-to-farmer skills and knowledge sharing through support to producer organizations and grassroots approaches like Farmer Field Schools (FFS).

**Seed Systems**
3. **Support** Governments, private sector and civil society organizations to conserve and characterise genetic diversity and develop diverse, productive and locally adapted varieties that make the system more resilient and prepare for the future.
4. **Facilitate** regulatory frameworks, public-private partnerships, farmer representation, effective quality assurance mechanisms and access to high quality, disease-free seeds and planting materials.

**Field Cropping Systems**

5. **Promote** more efficient production systems by enabling rural communities to access the knowledge, technologies and services they require to improve plant productivity, protect the environment, and create decent jobs on and off farm.
6. **Foster** cropping systems resilience to biotic, abiotic and socio-economic stresses through policies, partnerships and markets that incentivize farmers to improve their livelihoods while protecting natural resources.

**Protected Cropping Systems**

7. **Promote** optimized protected cropping systems by developing the business case with farmers, and facilitating local market development to provide inputs, services and technologies that increase yields while reducing emissions.
8. **Transform** urban food systems through the intelligent design of urban horticulture that recycles waste for productive purposes and maximizes the provision of safe, healthy food and ecosystem services.

**Natural Resource Management**

9. **Optimize** resource use efficiency through integrated and collaborative approaches, leveraging the combination of local knowledge and scientific methods and ensure sustainable soil health.
10. **Build** resilience of people, communities and ecosystems by integrating human values, social and economic inclusion, and respect for nature at the core of plant production.

**Integrated Pest Management**

11. **Reduce** climate-induced biotic threats through improved surveillance, diagnostics and modelling to track and predict movement of transboundary pests and pathogens; develop guidance on management actions, risk reduction and plant protection strategies.
12. **Co-develop** and scale-up bio and ecologically-based techniques and technology packages that control critical pests while minimizing pollution risk; develop and promote digital tools for sustainable plant protection in collaboration with farmers and marginalized groups.

**Mechanization and Digitalization**
13. *Scale-up* sustainable mechanization by supporting the development of viable business models that provide multiple services and benefits, and that competitively serve smallholder farmers while promoting climate-resilience, and include women and youth as workers and leaders.

14. Create an equitable digital ecosystem, leveraging big data and digital solutions, to enable farmer access to a range of tools that are responsive to their needs, and that support them to achieve financial independence, environmental sustainability, and social inclusion.

**Crosscutting Themes**

15. **Support innovations** in technologies, practices, policies and business models to facilitate the transition towards more productive, sustainable, healthy, resilient and inclusive agrifood systems through evidence-based results, and a supportive policy environment that empowers farmers as innovators.

16. **Promote resilience** to climate change by testing and co-developing locally appropriate risk-management strategies that enable adaptation and leave no one behind.

17. **Improve** the **efficiency** of plant production and agrifood systems to produce nutritious food, with less environmental impact, and low GHG emissions by harnessing the potential of ecological interactions.

**Call to Action**

18. **Evolve**, refine and scale integrative, inclusive development approaches through partnerships, capacity building, participatory learning, and strong governance.

19. **Form** synergistic technical networks with multi-disciplinary approaches to leverage the unique strengths of diverse actors to support the transition to sustainable plant production.

20. **Coordinate** among key stakeholders to set priorities, jointly mobilize resources and scale innovative approaches.

Governments, development partners and all stakeholders are called upon to implement these strategic actions, publicize them widely through appropriate electronic and print media, incorporate them into advocacy materials and provide feedback to FAO.

For further information and engagement, please contact the Director of FAO’s Plant Production and Protection Division: NSP-Director@fao.org.