





Outcomes and lessons learned from the KORONIVIA UNFCCC NEGOTIATIONS ON AGRICULTURE AND FOOD SECURITY and the way forward after COP27

BRIEF NOTE

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BOX 1. Key messages

- The Koronivia Joint Work on Agriculture (KJWA) decision was issued at the 23rd Conference of the Parties (COP23) under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). It recognized the unique potential of agriculture in tackling climate change. The Koronivia decision addressed six interrelated topics across the agricultural sectors: soils, nutrient use, water, livestock, methods for assessing adaptation, and socioeconomic and food security dimensions of climate change.
- KJWA has contributed to sharing relevant scientific and technical knowledge on key topics, but limitations remain in ensuring outcomes are translated into concrete climate actions and bridging the implementation gap between negotiation realities and action and finance on the ground.
- KJWA has highlighted the need to mainstream agriculture into UNFCCC processes and encouraged exchanges on the synergies and trade-offs between adaptation, mitigation, and agricultural productivity.

- KJWA outcomes informed and assisted countries in developing and implementing national and regional strategies on agriculture and climate change with lessons learned and best practices contributing to nationally determined contributions (NDC) and national adaptation plan (NAP) enhancement, with a focus on climate action.
- The KJWA had become a crucial space for coordination between parties, as well as an important entry point for coordination between sectors and ministries at the country level.
- Concrete guidance and scaling support on means of implementation, especially for smallholder farmers facing climate change, are still needed.
- The private sector, finance, and technological service providers outside the Convention have also been seen by some participants as relevant actors to be targeted, exposed, and incentivized to play a greater role in climate action as well as in the delivery of means of implementation at the local level.



BOX 2. Way forward

- The KJWA roadmap reached its completion with the COP27 decisions and parties have agreed to bundle its outcomes into the new four-year Sharm el-Sheikh joint work on the implementation of climate action on agriculture and food security.
- The four-year joint work focuses on the implementation of climate action including KJWA outcomes, previous activities, and future topics.
 It prioritizes ending hunger while recognizing the vulnerabilities of food production systems, especially
- for small-scale farmers, women, and youth. The joint work emphasizes context-specific solutions that consider national circumstances in an inclusive and participatory manner to deliver multiple benefits such as adaptation, adaptation co-benefits, and mitigation.
- The decision includes the creation of the Sharm el-Sheikh online portal for sharing information on projects, initiatives, and policies to increase opportunities for the implementation of climate action on agriculture and food security.

BACKGROUND

The Koronivia Joint Work on Agriculture (KJWA) was adopted in 2017 at COP23 in Bonn. It was a landmark decision under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). The KJWA decision 4/CP.23 (UNFCCC, 2018) recognized the unique role of agriculture in tackling both climate change and food security and requested the two UNFCCC Subsidiary Bodies for Scientific and Technological Advice (SBSTA) and for Implementation (SBI) to work together and advance discussions on agriculture.

As part of the Koronivia roadmap, parties and observers of the UNFCCC discussed and addressed six interrelated topics on soils, nutrient use, water, livestock, methods for assessing adaptation, and the socioeconomic and food security dimensions of climate change.

The resulting discussions, submissions, and reports have presented how agriculture and food security are a key sector for solutions to climate change, producing a wealth of technical knowledge and giving parties, observers, and other stakeholders an opportunity to exchange views, information and lessons learned (FAO, 2022). FAO, together with partner organizations such as the World Bank and International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), have offered support through dedicated webinars, workshops, and knowledge products providing technical knowledge to countries to adapt to and mitigate climate change, prepare their submissions, and informally share their views on how to develop and implement KJWA decisions. A specific FAO website was developed to gather

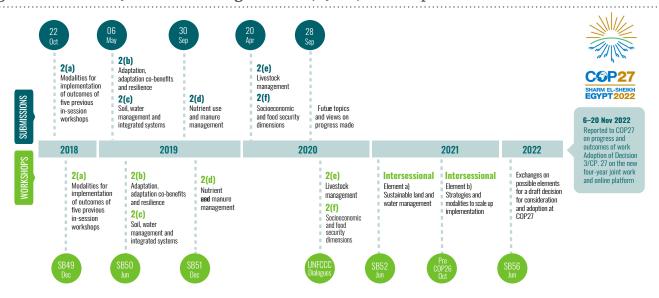
resources, overviews, and summaries of UNFCCC reports and compilations of party submissions. IFAD participated in Koronivia meetings in 2021 and 2022, presenting its experience during the intersessional workshop on strategies and modalities to scale up implementation, and organized a side event in Subsidiary Bodies 2022.

It is estimated that by 2030 climate change will push 132 million people into extreme poverty in developing countries (Jafino et al., 2020). Small-scale farmers, low-income households, indigenous peoples, and women and youth will be particularly impacted, resulting in food insecurity, malnutrition, and undernutrition. Agriculture is highly vulnerable to climate change, as it absorbs 26 percent of the economic impact of climate disasters and 83 percent of the drought burden in developing countries (FAO, 2021). At the same time, a quarter of human greenhouse gas emissions are caused by agriculture, forestry, and other land use, and food systems as a whole are responsible for 34 percent of global emissions (Crippa et al., 2021). This means there are critical opportunities in the sector to reduce greenhouse gas emissions as well as to adapt to the changes already occuring. To limit global warming to well below 2 degrees Celsius, preferably to 1.5 degrees Celsius compared to pre-industrial baselines, rapid and ambitious changes to agrifood systems1 are necessary. Recent studies show current trends in global agrifood system emissions would, on their own, preclude achieving the Paris Agreement's long-term temperature goal (Clark et al., 2020).

The vital role of the agricultural sectors in climate change adaptation and mitigation is already reflected by its inclusion

Agrifood systems are defined as covering the journey of food from farm to table – including when it is grown, fished, harvested, processed, packaged, transported, distributed, traded, bought, prepared, eaten and disposed of. It also encompasses non-food products that also constitute livelihoods and all of the people as well as the activities, investments and choices that play a part in getting us these food and agricultural products. In the FAO Constitution, the term "agriculture" and its derivatives include fisheries, marine products, forestry and primary forestry products (CL 166/REP).

Figure 1. Koronivia Joint Work on Agriculture (KJWA) roadmap



Source: FAO. 2021. Koronivia Joint Work on Agriculture – Analysis of submissions on topics 2(e) and 2(f). Submissions under UNFCCC decision 4/CP.23 provided by Parties and observers as at 16 October 2020. Rome. FAO. (updated version).

in 95 percent of countries' NDCs. It is therefore essential for parties to make full use of the key outcomes and lessons learned developed under the KJWA process and to shift towards clear and concrete actions and implementation on the ground.

KJWA SUPPORT AT COP27

By request of the COP27 Presidency and building on FAO's efforts to support international discussions under KJWA of the UNFCCC, FAO, IFAD, and the World Bank (WB) offered technical and financial assistance to delegates of countries to ensure their participation and successful contribution to the informal consultations convened by the Egyptian Presidency during the 3–4 November 2022, as well as throughout the negotiation process at COP27 in Sharm el-Sheikh.

The objective of the informal Koronivia dialogue was to facilitate mutual understanding of the KJWA between parties to form a draft decision for consideration and adoption at COP27 on the modalities for the future of the joint work. For two days, Koronivia delegates and observers had the opportunity to informally exchange views, analyse barriers, and discuss the added value of the outcomes of the KJWA roadmap in a productive and neutral space before the official negotiations. The dialogue was informed by past knowledge exchanges, workshops, and activities on agriculture and food security to build common understandings of the way forward. Several key topics were discussed, including how best to institutionalize KJWA workshop outcomes in relation to

UNFCCC Constituted Bodies (CB) and Financial Entities (FE), how KJWA may be advanced within and outside the UNFCCC, and how to design a Koronivia roadmap reflecting the KJWA's current progress and potential building blocks for its future.

Participants examined the differences in characteristics and issues in agriculture across regions and sub-regions, the views among the negotiation groups, as well as the urgent necessity of closing financing gaps. There was discussion on the importance of agriculture and food security, as well as the diminishing trends in climate financing for agriculture. Small-scale farmers in developing countries produce one-third of the world's food, yet only receive 1.7 percent of climate finance,² and there has been a decline in global climate-related development finance flow in Agriculture and Land Use sectors from 45 percent in 2000 to 22 percent in 2020 (Galbiati and Bernoux, 2022).

Coordination between countries led to a greater understanding of needs, red lines and challenges in negotiations, flexible positions, and a better understanding of contentious topics. As a result, countries and regions could build common views and positions in preparation for negotiations. The informal consultations were also a useful opportunity for new negotiators to come up to speed and learn about the KJWA milestones and outcomes, enhancing their negotiation skills and knowledge. Parties gained insight into ongoing programmes, projects, and initiatives that FAO, IFAD, and WB are supporting to implement KJWA outcomes and recommendations. Among them are the Food and Agriculture for Sustainable Transformation initiative

² Please refer to: www.ifad.org/en/web/latest/-/adapt-or-starve-un-agricultural-fund-calls-for-urgent-climate-finance-for-small-scale-farmers

(FAST),³ programmes like Scaling up Climate Ambition on Land Use and Agriculture through NDCs and NAPs (SCALA),⁴ the Global Project Strengthening Agriculture Adaptation (SAGA),⁵ the Agriculture Sector Readiness for enhanced climate finance and implementation of KJWA priorities in Southeast Asia⁶ (starting in 2023), along with knowledge platforms such as FAO's Climate Change Knowledge Hub (CCK–Hub).⁷

IFAD's mandate is to support countries in building the resilience of agriculture and rural areas. IFAD's 11th replenishment portfolio (2019—2021) included 35 percent climate finance and IFAD's 12th replenishment (2022—2024) has a 40 percent climate finance target, as reported in its climate action report (IFAD, 2022). IFAD's Country Strategic Opportunity Programme (COSOP) systematically integrates climate and environmental risks and opportunities at the early stages of country programme and project design. Moreover, since 2012, IFAD has strengthened its adaptation work through its Adaptation for Smallholder Agriculture Programme (ASAP), 9 which was recently enhanced. 10

The WB has increased its financing to climate-smart agriculture by seven times since the Paris Agreement. It currently provides about USD 3 billion a year for climate -smart agriculture, pioneering climate-smart technologies to demonstrate viability at scale, and increasing knowledge in countries. It prioritises agriculture, food, water, and land as one of its five key systems transitions (World Bank Group, 2021). The WB has also developed climate-smart agriculture profiles as well as climate-smart agriculture investment plans¹¹ for several countries in all regions. Additionally, the World Bank Group's Country Climate and Development Reports (CCDRs) have introduced new diagnostics that integrate climate change and development considerations.¹² Among others, new focus areas for the WB in the agriculture and food sectors include decarbonisation, food loss and waste, and repurposing agricultural policies and support. The informal Koronivia dialogue was comprised of 35 agriculture representatives from developing nations across Africa, Asia, the Pacific, Latin America, and the Caribbean. Their attendance was made possible by the generous financial, technical, and logistical support extended by FAO, IFAD, and the WB. This diverse representation of regions ensured a well-rounded contribution towards a crucial agriculture decision.

The support extended to delegates highlighted the usefulness of face-to-face exchanges, especially considering the gap during the COVID-19 pandemic. Such exchanges were deemed essential in fostering trust, mutual understanding, and coordination among the parties involved. Lack of funding has always impeded agricultural negotiators, making it difficult for them to contribute to previous UNFCCC COPs and SBs. However, at COP27 agriculture and food systems were given higher priority than ever before, with several related pavilions and side events. This was a strong message by the COP27 Presidency and supporting organizations, highlighting the importance of making progress on agriculture and food security in climate change negotiations and creating awareness and political buy-in at the country level.

KJWA ROADMAP: KEY LESSONS LEARNED AND OUTCOMES TOWARDS A COP27 DECISION

The KJWA is the only negotiation stream to focus on agriculture and food security under the UNFCCC. Under decision 4/CP.23, this process counted on the expertise and technical advice of ten of the Constituted Bodies, on the Financial Mechanisms [Adaptation Fund, Global Environment Facility/ Least Developed Countries Fund/ Special Climate Change Fund (GEF/LDCF/SCCF)/Green Climate Fund (GCF)], as well as on the contribution and support from parties and observers. The adopted KJWA roadmap¹³ provided a timeline and inclusive process to address these topics through in-session workshops starting at SB49 in December 2018 and going through 2020.14 At COP26, parties reached an agreement on the last three topics of the initial Koronivia roadmap, complementing the previous conclusions already adopted at SB56 in June 2022 (FAO, 2022). FAO, IFAD and WB jointly prepared the following brief note to assess support for country delegates in the KJWA process. The note is based on the feedback and contributions from 15 country delegates from developing countries who received support for the KJWA meetings at COP27. The analysis aims to enhance future support by summarizing the different views and experiences of

Please refer to: https://cop27.eg/assets/files/initiatives/FAST-BR-01-EGY-10-22-EN.pdf

⁴ Please refer to the official SCALA website: www.fao.org/in-action/scala/en

⁵ Please refer to the official SAGA website: www.fao.org/in-action/saga/en/

⁶ Please refer to: www.greenclimate.fund/document/agriculture-sector-readiness-enhanced-climate-finance-and-implementation-koronivia-joint

⁷ Please refer to the official CCK-Hub: www.fao.org/climate-change/knowledge-hub/en/

⁸ Please refer to: www.ifad.org/en/cosop

⁹ Please refer to: www.ifad.org/en/asap

 $^{^{\}rm 10}$ $\,$ Please refer to: www.ifad.org/en/asap-enhanced

¹¹ Please refer to: www.worldbank.org/en/topic/climate-smart-agriculture

 $^{^{12} \}quad \text{Please refer to: } \textbf{www.worldbank.org/en/publication/country-climate-development-reports}$

¹³ See here: www.fao.org/koronivia/about/en/

¹⁴ Postponed to 2021 due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

respondents on 1) the usefulness of the KJWA dialogue, 2) key lessons learned, challenges (see the Table in Box 3), outcomes of the KJWA process, and 3) future opportunities for COP27 decision on agriculture and food security. The responses were analyzed in full text to ensure a comprehensive assessment of views and codified into a database, allowing

for cross-referencing and clustering of the different aspects highlighted by individual responses. The results were then reviewed and summarized in Box 3.

BOX 3. Insights from participants on the Koronivia roadmap

During the past 5 years, negotiators, scientists, and stakeholders had the opportunity to come together to discuss and share key learning experiences, and best practices to address climate change within agriculture. The Koronivia roadmap, workshops, reports, as well as the conclusions of the subsidiary bodies on this process have been recognized by respondents as crucial for building the required knowledge, awareness, and common understanding of the relevant challenges and opportunities on the impacts of climate change on agriculture.

The workshops under the KJWA provided useful information on the latest agricultural research, national circumstances, realities faced by farmers, challenges and opportunities relating to agricultural research and development, and ways of mobilizing climate action in the area of agriculture and food security. The process has helped institutions, organizations, and stakeholders working on agriculture and climate change to focus their work and has led to new activities and initiatives in this area. Nevertheless, the need to identify modalities for addressing challenges and exploring opportunities for accessing existing means of implementation has been highlighted, showing the need for greater political support

and implementation to reach small-scale farmers to improve food security and address food crises with concrete actions on the ground.

During the informal Koronivia consultations in November 2022, delegates recognized the need for enhanced climate action on agriculture and food security and coordination with and among actors outside the UNFCCC, with financiers like IFAD and WB and with providers of technical expertise and knowledge such as FAO.

The urgent need to scale up action and support capacity building, access to finance, and technological development and transfer was highlighted. Priority areas included enhancing adaptive capacities and resilience, thereby reducing the vulnerability of farmers and other vulnerable groups, especially small-scale farmers, women and youth, to climate change.

More agile decisions and consensus among groups of countries were considered important steps to move forward on implementation and iron out divergent views, positions, and differences among countries. Lessons learned, experiences, and best practices at regional and country levels were discussed for each topic, and new ideas,

Table. Key challenges

Risk of the new joint work ending up as a 'Talk Shop' with little implementation impact on the ground	Providing a more balanced approach between mitigation and adaptation
Defining how implementation will happen on the ground and how the financial landscape will be structured to support the implementation of agreed actions	Need to address the sectoral problem in a greater framework, as food systems are not fully recognized in the final text
Linking the new joint work to PA mechanisms (such as NDCs) to enhance the scope of support that parties can call upon	Difficulties to reach a decision due to language barriers and contentious topics

Source: Respondents in relation to the KJWA outcomes and future of the four-year joint work.

solutions, and methods were shared regarding climate action and opportunities for implementation based on country priorities and context.

The KJWA roadmap provided the preparation basis to translate outcomes into action on the ground. Outcomes inform and assist countries in developing and implementing national and regional strategies on agriculture and climate change, with learnings and best practices contributing to NDC enhancement processes and NAPs with a focus on climate action, adaptation, adaptation co-benefits, and mitigation. Implementation and support to agricultural NAPs and NDCs were considered by some participants as key opportunities or 'low-hanging fruits' to achieve climate action, with greater efforts to mainstream issues of agriculture and climate change into national policies and development plans still deemed to be required.

For participants, the KJWA has not only become a crucial space for coordination between parties, but also an important entry point for coordination between sectors and ministries at the country level (agriculture –environment). This has strengthened the environmental –agriculture policy axis building, growing awareness of the importance of agriculture and livestock sectors and guiding the transfer of knowledge to special units with linkages, contacts, and capacity building.

For some participants, the KJWA has become a real game changer, particularly in sharing relevant scientific and technical knowledge on key topics. Limitations remain in ensuring outcomes are translated into concrete climate actions to bridge the implementation gap between negotiations at the discussion level and the realities of farmers and practitioners on the ground. Finance institutions and international organizations have been called to enhance their activities to promote climate action in agriculture and food security, strengthening the role of Constituted Bodies and Financial Mechanisms in the execution and mainstreaming of the KJWA roadmap. Therefore, it is important to ensure appropriate monitoring and evaluation to measure and learn from adaptation and mitigation actions and results.

Participants also expressed the need for concrete guidance on means of implementation, especially for smallholder farmers facing climate change. Providing a direction for agricultural development and guiding international institutional actions related to climate resilience in the agricultural and food systems becomes a relevant outcome of the KJWA. In doing so, the private sector, finance, and technological service providers outside the Convention have also been seen by some participants as relevant actors to be targeted, sensitized, exposed, and incentivized to play a greater role in climate action in the delivery of means of implementation at the local level.

The KJWA showed the potential to drive the transformation in agricultural and food systems, mainstreaming agriculture into UNFCCC processes and encouraging exchanges on the synergies and trade-offs between adaptation, mitigation, and agricultural productivity. The KJWA roadmap and outcomes provided concrete opportunities to address climate and environmental challenges such as the COVID-19 pandemic.

It pointed towards the importance of complementing country NDCs, NAPs and the enhanced transparency framework (ETF) under the Paris Agreement, while also contributing to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). However, it became clear that more capacity building is required within the agriculture sector actors to ensure full coherence with UNFCCC mechanisms. An integrated approach for food system transformation and climate-resilient agriculture would focus on building this capacity to enable full alignment with NDCs, ETFs, Low-Emission Development Strategies (LT-LEDS), Global Stocktake, NAPs, and nationally appropriate mitigation actions (NAMAs).

SHARM EL-SHEIKH JOINT WORK ROAD TO COP28 AND BEYOND: FUTURE OPPORTUNITIES FOR AGRICULTURE AND FOOD SECURITY

Sharm el-Sheikh COP27 delivered a set of decisions and implementation plans reaffirming the global commitment to enhancing and accelerating the implementation of climate action, as well as boosting the support of finance, technology, and capacity building needed by developing countries.

Parties at COP27 addressed agricultural issues and reported on the progress made under the KJWA. They agreed to adopt a new decision, establishing the four-year Sharm el-Sheikh joint work on implementing climate action on agriculture and food security (Decision 3/CP.27, paragraph 14). This decision includes the creation of the Sharm El-Sheikh online portal for sharing information on projects, initiatives and policies, and increases opportunities for implementation of climate action on agriculture and food security (Decision 3/

CP.27, paragraph 16). The four-year joint work prioritizes food security and ending hunger, recognizing the vulnerabilities of food production systems, especially for small-scale farmers, women, and youth. It builds on the outcomes of the KJWA and previous activities related to agriculture. It emphasizes context-specific solutions that consider national circumstances in an inclusive and participatory manner.

To enhance, facilitate, and support the implementation of climate action to address these issues, the new joint work has the objective to:

- promote a holistic approach;
- enhance coherence, coordination, communication, and interaction;
- promote synergies and strengthen engagement, collaboration, and partnerships;
- provide support and technical advice;
- enhance research and development;
- evaluate progress in implementing and cooperating on climate action; and
- share information and knowledge, while recognizing that solutions are context-specific and need to take into account regional, national, and local circumstances.

WAY FORWARD

The COP27 decision marked a turning point for the KJWA process by establishing the four-year Sharm el-Sheikh joint work on implementation of climate action on agriculture

and food security. Key recommendations were identified and agreed upon in the conclusions of the subsidiary bodies as outcomes of the Koronivia roadmap Decision 3/CP.27, paragraph 2). Additionally, the subsidiary body agreed upon work planned under the new joint work programme, including workshops on key topics and the creation Sharm el-Sheikh online portal.

The Decision 3/CP.27 requests subsidiary bodies to report back to the Conference of the Parties at its thirty-first session in 2026 (COP31) on the progress and outcomes of the joint work. Parties and observers have been invited to submit their views on the elements of the joint work by 27 March 2023, including views on topics for the workshops and the operationalization of the Sharm el-Sheikh online portal under the joint work (paragraphs 14-15), to be considered by the SBSTA and SBI at their 58th session (June 2023). Parties and stakeholders¹⁵ were also asked to strengthen cooperation, collaboration, and partnerships with the joint work. The country delegates emphasized the significant opportunities and challenges presented by the new four-year Sharm el-Sheikh joint work. This includes promoting holistic approaches, collaborations, and synergies, as well as enhancing means of implementation and knowledge transfer through the development and sharing of best practices and technologies. The joint work will focus on implementation and increasing climate action for agriculture and food security. Considering all responses and contributions discussed so far, a number of important elements are highlighted by the authors as key issues to be considered on the way forward:

 It is imperative to look at the whole food system, not only production, as well as socioeconomic and food security dimensions. A whole systems approach is required to look

Table 1. Possible future topics

NEW THEMES	FINANCE	UNFCCC RELATED
 Systemic and integrated approaches Climate risks Fisheries and blue economy Research & development (R&D), innovation and technology transfer Food losses Soil-Land Biodiversity One health approach Genetic resources Bioeconomy Renewable energy and Food security 	 Climate ction Means of implementation FAST Initiative Private sector and multistakeholder engagement Response Measures 	 Transparency Article 6 Article 8 - Loss and Damage Mapping activities and mandates of all the constituted bodies

Source: Respondents, clustered into three groups, and selected out of 67 suggested topics.

¹⁵ United Nations organizations and other relevant institutions, agencies and entities, the research community, the private sector, civil society and farmers organizations, among others and as appropriate.

- at food issues, root causes, and opportunities that contribute to other environmental, social and economic objectives.
- There is a real need to connect field interventions with an enabling environment and policy responses, along with planning and prioritizing strategies and plans for climate action in agriculture.
- Implementation should be inclusive and participatory, including farmers, pastoralists, indigenous peoples, local and vulnerable communities, women and youth, and be informed by scientific, local, and indigenous knowledge.
- Consider the role of farmers as key agents of change, especially smallholder farmers, women, youth, pastoralists, and indigenous people. They have particular vulnerabilities to climate change but also play key roles in solutions.
- Implementation should respond to national needs and circumstances and contribute to achieving country -driven commitments, including NDCs, NAPs, LTS -LEDS, and SDGs.
- The joint work should build and capitalize on existing and recognized initiatives, guidelines, platforms, and recommendations.
- Transforming agrifood systems requires climate action at all levels, both on adaptation and mitigation, while taking into account national circumstances and capacities.
- Food systems transformation needs to be resilient but also on a low emissions pathway and look at opportunities for carbon sequestration and reducing emissions.
- Overall, there is a real need to increase climate finance for agriculture, and support capacity building and technology development and transfer. Existing funds and programmes exist and can be scaled up. Though the shift in focus to implementation is promising, efforts need to rapidly scale. This will require enhanced collaboration between multilateral and United Nations organizations and governments to deliver on more ambitious implementation.
- The development of a clear roadmap or implementation plan could enhance coordination and collaboration, defining how objectives, new topics, and previous recommendations considered under the new joint work could be translated into concrete actions on the ground, addressing issues related to agriculture and food security according to regional, national, and local circumstances.

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The views expressed in this information product are those of the author(s) and received respondents and do not necessarily reflect the views or policies on the part of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), or the World Bank (WB).

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