

FAO Regional Conference for Europe (ERC)
33rd Session

CONCEPT NOTE

Global launch of the Regional Technical Platform on Green Agriculture

Thursday, 12 May 2022, 13.45-15.00 hours

Background

Across Europe and Central Asia, governments and stakeholders are actively discussing agrifood systems transformation, in the midst of climate and pandemic disruptions. In the same spirit of cooperation, nations can leverage some of the frameworks already in place (i.e. UN Food Systems Summit and UN Climate Change Conference of the Parties) to maintain the momentum on the urgency to address current interconnected global challenges, turning promises into policies and concrete actions.

Green agriculture is one of the most promising frameworks to pursue this goal.

Green agriculture means actioning a green agenda into agrifood system policies, to achieve agrifood systems transformation and ensure food security for all. It contributes to all three dimensions of sustainability of the agrifood systems – economic, environmental and social – and contributes to achieving several Sustainable Development Goals. It involves the good management of natural resources, biodiversity and ecosystem services while building sustainable and resilient agro-ecosystems capable of tackling the current and future challenges.

The Europe and Central Asia region offers a comparative advantage in a number of science-based technical areas that are relevant to greening key areas of the agrifood systems, from management of natural resources, biodiversity, green production, processing, distributions and transport as well as consumption and food loss and waste.

The main objective and driving force for the FAO Regional Office for Europe and Central Asia (REU) to establish a Regional Technical Platform (RTP) on Green Agriculture is to facilitate sharing of good practices from regional and country experiences, at both intra- and interregional level, and with other regions as relevant, in partnership with international, national and local development partners.

The Regional Technical Platform on Green Agriculture aims at contributing to more efficient, inclusive, resilient and sustainable agrifood systems, in line with the FAO Strategic Framework 2022-31 and its *four betters* – *better production, better nutrition, a better environment* and *a better life* – leaving no one behind.

The Platform will provide a digital, user-friendly, open, intra-regional and inter-regional gateway responding to three main objectives:

- share successful experiences and facilitate interregional exchange of good practices, where FAO, its development partners and Members in the region have a comparative advantage, on technical areas of work that can be relevant to other regions and inside the region.
- build on existing regional level technical networks and partnerships to further build, connect and strengthen regional and interregional technical networks and partnerships.
- create a knowledge repository with key information about normative work, projects, initiatives and programmes of FAO and partners related to green agriculture.

The Platform will offer updated information related to the technical areas relevant for the Europe and Central Asia region, which could also be beneficial for other regions. The thematic areas are related to

natural resources and primary agrifood production, transport, processing, distribution and finally, consumption, including food loss and food waste prevention, combining experiences of FAO, its partners and countries.

Main objectives of the event:

- showcasing the FAO REU Regional Technical Platform, a digital, open and multi-sectorial platform, and promoting intra- and interregional awareness on themes related to the concept of Green Agriculture;
- fostering the establishment of partnerships among all stakeholders, around Green Agriculture and the underlying technical topics, at the intra- and interregional level;
- allowing information exchange and discussion on the RTP on possible use and needs.

Expected results

- Awareness raised and information shared on the RTP and on Green Agriculture as part of a sustainable agrifood systems approach, including good practices, research and policies to contribute to increased capacities and knowledge, for the regional and global development of Green Agriculture.
- Intra and interregional space for sharing information knowledge and connecting experts' networks on Green Agriculture.

Target audience (both from the Europe and Central Asia region, and other regions)

Government representatives; European Union institutions; UN staff; civil society and farmers organizations, academia, private sector and investors working on food systems-related issues; youth; FAO headquarters and Regional Offices; media; and general public interested in agrifood systems transformation.

Languages

Interpretation will be provided for the side event in English, Russian, French and Spanish.

Agenda of the event

Opening Session

- 13.45 hours *Introductory slides*
- 13.45-13.50 hours *Welcome remarks by the Moderator*
Raimund Jehle
Regional Programme Leader, FAO Regional Office for Europe and Central Asia
- 13.50-13.55 hours *Opening remarks*
QU Dongyu (video contribution)
FAO Director-General
- 13.55-14.00 hours *Animated video on the RTP*
- 14.00-14.10 hours *Setting the scene: Greening the agricultural sector – challenges and opportunities*
Paolo Barberi
Professor Sant’Anna School of Advanced Studies
Pisa, Italy
- 14.10-14.20 hours *The European Green Deal – a comprehensive approach to transition to sustainable agriculture and food systems*
Valeria Forlin
Directorate-General for Climate Action, European Commission

Regional and Global Perspectives on Green Agriculture

- North Macedonia*
Abdylshyqyr Abedini
Deputy Minister of Agriculture, Forestry, and Water Economy
- 14.20-14.40 hours *Romania*
Ramona Duminicioiu
Farmer and Member of the Coordination Committee of Eco Ruralis – Romanian small-scale farmers association

USA

Olga Lyandres

Project manager

Greenhouse Gas Management Institute

Kenya

14.40-14.55 hours

Caroline Mwongera

Senior Scientist & Global Leader Policies and Institutions for Climate Action

CIAT - CGIAR

Costa Rica

Roberto Azofeifa

Chief Agroenvironmental Production Department, Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock

Closing Session

14.55-15.00 hours

Vladimir Rakhmanin

Assistant Director-General, FAO Regional Representative for Europe and Central Asia