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# FAO REGIONAL CONFERENCE FOR AFRICA

## Thirty-third Session

**Rabat, the Kingdom of Morocco, 26-28 March and 18-20 April 2024**

**Members' experience-sharing on the *four betters* and initiatives**

### Executive Summary

Embedded within the [FAO Strategic Framework 2022-2031](#) is a commitment to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) through the transition toward more efficient, inclusive, resilient, and sustainable agrifood systems. At its core, this shift is encapsulated by the concept of the Four Betters: Better Production, Better Nutrition, a Better Environment, and a Better Life, leaving no one behind. FAO's contributions span the spectrum of the SDGs, particularly SDG1 (No Poverty), SDG2 (Zero Hunger), and SDG10 (Reduced Inequalities).

FAO is supporting the efforts of Members to achieve the SDGs through the Four Betters. The primary objective of this session, to be held as a special event during the Ministerial Conference, is to provide a platform for Members to exchange on country-led experiences related to the Four Betters.

This engagement aims to facilitate discussions on opportunities for adoption or scaling-up and sharing of lessons. It is expected to enhance a deeper understanding and appreciation of best practices and lessons learned among Members and provide suggestions to FAO for further collaboration in support of scaling up of working solutions for agrifood systems transformation.

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## I. Background

1. The narrative guiding the [FAO Strategic Framework 2022-2031](#) is the transformation 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.

2. The Four Betters represent an organizing principle for how FAO directly intends to support the achievement of Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 1 (No Poverty), SDG 2 (Zero Hunger), SDG 10 (Reduced Inequalities), and the broader Agenda 2030, and encourage a strategic and systems-oriented approach. For each of the Four Betters, the corresponding Programme Priority Areas (PPAs) are identified, as follows:

- Better Production: ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns, through efficient and inclusive food and agriculture supply chains at local, regional and global levels, ensuring resilient and sustainable agrifood systems in a changing climate and environment. The PPAs related to Better Production are: innovation for sustainable agriculture production; Blue Transformation; One Health; small-scale producers' equitable access to resources; and digital agriculture.
- Better Nutrition: end hunger, achieve food security and improve nutrition in all its forms, including promoting nutritious food and increasing access to healthy diets. The PPAs are: healthy diets for all; nutrition for the most vulnerable; safe food for everyone; reducing food loss and waste; and transparent markets and trade.
- Better Environment: protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial and marine ecosystems, and combat climate change through more efficient, inclusive, resilient and sustainable agrifood systems. The PPAs are: climate change mitigating and adapted agrifood systems; bioeconomy for sustainable food and agriculture; biodiversity and ecosystem services for food and agriculture; and achieving sustainable urban food systems.
- Better Life: promote inclusive economic growth by reducing inequalities (such as between urban and rural areas, rich and poor countries, and men and women). The PPAs are: gender equality and rural women's empowerment; inclusive rural transformation; agriculture and food emergencies; resilient agrifood systems; the Hand-in-Hand Initiative (HiHI); and scaling up investment.

## II. Objectives of experience sharing session on the Four Betters

3. This session is to be held as a special event during the Ministerial segment on Saturday 20 April. It is aimed at encouraging a deeper understanding of and commitment to agrifood systems transformation through the Four Betters.

4. The special event will facilitate experience sharing among Members on the Four Betters and provide a platform to highlight how best practices in agrifood systems transformation can achieve SDG 1 (No Poverty), SDG 2 (Zero Hunger) and SDG 10 (Reduced Inequalities) while supporting achievement of the broader 2030 Agenda.

5. The session will also enable Members to provide suggestions and guidance to FAO on technical, financial and other support requirements for country-led actions to implement the FAO Strategic Framework 2022-31.

### **III. Expected outcomes**

The expected outcomes are:

- Members' deeper cognition of the FAO Strategic Framework 2022-31 and the Four Betters;
- Members' recommitment to the transformation to more efficient, inclusive, resilient and sustainable agrifood systems;
- progress, challenges and lessons shared in the implementation of agrifood systems transformation under the Four Better; and
- opportunities identified to adopt or scale up Four Betters solutions from other Members;
- suggestions and guidance provided to FAO on technical, financial and other support requirements for country-led actions to implement the FAO Strategic Framework 2022-31.

### **IV. Participants**

6. Participants for this session will be at least one Minister of Agriculture or other ministerial representative from each of the four sub-regions (Central, East, Southern and West Africa) presenting a pre-prepared case study on implementation of the Four Betters approach at country level, through the lens of a project or programme.

7. Other Members are encouraged to participate through questions and ad hoc experience sharing during the event.

**V. Agenda**

<b>Activity</b>	<b>Who</b>	<b>Time</b>
Scene setting video about the Four Betters	-	5 minutes
Welcome remarks	RAF ADG	5 minutes
Opening remarks	Guest speaker (tbc)	5 minutes
Facilitator's panel introductions	Facilitator – FAO DDG (tbc)	5 minutes
Ministerial discussion on Four Betters, including short project videos	Ministers and Facilitator	45 minutes
Q&A including inputs from other Ministers in attendance	Ministers, Facilitator, other participants	45 minutes
Summary remarks	Facilitator	5 minutes