

26th Session of the Committee on Forestry**Item 9.5 Development of regional action plans for the FAO Science and Innovation Strategy (2022-2025)**

The FAO Science and Innovation Strategy (the Strategy) was adopted by the FAO Council at its 170th Session following an inclusive and transparent consultative process. The Strategy is a tool to accelerate implementation of the FAO Strategic Framework 2022-31, and hence to contribute to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Regional action plans for the implementation of the Strategy are being developed based on a high-level framework which has been developed to guide the development of the action plans, responding to the call by the Regional Conferences to consider local, national and regional circumstances and differences. A strong regional approach will ensure that implementation responds to countries' diverse challenges, needs and capacities with respect to science and innovation. The proposed duration of the regional action plans is four years (2022-2025).

The high-level framework referred to above presents the Strategy's nine outcomes and two enablers and proposes a number of outputs based on the Strategy document. It also links the Strategy's outcomes and enablers to relevant Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) targets, which have been selected to reflect the agrifood systems approach included in the scope of the Strategy, and the Strategy's guiding principles. Relevant Programme Priority Areas (PPAs) have also been indicated, while noting that innovation and technology are accelerators for the FAO Strategic Framework 2022-31 and are therefore mainstreamed in each of the 20 PPAs.

The Strategy seeks to be consistent with, and to mutually reinforce, key FAO strategic documents. Therefore, the regional action plans will seek, in addition to implementing the FAO Science and Innovation Strategy, to contribute to the implementation of the Strategy on Climate Change 2022-2031, the FAO Strategy on Mainstreaming Biodiversity across the Agricultural Sectors, and to align with the FAO Strategy for Private Sector Engagement.

Monitoring will be fully aligned with the causal results chains and SDG targets established in the FAO Strategic Framework 2022-31, reflecting all three dimensions of sustainability. As stated in the Strategy document, the FAO Council will discuss a mid-term review five years after its adoption, and the Strategy may be periodically updated, at Members' request, to reflect important developments.

The Committee is invited to:

- acknowledge the approach to develop regional action plans for implementation of the FAO Science and Innovation Strategy, and provide guidance as deemed appropriate.

Ismahane Elouafi, Chief Scientist, FAO