



Launch of the GAEZ Data Portal

during COAG 23rd Session

Rome, FAO, 25 May 2012

Side Event: 11:00-12:30 (Iran Room)

BACKGROUND

Agro-Ecological Zoning (AEZ) methodology is based on the FAO Framework for Land Evaluation, published in 1978. FAO in partnership with the International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis (IIASA) has since then continuously developed the Global Agro-Ecological Zones (GAEZ) methodology and database for assessing agricultural and natural resources and potentials, becoming a standardized framework for characterizing climate, soil and terrain conditions relevant to agricultural production.

GAEZ data portal provides thousands of standardized spatial and tabular information and data compiled from recent global environmental datasets that characterizes the requirements for the assessments of land productivity for location-specific agro-ecological conditions to member states, international organizations, NGOs, research community and academia. GAEZ enables the harmonization and integration of a variety of databases, model scenarios and assessments both in time and space becoming a fundamental tool for land use planning and management and sustainable development addressing food security. It also prepares reliable FAO's perspective analysis and offers policy options within the context of international conventions and agreements on various areas of interest e.g. natural resources monitoring and management, climate change, biodiversity and land degradation.

AGENDA

	Opening of the Session by the Chair-Permanent Representation of China – Xia, Jingyuan
11:00	Keynote speaker speech by Mueller, Alexander, Assistant Director-General, NR
11:20	Introduction of GAEZ portal by Fischer, Guenther, Senior Researcher, Land, Water and Agriculture, IIASA
11:40	Comments of NRL Director - call for enhanced partnership – Koochak, Parviz
11:50	Comments of CIO Director, Albu, Florentin
12.00	Panel Members to present their views/ reactions
12.30	Closure of the session
12:30	Buffet Lunch
13.00	



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