

## Regional workshop for Europe and Central Asia

DRAFT

### Role of sustainable food and agriculture in implementation of the 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development and the Paris Agreement on climate change

#### Background

In September 2015, countries adopted the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The successful achievement of the associated Sustainable Development Goals will largely depend on the ability of countries to address sustainable development in a new, and more integrated way across sectors and across goals. In the same year Parties to the UNFCCC reached a historic agreement to combat climate change and to accelerate and intensify the actions and investments needed for a sustainable low carbon future through “nationally determined contributions” (NDCs). These agreements present a powerful vision of future development that will shape national and international development programmes and investments in a transformational way for the decades.

After the land reforms conducted in the 1990s, the region is mainly after the land reforms conducted in the 1990s to a large degree a region of smallholders and family farms with many small family farms and few large corporate farms. The REU region is undergoing rapid societal changes that affect and modify substantially the role that agriculture, forestry and fisheries will play in the national economies in the forthcoming decades. Demography (urbanisation, rural-urban migrations), changes in farm structures, dietary habits (micronutrient deficiencies and obesity), technological and managerial innovations and related effects on labour and employment, and climate change are among the drivers that will most affect these sectors and represent both risks and opportunities. Pressure on, and competition for, resources translate in conflicts, land and water degradation, loss of biodiversity and encroachment on natural ecosystems.

Increasingly, decisions in one sector affect the performances of others, and specific goals and targets cannot anymore be considered in isolation from each other. These drivers and interactions must be understood in order to ensure successful implementation of sectoral policies and to enhance contributions to sustainable development overall. FAO has developed the *common vision for sustainable food and agriculture (SFA)*, an approach aimed to enhance coherence across agriculture, forestry and fisheries policies and practices, and to address sustainability issues within and across these sectors, including climate change. Based on a set of principles, SFA helps operationalizing sustainability by promoting policy dialogue and the development and implementation of joint and coordinated actions involving governmental bodies of different Ministries, the private sector and civil society.

#### Objective

The main objective of the workshop is to discuss how to strengthen the contribution of agriculture, forestry and fisheries and related value chains to national sustainable development in the context of implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Paris Agreement. The workshop aims to increase understanding of principles of sustainable food and agriculture to support joint and coherent action across sectors, and to identify priorities for FAO's support at national and regional levels.

#### Expected outcomes

- Increased understanding by participants of implications and opportunities of the 2030 Agenda and the Paris Agreement for the agriculture, forestry, fisheries and related sectors.
- Better understanding of the use of sustainable food and agriculture principles in developing more strategic, effective and cross-sectorally consistent and coordinated programmes, actions and investments on sustainable agriculture and food systems.
- Better understanding of possible FAO support, through Country Programming Frameworks and FAO's Regional Initiatives

#### **Expected output**

- Country specific considerations on the way forward for implementing the 2030 Agenda related to sustainable agriculture and food systems in a context of a changing climate change, including on mobilizing resources;
- Identified areas for country specific support from FAO and possible specific actions through FAO's Regional Initiatives.

#### **Participants**

Around 40-50 participants. Around 3 participants from REU 11 focus countries (high-level governmental officials representing different sectors (agriculture, forestry, fisheries and environment; country-specific, depending on 2030 Agenda and Paris Agreement implementation responsibilities – can/should include rural development, finance/investment), FAORs and Assistant FAOR's of REU region, SP delivery teams (REU and SEC technical officers, FAO HQ); producer organizations, key NGOs, , development partners And regional financing institutions.

#### **Location and dates**

Budapest, Hungary 14-16 December 2016.