



## **IDENTIFICATION OF THE TECHNICAL THEME OF THE FORTY-THIRD SESSION OF THE ECA**

*(prepared by the ECA Secretariat)*

As decided by the Executive Committee (ExCom), the Secretariat of ECA opened the call for the proposals for the main technical theme of the Forty-third Session of the ECA on 15 May 2022. The deadline for submissions was set at 15 July 2022.

By the deadline, ECA Secretariat received eleven proposals from the Members. The initial proposals are presented in Annex 1.

Annex 2 presents main themes covered at previous sessions of the ERC and ECA, for ExCom's reference.

Next steps proposed by the Secretariat to identify the technical theme of the 43<sup>rd</sup> Session of the ECA:

- REU technical officers will review the proposals, considering among others their alignment with the regional priorities approved by the ERC<sup>1</sup>
- the Secretariat will submit three selected proposals to the ExCom meeting in November 2022 for review, discussion and selection of the recommended theme for the Session

The ExCom is invited to:

- take note of the initial proposals for the technical theme of the Forty-third Session of the ECA submitted by Members, as well as the next steps proposed by the Secretariat

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<sup>1</sup> Priorities for FAO in the Europe and Central Asia region under the FAO Strategic Framework 2022-31:  
<https://www.fao.org/3/ni190en/ni190en.pdf>

**Annex 1.** Proposals for the technical theme of the Forty-third Session of the ECA, submitted by Members of the ECA

- 1. Smart agriculture for sustainable food systems and inclusive rural development**
- 2. Reducing food loss and waste by promoting climate-smart agriculture and socially responsible practices in Europe and Central Asia**
  - SUB-TOPIC 1: Impact of climate change on sustainable agriculture in Europe and Central Asia
  - SUB-TOPIC 2: E-agriculture: Using information and communication technologies to develop sustainable and inclusive food systems and trade integration
- 3. Development and effective institutionalization of entrepreneurship along the value chain in the field of agribusiness**
- 4. Addressing the challenge of increasing water shortages and scarcity in agriculture to transform agrifood systems in Europe and Central Asia**
- 5. Sharing experience on the opportunities and best practices for promoting young farmers**
- 6. Sharing best practices on market diversification policies for exports and imports of agro-food products**
- 7. Sharing best practices on policies to support economic diversification in rural areas**
- 8. Innovation transfer - from research to table**
  - SUB-TOPIC 1: Genetic improvement - plant breeding of indigenous species
  - SUB-TOPIC 2: Post-Harvest Treatment of Agricultural Products
- 9. The role of millets in the development of sustainable food systems**
- 10. Sustainable value chains for increasing food security and nutrition**
- 11. Sustainable and resilient food systems policies for agricultural development and food security in the European region**
  - SUB-TOPIC 1: Uptake of resources and digital solutions in the framework of the UN Decade for Family Farming and the CFS Voluntary Guidelines on Youth
  - SUB-TOPIC 2: Innovation and technologies for the sustainable use of water, fertilisers, pesticides
  - SUB-TOPIC 3: The role of precision agriculture and other innovative approaches for sustainable transformation of food systems

**Annex 2. Main themes covered at previous sessions of the ERC and ECA****Main topics covered at previous sessions of the European Commission on Agriculture**

42nd ECA – Budapest, Hungary, 19-21 January 2022 ([ECA/42/21/REPORT](#))

1. Transforming food systems in Europe and Central Asia for improved nutritional outcomes
2. Better production to increase access to diverse, nutritious foods
3. Territorial approaches and community development to drive local change and prevent all forms of malnutrition

41st ECA – Budapest, Hungary, 1-2 October 2019 ([ECA/41/19/REPORT](#)):

1. Plant health in Europe and Central Asia - relevance, trends and developments
2. Plant pests and diseases in the context of climate change and climate variability, food security and biodiversity risks
3. Impact of global trade and human mobility on the health of agricultural crops and forests in Europe and Central Asia

40th ECA – Budapest, Hungary, 27-28 September 2017 ([ECA/40/17/REPORT](#)):

1. The effect of climate change on animal diseases, trade and food security in the REU region
2. Antimicrobial resistance (AMR): the loss of a major defence to the emerging challenge?
3. Disease occurrence tracking, strategic response to TADs and informed decision making

39th ECA – Budapest, Hungary, 22-23 September 2015 ([ECA/39/15/REPORT](#)):

1. Innovation in family farming in Europe and Central Asia
2. Combating land degradation for food security and provision of soil ecosystem services in Europe and Central Asia – International Year of Soil 2015
3. Gender-sensitive analysis of social protection programs for rural residents
4. Addressing social and economic burden of malnutrition through nutrition-sensitive agricultural and food policies in the region of Europe and Central Asia

**Regional and global policy and regulatory topics covered at current and previous  
Regional Conferences for Europe**

33rd ERC – Łódź, Poland, 10-13 May 2022 ([ERC/22/REP](#))

1. The road to transformative agrifood systems in Europe and Central Asia – Regional actions to implement the FAO Strategic Framework 2022-31
2. Sustainable food value chains for nutrition, a practical approach for transforming agrifood systems for healthy diets in Europe and Central Asia

32nd ERC – Tashkent, Uzbekistan, 2-4 November 2020 ([ERC/20/REP](#)):

1. Sustainable food systems and healthy diets in Europe and Central Asia
2. Solutions for Youth, Employment and Developing Rural Areas in relation to the United Nations Decade of Family Farming

31st ERC - Voronezh, Russian Federation, 16–18 May 2018 ([ERC/18/REP](#)):

3. Sustainable Agriculture and Food Systems in Europe and Central Asia in a Changing Climate
4. E-agriculture: the Use of Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) for the Development of Sustainable and Inclusive Food Systems and Trade Integration

30th ERC - Antalya, Turkey, 4–6 May 2016 ([ERC/16/REP](#)):

1. The Sustainable Development Goals and their implications for agriculture and rural development in Europe and Central Asia region
2. Pulses for improving balanced nutrition and healthy food systems in Europe and Central Asia - International Year of Pulses 2016

29th ERC - Bucharest, Romania, 1–4 April 2014 ([ERC/14/REP](#)):

1. Food Losses and Waste in Europe and Central Asia
2. International Year of Family Farming (IYFF) in Europe and Central Asia

28th ERC - Baku, Azerbaijan, 16–20 April 2012 ([ERC/12/REP](#)):

1. Policies for Food Security in the Region: Challenges and Perspectives – Food outlook towards 2050

27th ERC - Yerevan, Armenia, 13–14 May 2010 ([ERC/10/REP](#)):

1. Policy response to challenges in agriculture and rural development in the Europe and Central Asia Region: sharing experience and enhancing cooperation in the Region

26th ERC - Innsbruck, Austria, 26–27 June 2008 ([ERC/08/REP](#)):

1. FAO and adaptation to climate change in the European region
2. Promotion of traditional regional agricultural and food products: A further step towards sustainable rural development

25th ERC - Riga, Latvia, 8–9 June 2006 ([ERC/06/REP](#)):

1. Contribution of rural development in meeting the World Food Summit (WFS)/Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) in the Region
2. The view of the European Region on the role of FAO as provider of global public goods
3. Strengthening Regional Cooperation and assisting countries in controlling Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) in Europe, including CIS countries

24th ERC - Montpellier, France, 5–7 May 2004 ([ERC/04/REP](#)):

1. Food Safety and Quality in Europe: Aspects concerning in particular quality, nutritional balance, the importance of agricultural land and cultural heritage (“terroirs”)
2. Agricultural Research: its role and contribution to sustainable rural development
3. Major European Programmes, Initiatives and Fora on Agricultural Research
4. Review of the State of Food and Agriculture in the Region: Focus on Rural Poverty