



Food and Agriculture Organization  
of the United Nations

## **Regional workshop for Europe and Central Asia**

### **Sustainable food and agriculture for implementation of the 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development and the Paris Agreement on climate change**

**19-20 June 2017**

**Minsk, Republic of Belarus, National Academy of Sciences of Belarus.**

#### **DRAFT CONCEPT NOTE**

##### **Background**

Member States of the UN adopted the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Around that period, in December 2015, countries also adopted the historic Paris Agreement for global action on climate change. All three 2030 agendas namely the SDGs the Paris Agreement and the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction (SFDRR) present new opportunities and challenges for governments, the private sector, civil society, academia, and other partners and stakeholders. Countries have started preparation for the implementation of their commitments.

Sustainable food and agriculture are critically important for the achievement of the tackling the root causes of poverty and hunger, building an inclusive society that leaves no one behind especially the rural communities, and managing natural resources sustainably. Increasingly, decisions in one sector affect the performances of others, and specific goals and targets cannot anymore be considered in isolation from each other. Drivers and interactions must be understood to ensure successful implementation of sectoral policies and to enhance contributions to sustainable development overall.

FAO member states endorsed a set of principles for sustainable food and agriculture (SFA) as a basis to identify sustainable development pathways across sectors and along related value chains in the context of the SDGs, including climate change and increasing disaster risk. SFA aims to enhance coherence across sectoral policies and actions as well as across sustainability dimensions (social, economic, environmental). It promotes policy dialogue and the development and implementation of joint and coordinated actions involving governmental bodies of different ministries, the private sector and civil society. Strong partnerships are needed for successful implementation, particularly with civil society and the private sector.

FAO aims to further raise awareness among stakeholders and enhance cross-sectoral partnerships involving multiple ministries and non-state actors and inter-ministerial collaboration on SDGs. Therefore, FAO is organizing in Minsk, Republic of Belarus on 19-20 June 2017 an additional regional workshop for REU region with broader participation of the countries from REU region.

## **Objective**

The overall objective of the workshop is raising awareness on the key role and contribution of sustainable food and agriculture to 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development and Paris Agreement and mobilizing action of Member countries. The workshop aims to identify ways and actions to promote broad ownership through cross-sectoral dialogue, more coordinated planning, partnerships with private sector and civil society, mobilization of funding and investments, and action to strengthen the evidence base for decision making and reporting.

## **Expected outputs**

- An increased understanding on the ways forward for implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development related to sustainable agriculture and food systems in a context of a changing climate;
- An increased understanding of the needs and ways for better cross-sector and inter-ministerial cooperation on strategies and programmes for sustainable agricultural and food systems
- Capacity building for better mobilizing additional funding as well as involving private sector and civil society in dialogue, planning and implementation of actions on the ground
- Experiences and lessons on monitoring and reporting on SDGs
- Better understanding of possible support in SDG, Paris Agreement and SFDRR implementation on sustainable food and agriculture through FAO and its Regional Initiatives;

## **Expected outcomes**

- Raised awareness among participants, on the key role and contribution of sustainable food and agriculture to 2030 Agenda and Paris Agreement and increased understanding of implications and opportunities of the 2030 SDG Agenda the Paris Agreement and the SFDRR for the agriculture, forestry, fisheries and related food value chains and rural economies.
- Enhanced understanding of the use of sustainable food and agriculture principles in strengthening national and sub-national level communication and dialogue as well as developing more strategic, effective and cross-sectorally consistent and coordinated programmes, actions and investments on sustainable agriculture and food systems.
- Identified ways for mobilizing additional funding and strong partnership with private sector and civil society in dialogue, planning and implementation of actions on the ground, and better understanding of possible FAO support

## **Participants**

Around 100 high-level governmental officials from 18 REU countries representing different sectors (around five participants per country: agriculture, forestry, fisheries and environment, social protection, labour, rural development, finance/investment, office of Prime Minister, National Statistics offices), depending on 2030 Agenda and Paris Agreement implementation responsibilities, FAORs and Assistant FAOR's of REU region, SP delivery teams (REU and SEC technical officers, FAO HQ); producer and farmers organizations, key NGOs, development partners and regional financing institutions.

## **Location and dates**

Minsk, Republic of Belarus, 19-20 June 2017. National Academy of Sciences of Belarus.