



Food and Agriculture Organization  
of the United Nations

**FAO Regional Office for Europe and Central Asia**  
**Agricultural research in the post-COVID-19 era:**  
**Can more be produced with less?**  
**22 July 2020**

**What:** Virtual meeting (Zoom Webinar live streamed to YouTube)

**When:** 22 July 2020, 10.00-11.30 (Budapest time)

**Language:** English-Russian-Turkish (simultaneous translation to be provided)

**Background**

COVID-19 has generated health and economic crisis across the globe and has affected poverty rates and food security. According to SOFI 2020, this pandemic will cause global poverty to increase by 548 million, along with the number of food-insecure people, estimated to increase by 83-132 million.

This new threat may add another level of pressure to the ongoing likelihood of drought, floods and the spread of transboundary pests and diseases.

Europe and Central Asia are being adversely affected by COVID-19. Impacts of particular concern to the region include increased prices of agricultural inputs for producers, increased food losses and waste, disturbed supply chains to and from farms, limited access to funding and reduced purchasing power of consumers, which can put food security and nutrition at risk, particularly for the most vulnerable groups in the region.

In this context, agricultural research plays an indispensable role in generating and promoting new and innovative technologies to produce more food with fewer resources and reduce losses.

To identify best innovative practices to respond to the pandemic, FAO Regional Office for Europe and Central Asia is organizing a series of webinars to facilitate a multi-stakeholder dialogue, knowledge sharing and exchange of experience among relevant actors in the countries of Europe and Central Asia.

### **The Objective of the webinar**

Through this webinar, FAO is providing a platform for sharing information and experience between governments and research institutions on the future role of agricultural research, and on how innovation in agricultural production and sustainable production practices can support food security in the region with emphasis on the most vulnerable groups.

The webinar seeks to highlight opportunities for international collaboration and investment in science and innovation for food production and the future role of agricultural research and agronomic innovation related to emergency response, recovery and resilience.

The key speakers will tell us how agricultural scientists have been working to make the food systems and food production more resilient. A panel of invited guests will analyze the main challenges and opportunities in Europe and Central Asia to strengthen agricultural research and innovation at the country and regional level, as a strategy to cope with the effects of the pandemic and to prevent a food emergency.

### **Speakers**

- Mr Leonard Mizzi, Head of Unit, Rural Development, Food Security, Nutrition, Directorate-General for International Cooperation and Development, European Commission;
- Dr Ismahane Elouafi, Director General, International Center for Biosaline Agriculture, UAE;
- Dr Sergei Aleksandrovich Maslovskiy, Deputy Dean for Science and Practice of the Technological Department, Russian State Agrarian University - Moscow Timiryazev Agricultural Academy, Russian Federation;
- Dr Nina Ivanovna Dunchenko, Head of Department of Quality Management and Product Merchandising, Russian State Agrarian University - Moscow Timiryazev Agricultural Academy, Russian Federation;
- Dr. Vinnie Altstein, Neurochemist, Director of Academic Affairs, Volcani Center, Agricultural Research Organization, Israel.

### **Panellists**

- Mr. Abdybek Asanaliev, Scientist Secretary of the Kyrgyz National Agrarian University, Kyrgyzstan;
- Mr. Gökhan Kızılcı, Head of the Department of Horticultural Research; General Directorate of Agricultural Research and Policy; Turkey;
- Ms. Aniko Juhasz, Deputy State secretary, MoA Hungary, Co-chair of the Standing Committee of Agricultural Research (SCAR) - AKIS group ;
- Ms Zoya Halevoryan, Deputy Head of Agriculture Advisory, Innovations and Monitoring Department, Armenia.

Moderator: Piotr Włodarczyk, Agricultural Officer, FAO REU



Food and Agriculture Organization  
of the United Nations

### Target audience

National stakeholders, including public and private sector, CSOs and academia in the Europe and Central Asia region.

### AGENDA

Time	Title	Speaker
10:00-10:05	Opening remarks	Mr. Raimund Jehle Regional Programme Leader, FAO
10:05-10:45	Agricultural research as a strategy to respond to COVID -19 impacts on food security and nutrition. Can we produce more food with less resources?  <i>8 min for each presentation</i>	Mr Leonard Mizzi Dr. Ismahane Elouafi Dr. Nina Ivanovna Dunchenko Dr. Aleksandrovich Maslovskiy Dr. Vinnie Altstein
10:45–11.15	Panel discussion: Challenges and opportunities in addressing COVID-19-related impacts through agricultural research and agronomic innovation  <i>2 questions for each panelist, 3-4 min to provide answers</i>	Moderator: Piotr Włodarczyk, Agricultural Officer, FAO REU
11:15 -11:25	Q&A	Moderator: Evetta Zenina, Natural Resources officer, FAO SEC
11:25-11:30	Wrap up and closing remarks	Selvaraju Ramasamy, (AGDR) Head, Research and Extension Unit, FAO

Contact: Tania Santivanez, Agricultural Officer, Delivery Manager of Regional Initiative NRM/CC  
Erzsebet Illes, Planning Coordination and Programing officer  
Regional Office for Europa and Central Asia, FAO