



REGIONAL CONSULTATION ON SCIENCE AND INNOVATION STRATEGY IN ECA REGION

25 NOVEMBER 2021



FAO acknowledges an essential role of science, technology, and innovation in the acceleration of agri-food systems transformation and combat hunger and malnutrition.

Science and innovation are essential part of finding solutions to complex problems, such as addressing agricultural productivity and sustainability concerns while increasing farmers' income and nutrition. However, they can also entail risks and unintended consequences.

To rise to the challenge of harnessing the benefits of science and innovation, the FAO is developing a Strategy to provide guidance, coherence, and alignment for impact at the country level through better use of science and innovation. The Strategy will be a key tool for the implementation of the new Strategic Framework and will strengthen the use of science and innovation in FAO's technical interventions and normative guidance.

Countries of Europe and Central Asia have different levels of Science and Innovation development and implementation for facing challenges and gaps, while giving also a great opportunity to better use of science and innovation for transforming agri-food systems.

FAO Regional Office for Europe and Central Asia is organizing the Regional consultation on Science and Innovation to identify the main challenges and opportunities in the ECA region, to ensure that the Global FAO Strategy responds to the challenges and needs, and involve the countries throughout the strategy preparation process. The regional consultation will facilitate a multi-stakeholder dialogue, knowledge sharing, and exchange of experience among relevant actors in the countries of Europe and Central Asia.

OBJECTIVES OF THE REGIONAL CONSULTATION

Through this regional consultation, FAO is providing a platform for discussing and sharing experiences between governments, research institutions, smallholder producers' associations, NGOs and the private sector on the needs, gaps, and opportunities of Science and Innovation in the ECA region, with a focus on strengthening FAO's contribution. Furthermore, the consultation aims at contributing to the development of the FAO

Science and Innovation Strategy as a key tool to accelerate the food system transformation in ECA countries.

The consultation seeks to highlight opportunities for better understanding of the innovation and identifying the FAO's role on science policy and research and use the science and innovation in its technical interventions and normative guidance.



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TARGET AUDIENCE

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

EXPECTED OUTPUT

As the output of the event, a set of thematic priorities will be developed for the FAO strategy on Science and Innovation, highlighting the common points and differences from the discussion, moreover identifying core partnerships.

METHODOLOGY

The event will be opened by four high-level presentations to set up the baseline and the objectives of the meeting. The second part of the event will consist of an interactive discussion with key speakers divided into three online focus groups separate by participants coming from the governments of REU countries, academia/research, and private sector, NGO/farmers association. Every focus group will start with a panel discussion among experts, and will follow through an open discussion around the pre-defined questions on science and innovation:

1. To identify science and innovation needs and gaps at regional and country levels
2. To discuss innovation priorities and to broaden the common understanding of innovation
3. To provide inputs for the development of the thematic priorities of the Strategy from the perspective of DOs
4. To identify how to strengthen FAO's role on science policy and research at national and regional levels
5. To identify priorities for partnerships

FOCUS GROUP 1

GOVERNMENT REPRESENTATIVES OF REU COUNTRIES AND FAO COUNTRY OFFICE

What are the innovations (digital, technological, social, etc) that have been prioritized at the regional/country level?

What gaps are countries in the region facing in terms of science and innovation for sustainable agri-food systems?

Do you consider that FAO's support and guidance is science and evidence-based? Do FAO's interventions and guidance build on all relevant scientific disciplines related to the agri-food system? If, not which are not covered?



FOCUS GROUP 2

ACADEMIA/RESEARCH INSTITUTIONS

What is FAO's role at the regional and national levels regarding research and science policy?

How can FAO strengthen its collaboration with research bodies at regional and national levels?

How could FAO's role regarding science policy and research be strengthened to achieve FAO's 4 betters?

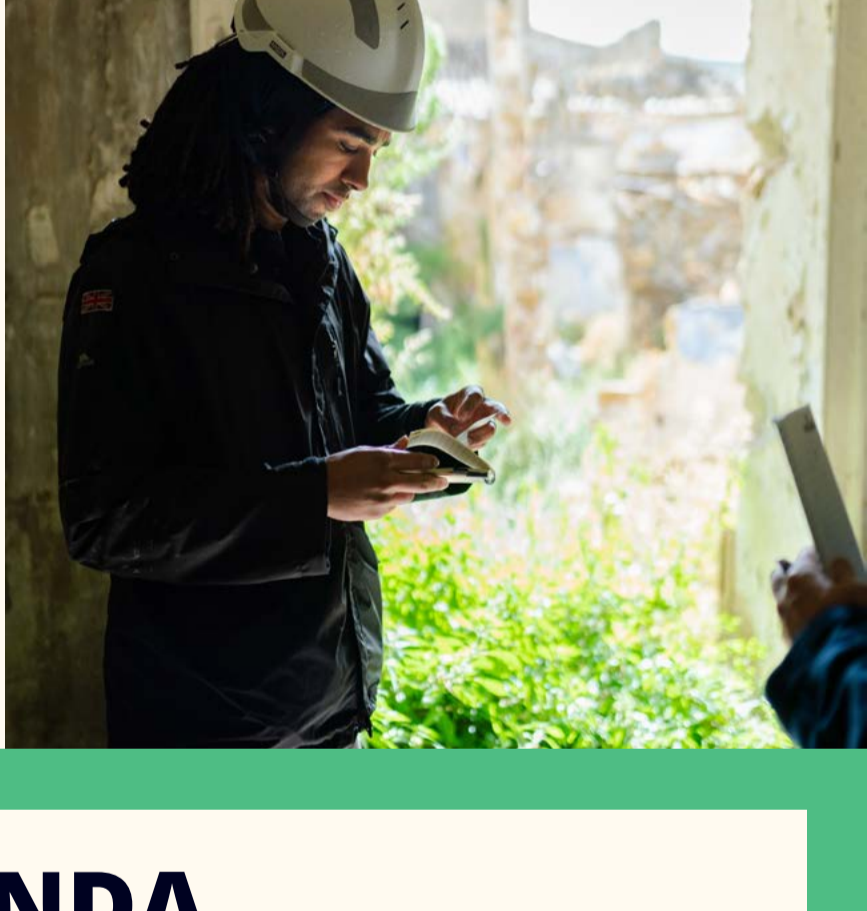
FOCUS GROUP 3

NGOS, PRIVATE SECTOR, FARMER ASSOCIATIONS

What innovations have you found helpful and would like to see strengthened with FAO's support?

What core partnerships are needed in science and innovation to accelerate the food system transformation in ECA countries

Which partnerships are already in place, and which need to be strengthened?



AGENDA

25 NOVEMBER 2021

Moderator: Sophie Treinen, Knowledge/Information Management Officer, FAO

9:00 – 9:05

OPENING REMARKS

Vladimir Olegovich Rakhmanin, Assistant Director-General/FAO Regional Representative for Europe and Central Asia

9:05 – 9:25

FAO SCIENCE AND INNOVATION STRATEGY

Ismahane Elouafi, Chief Scientist FAO

9:25 – 9:35

OUTLINE OF NEEDS AND GAPS ON SCIENCE AND INNOVATION IN THE ECA REGION

Raimund Jehle, Regional Programme Leader, FAO

9:35 – 9:45

THE FOOD SYSTEMS APPROACH AND HORIZON EUROPE AS A TOOL FOR RESEARCH AND INNOVATION

Hans-Joerg Lutzeyer, Senior Research Policy Officer, EC
Magdalena Gajdzinska, Policy Officer - Research/Plant production, food safety and microbiome, EU

9:45 – 10:30 : ONLINE FOCUS GROUPS

FOCUS GROUP 1

Moderator: Tania Santivanez, Delivery manager Regional Initiative 3

Melek Cakmak, FAO Representative in Azerbaijan
Abdushukur Khamzaev, Director of the Forest Research Institute
Nevzat Birisik, Director General of Agricultural Research and Policies of the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry of Turkey

FOCUS GROUP 2

Moderator: Marta Arnes, Consultant on GIAHS and NbS, FAO

José M. Díaz-Puente, Universidad Politécnica De Madrid
Tinatin Doolotkeldieva, Plant Protection Department Kyrgyz-Turkish Manas University

FOCUS GROUP 3

Moderator: Zsuzsanna Keresztes, Specialist on IPM and climate resilient agricultural practices, FAO

Aida Jamangulova, ADI, Kyrgyzstan
Representative of Phos Agro TBC

PLENARY

10:30 – 10:45

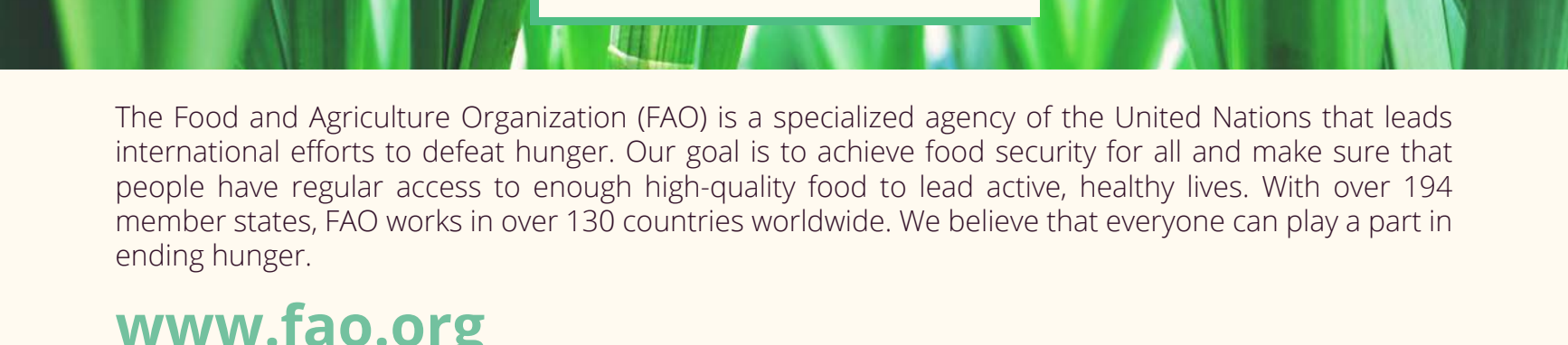
FOCUS GROUPS REPORT BY SELECTED RAPORTEURS

Sophie Treinen, Knowledge/Information Management Officer, FAO

10:45 – 11:00

CLOSING REMARKS

Raimund Jehle, Regional Programme Leader, FAO
Ismahane Elouafi, Chief Scientist FAO



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The Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) is a specialized agency of the United Nations that leads international efforts to defeat hunger. Our goal is to achieve food security for all and make sure that people have regular access to enough high-quality food to lead active, healthy lives. With over 194 member states, FAO works in over 130 countries worldwide. We believe that everyone can play a part in ending hunger.

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