



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations

SUSTAINABLE
DEVELOPMENT
GOALS

BIOS



TRANSFORMING AGRIFOOD SYSTEMS TO ACHIEVE THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

HAND-IN-HAND WITH THE PRIVATE SECTOR

DIALOGUE

Monday, 12 July 2021 | 11:00-13:30 (Cairo/Rome time)

INTRODUCTION



AbdulHakim Elwaer

Assistant-Director General & Regional
Representative of the Regional Office for the Near East and North Africa - FAO

Elwaer has a passion for international development, South-South and Triangular cooperation, Economic Empowerment, Poverty alleviation, Resilience & Fragility, Regional Integration, partnerships & resource mobilization, and strategic planning.

Prior to joining the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), Elwaer served as Adviser to the President on Global Advocacy and Partnerships at the Islamic Development Bank (IsDB) in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, where he also served as the IsDB Spokesperson and Director of Cooperation, Partnerships, Regional Integration and Resource Mobilization from 2014 to 2017. He was further appointed IsDB's Sherpa at G20 and Heads of Multilateral Development Banks (MDBs).

INTRODUCTION



Khaled Hanafy

Secretary General at Union of Arab Chambers

Khaled Hanafy is the Secretary General, Union of Arab Chambers and Professor of Economics and International Business. He held several governmental, academic, business and consultancy positions, most recently Minister of Supply and Internal Trade - Egypt (from March 2014 to August 2016), Chairman of Internal Trade Development Authority and Dean of College of International Transport & Logistics, Arab Academy for Science, Technology & Maritime Transport. He Awarded the Best Minister for two consecutive years (2014 and 2015) according to top surveys. He developed a New Food Subsidy System serving more than 70 million Egyptians resulted in: achieving financial inclusion, providing database for all transactions, enabling free choice for the beneficiary, eliminating bread queues, restructuring and improving the efficiency and the productivity of the internal trade and achieving satisfaction of the Egyptians and social justice.

PANEL DISCUSSION #1

HOW CAN PUBLIC-PRIVATE ENGAGEMENTS PROVIDE LARGE-SCALE SOLUTIONS FOR ADDRESSING REGIONAL PRIORITIES AND ACHIEVING THE SDGs IN THE NEAR EAST AND NORTH AFRICA REGION
(45 MINUTES)

MODERATOR



Beth Bechdol

Deputy Director-General

Beth Bechdol is Deputy Director-General at the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO). In this role, she continues her service to food and agriculture – now on a global scale. Ms Bechdol is responsible for FAO's Partnership and Outreach work, including Partnerships and UN Collaboration, Resource Mobilization and Private Sector Partnerships, South-South and Triangular Cooperation. She also leads programmes in the area of Plant Production and Protection and oversees FAO's main technical advisory committee on agriculture, the Committee on Agriculture (COAG) as well as the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC) Secretariat.

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PANELISTS



Naif AbdulMohsen Saleh Al-Rajhi

Vice-Chairman & CEO – AlRajhi International Holding Group for Investment

The Naif Al Rajhi Investment Company pursues its investments based on knowledge, planning and global expertise in various effective and influential sectors, including digital agriculture and date palm development. In addition, the company invests in many fields such as private equity, facilities management, agribusiness startups, environmental management, marketing and communication, e-commerce, hospitality, food and beverages and youth entrepreneurship.

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Ayman Amin Sejiny

Chief Executive Officer of the Islamic Corporation for the Development of the Private Sector (ICD) The ICD is the private sector arm of the Jeddah-based Islamic Development Bank Group (ISDBG).

Mr. Ayman Amin Sejiny is the CEO of the Islamic Corporation for the Development of the private sector (ICD), the private sector arm of Islamic Development bank Group. Mr. Sejiny is highly accomplished financial industry leader with in-depth knowledge and more than 28 years' experience in investment and corporate banking in the local, regional and international markets.

Mr Sejiny served as CEO of Barclays Capital Saudi Arabia, Assistant General Manager in Citi Bank and was a Senior Manager in ABN AMRO affiliate in Saudi Arabia (Saudi American Bank "SAMBA" and Saudi Hollandi Bank). Regionally, Mr. Sejiny was a CEO, Chairman and Board Member in many regional financial institutions. Additionally, He is board member of Kidana Development Company which is a joint-stock company owned by the Royal Commission for Makkah Al-Mukarramah and the Holy Sites and mandated to develop the holy sites. Moreover, Mr. Sejiny is a member of the investment committee in King Abdullah Foundation (Almadena Almonawara).

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PANELISTS



Alzbeta Klein

Director General at the International Fertilizer Association (IFA)

Prior to her joining IFA she worked at the World Bank Group where she progressed through the ranks, with positions of the Chief of Staff to the CEO of IFC, Global Co-Head of Industrials and Agribusiness, Global Head of Climate Business, and other appointments, both at the headquarters in Washington DC and overseas. She brings a rich experience to IFDC from having served on several corporate and advisory boards of leading agribusiness companies such as Hans Merensky Holdings headquartered in South Africa, Grupo Los Grobo in Argentina, and on advisory sustainability boards of Nespresso and the New York University Stern School of Business. She has a degree in Engineering from Prague University, a M.A. in Economics and a Ph.D. (abd) in Economics from University of Ottawa.

She holds a Chartered Financial Analyst (CFA) designation. She served on the boards of several agribusiness companies including Grupo Los Grobo in Argentina, HMH in South Africa, LAAD in Latin America, as well as the New York University Center for Sustainable Business Advisory Board, CFA Society Russia and currently serves on the Nespresso Sustainability Advisory Board.

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Moez El Shohdi

President & CEO of Food Banking Regional Network

Moez El Shohdi comes up with a blend of 40 years of experience in Hotel Management, Business and 16 years of Humanitarian Professional Voluntary Work with a strong self-commitment to eradicate hunger in the region.

Since 2011, he successfully founded and developed 39 Food Banks in 37 Countries in the Region to serve needy people, ensure Food Waste Reduction & Ending Hunger.

In addition to his contribution in founding and developing 61 Food banks in other countries including Latin America and Europe, El Shohdi contributed in founding the Egyptian Cure Bank, Egyptian Clothing Bank, and Decent Life Bank to offer health care service, provide clothing and shelter, and ensure decent life and better community.

PANEL DISCUSSION #2

GREEN AND INCLUSIVE TECHNOLOGIES AND INVESTMENTS IN AGRICULTURE – WHAT IS THE POTENTIAL? (45 MINUTES)

MODERATOR



Ismahane Elouafi

Chief Scientist - FAO

Ismahane ELOUAFI is currently the Chief Scientist at the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and is a member of FAO's core leadership team.

From 2012 until her appointment with FAO in November 2020, Dr. Elouafi was Director General at the International Center for Biosaline Agriculture (ICBA), headquartered in the United Arab Emirates.

Dr. Elouafi had previously held senior scientific and leadership positions, including Senior Advisor to the Assistant Deputy Minister, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada Research Branch in Ottawa, Canada (2006-2007), and Manager then Director of Research Management and Partnerships Division at the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (2007-2012). She also worked as a scientist with several international research organizations, including the International Center for Agricultural Research in the Dry Areas (ICARDA), Japan International Research Center for Agricultural Sciences (JIRCAS), and the International Maize and Wheat Improvement Center (CIMMYT). She sat on several Board of Directors, including the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI, 2015-2020), the Centre for Agriculture and Bioscience International (CABI, 2019-2020), and the CGIAR System Management Board (2020).

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PANELISTS



Soud Ba'alawy

Chairman- Enspire Group- UAE

Enspire collaborates with WORLD LEADERS, bringing together public and private enterprise, to build the economic architecture that enables sustainable, long term growth.

Mr Ba'alawy has over 30 years of experience in banking and investments; He had previous board positions at NASDAQ OMX, Dubai Financial Market, Emirates Investment Authority, Etisalat, Du, etc. He was CitiBank Vice President (Gulf Treasurer) , He held numerous Executive Positions: Executive Chairman of Dubai Group; Chairman of the Executive Committee of Noor Investment Group Holding Company (incl. Noor Bank and Noor Takaful).

During the 17 years with the government, Ba'alawy managed project portfolio of several billion dollars. Having witnessed the massive transformation of the country, under the leadership of Sheikh Zayed, Ba'alawy was inspired to co author his first book on Sheikh Zayed "How His Philosophy is Now More Important than Ever" as a personal tribute.

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GREEN AND INCLUSIVE TECHNOLOGIES AND INVESTMENTS IN AGRICULTURE - WHAT IS THE POTENTIAL? (45 MINUTES)

PANELISTS



Ouïam Lahlou

Professor at "Institut Agronomique et Vétérinaire Hassan II" at Rabat, Morocco

She is a water and natural resources management specialist and member of MENA NWC Network working in water use efficiency improvement.

She has a broad experience in environmental issues, climate change studies as well as in agricultural projects. Ouïam Lahlou has been involved in many international projects as coordinator, consultant or evaluator (USAID, FAO, EU, ONUDI, Id:Rc...). In collaboration with UCL (Catholic University of Louvain-La-Neuve, Belgium), she developed methods to increase water use efficiency. During last years, she was consultant for OCP group to design and implement agricultural projects in Saharian provinces by involving and linking cooperatives and private sector. Currently, Dr LAHLOU is the coordinator of a national project on satellite images and data mining; she is also member of JST -JICA SATREPS project (2016-2021): "Vaporization of Bioresources Based on Scientific Evidence in Semi- and Arid Land for Creation of New Industry". Also, she is about finalizing her participation in an FAO-IAV project on the Implementation of the 2030 Agenda for the efficiency and productivity of water by improving the value chain of carrots.

In 2011, she helped to create, "Terre et Terroir" a private society for promoting and commercializing the linked-origin products (Produits de terroir) in Morocco, involving cooperatives, women associations and industry laboratories, she is a permanent advisor for this company.

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GREEN AND INCLUSIVE TECHNOLOGIES AND INVESTMENTS IN AGRICULTURE - WHAT IS THE POTENTIAL? (45 MINUTES)

PANELISTS



Yousef Hamidaddin

CEO AgriTech Accelerator - Managing Partner at VentureX

VentureX makes it its mission to enable an open lab environment by building accelerators for competitive innovative ideas solving the innovation divide. A better tomorrow demands us to think in a manner that is totally different, and it is our opinion that developing accelerators to create thousands of startups is key to address our current, and future challenges. VentureX works on: 1- Entrepreneurial and Economic Development through: a- Industry Specific Development b- Regional Specific Development 2- Fund and Investment Management.

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PANELISTS



Reginald Lee

Director, Programs -Grow Asia

Reginald is Director of Programs at Grow Asia, a multi-stakeholder partnership platform that catalyzes action on inclusive agricultural development in Southeast Asia. The platform convenes governments, farmers, NGOs, and other stakeholders to co-create value chain projects and transform their commodity sectors to improve smallholder farmers' productivity, incomes and environmental sustainability. Grow Asia was established by the World Economic Forum in collaboration with the ASEAN Secretariat.

Reginald is passionate about working at the intersection of development and finance. He has more than a decade of experience in investment banking and financial markets and has been involved in more than 40 debt capital market transactions across currencies, geographies, sectors and issuers.

PANEL DISCUSSION #2

GREEN AND INCLUSIVE TECHNOLOGIES AND INVESTMENTS IN AGRICULTURE – WHAT IS THE POTENTIAL? (45 MINUTES)

PANELISTS



Chandra P. Singh

Director-Business Development-Elite Agro (UAE)

Mr Singh leads all the Business Development, Commercial Sales and Project Management, Evaluates and Acquires new businesses/companies or projects Internationally, Joint Ventures, Operating Ownerships, Technical Collaborations and Market Entry.

He also sets the Strategic direction for the businesses and investments, cooperation with Governments and Ministries. Initiate strategic collaboration and long term sales agreements with Host Government's Food Security Program, Large Retailers and Fresh Produce Companies. He also manages all the new agriculture projects comprising of Farming, Green House Farming, Livestock and Agri-Tech initiatives fund raising.



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