



Advancing on green policies for agrifood systems transformation in Europe and Central Asia

Regional Conference on Green Agriculture

Yerevan, Armenia, 29-31 May, 2024

Hybrid event, Ani Grand Hotel, Panoramic Hall



BACKGROUND

Agrifood systems across Europe and Central Asia confront numerous challenges, including climate change, deforestation, ecosystems degradation, biodiversity loss and geopolitical uncertainties, which have been disrupting food supply chains and threatening food security*. There is a pressing need for a transformation towards efficient, inclusive, resilient and sustainable, agrifood system. This transformation is essential to mitigate the adverse impacts of climate change, enhance productivity, and ensure food security and nutrition while addressing environmental and socioeconomic risks.

Efforts towards greening agriculture are crucial for transforming agrifood systems, promoting sustainability, and achieving several Sustainable Development Goals. In response to challenges such as limited evidence, technical capacity gaps, and coordination issues, the FAO Regional Office for Europe and Central Asia established the Regional Technical Platform on Green Agriculture in May 2022. The aim of the Platform is to facilitate knowledge sharing, within the region and among other regions, on the various technical areas which are strictly connected with green agriculture, with the engagement of international, national and local development networks, building on good experiences and enhancing regional and interregional collaboration.

The regional project "Scaling-up Green Agriculture in Europe and Central Asia", launched in 2023, aims to further enhance green agriculture knowledge sharing and capacities in the Europe and Central Asia region and beyond, while providing coordination on scientific research on the technical areas of green agriculture. Furthermore, it seeks to establish well-functioning

networks, unleashing the digital potential of the FAO Regional Technical Platform on Green Agriculture, as a digital tool to provide an intraregional and interregional gateway for sharing information and as a digital space to facilitate knowledge-sharing among expert networks in technical areas related to green agriculture.

Policies play a pivotal role in steering the transition towards green agrifood systems across Europe and Central Asia and beyond. Green policies aim to incentivize sustainable agricultural practices, promote resource efficiency, and mitigate environmental degradation. There is a growing emphasis on capturing and capitalizing on the most relevant science and evidence as a foundation for agrifood systems policies, enhancing policy coherence and cross-sectoral coordination among various stakeholders to ensure the effective implementation of green policies throughout the agrifood value chain. Strengthening policy frameworks not only enables the adoption of sustainable practices but also enhances the resilience of agrifood systems to environmental and economic shocks, ultimately contributing to food security and sustainability goals.

With these issues in focus, the FAO Regional Office for Europe and Central Asia is convening a Regional/ Global Conference on Green Agriculture to bring together relevant national and international stakeholders, from selected countries in the Europe and Central Asia region and beyond, with the following objective.

JOIN THE MEETING



* <https://www.fao.org/3/cc4602en/cc4602en.pdf>

OBJECTIVE

The main objective of the conference is to discuss and exchange experiences on green agriculture and examine the status of green innovation, technology and policies for advancing green transformation of the agrifood system. This includes catalysing collaboration among to accelerate the adoption of green practices, bridging science and policy, and enhancing the inter- and intraregional knowledge sharing, contributing to greening agrifood systems across Europe and Central Asia and beyond.

EXPECTED OUTCOMES

- 1 Regional awareness on green policies enhanced and a Regional Roadmap developed for greening agri-food systems;
- 2 Regional Green Agriculture Network established to promote green agriculture and agrifood systems and enhance its governance among FAO programme countries;
- 3 Roadmap enabling Science-Policy Interfaces (SPIs) in support of the evidence-based decision-making and green policies in the region validated.

PARTICIPANTS

Government officials and policymakers, researchers and scientists and other knowledge-holders, International Organizations working on similar fields, NGOs and Civil Society Organizations, Private Sector Representatives, and Local Communities/Farmers group representatives.

METHODOLOGY

The event will be conducted in Yerevan, Armenia, on 29-31 May 2024 and online.

Within the Regional Conference, the first day will be dedicated to **green policies for agriculture**. Discussions will gather policymakers to explore policy implications, regulatory frameworks, and strategies to foster an enabling environment for greening agrifood systems, at the ECA regional level and subregional level as well as beyond, with good policy practices from other regions. Moreover, participants will identify possible synergies and entry points to develop a regional collaboration and establish a network on green agriculture.

The second day will be dedicated to the **National policy frameworks** and opportunities to Green Agrifood Systems. Discussions will be held to develop the Regional Roadmap on Greening Agrifood Systems and discussion and finalization of the Roadmap and ECA network on green agrifood systems.

To strengthen regional and national capacities for bridging science and policy in response to the poly crisis effects on agrifood systems, during the third and last day of the Regional/ Global Conference, participants will be engaged in the **Capacity-Building workshop on Science-Policy Interface (SPI)** and piloting the FAO guidance on strengthening SPIs for agrifood systems.

The conference features a wide range of activities, from exploring successful strategies under the EU Green Deal to shedding light on the progress and challenges across the region as well as from the Near East and North Africa to Asia. Networking opportunities are plentiful throughout the event, encouraging collaboration and synergy-building among participants. This sets the stage for a unified regional effort towards promoting green agriculture and fostering sustainable change across Europe and Central Asia.

AGENDA

DAY 1: Green policies for agrifood systems transformation	
Moderator: Zsuzsanna Keresztes	
9:30-10:00	Registration
Session 1: Green policies for agrifood systems transformation	
10:00-10:05	Welcome and Video
10:05-10:15	Opening Arman Khojyan, Deputy Minister of Economy Raimund Jehle, FAO REU RPL and FAOR
10:15-10:30	Setting the scene: Overview of the conference and Green Agriculture Initiative Tania Santivanez, Regional coordinator for the Natural resources management, Biodiversity and climate change Priority Program, FAO REU
10:30-10:45	Greening agriculture and rural development policies in REU region Dmitry Zvyagintsev, Policy Officer, FAO REU
10:45-11:00	EU efforts in Armenia to greening agrifood systems Antonis Tsamoulis, EEAS-YEREVAN
11:00-11:20	Coffee break
11:20-11:35	Green Agricultural Policies and Strategies in Asia Dr. Shaikh Tanveer Hossain, Director, Policy and Strategy, IFOAM-Organics Asia
11:35-11:50	Green strategies and policies for healthier and sustainable diets in the EU Dr. Marta Antonelli, Head of Research, Barilla Foundation
11:50-12:05	Greening agriculture, Water Scarcity and Climate Action Fidaa F. Haddad, Senior Programme Officer FAO Regional Office for Near East and North Africa
12:05-12:20	The Voluntary Guidelines on Argo Environmental Policies in Latin America: a regional consultation process Jessica Casaza, FAO regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean
12:20- 12:30	Q&A
12:30-14:00	Lunch break
Session 2: Green policies at national level	
14:00-14:15	State of the art Green agriculture policies in Armenia: challenges and opportunities Artur Gomktsyan, FAO Armenia
14:15-14:30	Green Initiatives in Armenia TBD, GAIA
14:30-14:45	State of the Advancing Green Agriculture policies in Kazakhstan: challenges and opportunities Darina Ostrikova, FAO Kazakhstan <i>(remote)</i>
14:45-15:00	Green Initiatives in Kazakhstan Saule Moldabayeva, MoA Kazakhstan
15:00- 15:30	Coffee break
15:30 – 15:45	State of the art Green Agriculture policies in Uzbekistan: challenges and opportunities Jakhongir Babadjanov, FAO Uzbekistan
15:45- 16:00	Green Initiatives in Uzbekistan Anvar Djumanov, MoA Uzbekistan
16:00 – 16:30	Reflections and wrap up Yuriy Nesterov, FAO SEC
18:00	Reception
DAY 2: Green policies for agrifood systems transformation	
Moderator: Yuriy Nesterov	
10:00-10:15	Welcome and wrap-up of the Day 1 Yuriy Nesterov, FAO SEC
Session 3: Tools and innovations to greening agrifood system	
10:15-10:30	Regional Technical Platform on Green Agriculture Valentina Gasbarri, FAO
10:30- 10:45	Green Schools initiative in Uzbekistan Aziz Rasulov
10:45-11:00	FAO LEAP Guidelines in Central Asia Paolo Medei, FAO NSAL
11:00-11:15	GREEN Database of Innovative Technologies and Needs Dmitry Kalinin, WIPO GREEN
11:15-11:30	Coffee break
11:30-11:45	OCOP in Armenia TBC
11:45-12:00	WBC presentation TBC
12:00- 12:30	Reflections Q&A
12:30-13:30	Lunch Break
Session 4: Drafting national Roadmaps on Greening Agrifood Systems	
13:30- 13:45	Introduction of the Masterplan on Green Agriculture Tania Santivanez, Agricultural Officer FAO REU
13:45-14:45	Interactive SWOT analysis Zsuzsanna Keresztes/Léa Le Grand, FAO REU
14:45-15:00	Summary of findings, conclusions for finalization of masterplan Dr. Shaikh Tanveer Hossain, Director, Policy and Strategy, IFOAM-Organics Asia
15:00-15:20	Coffee break
15:20-15:30	Drafting national roadmaps on green agriculture Set up the scene presentation Léa Le Grand, FAO REU
15:30-16:30	Group work: Draft national roadmaps on green agriculture Facilitator: Zsuzsanna Keresztes, FAO REU
16:30-16:45	Plenary
16:45-17:00	Wrap up Tania Santivanez, Agricultural Officer FAO REU
DAY 3: Science and Policy interface for greening agrifood systems	
Moderator: Anna Kanshieva	
9:30-09:35	Introduction and overview of the REU work on Science-policy interface Tania Santivanez, Agricultural Officer FAO REU
Session 1: Strengthening Science-Policy Interface capacities at the national level	
09:35-09:45	Introducing Science-policy interfaces for agrifood systems Preetmoninder Lidder, FAO
09:45-10:10	Panel discussion: Science-policy interface experiences of countries in the region Anatolie Fala, Expert, Moldova Aida Jamangulova, Agency of Development Initiatives, Kyrgyzstan Mikheil Pakatoshvili, Biological Farming Association Elkana, Georgia Facilitator: Preetmoninder Lidder, FAO
10:10-10:30	Presenting the FAO guidance on strengthening SPIs for agrifood systems at the national level Preetmoninder Lidder, FAO Selim Louafi, CIRAD
10:30-10:45	Coffee break
10:45-12:30	Piloting the FAO guidance on strengthening SPIs for agrifood systems at the national level Preetmoninder Lidder, FAO Selim Louafi, CIRAD
12:30-14:00	Lunch break
Session 2: Science-Policy Interface for greening agrifood systems in the ECA region	
14:00-14:15	The current state of the interface between science and policy across the ECA region Chris Deane, FAO <i>(remote)</i>
14:15-14:30	Regional Roadmap to strengthen SPIs for agrifood systems transition Anna Kanshieva, FAO REU
14:30-15:50	Group work: Exploring the SPIs' potential for enhancing the national Green Agriculture roadmaps Facilitator: Anna Kanshieva, FAO REU
15:50-16:00	Closure of the event Tania Santivanez, Agricultural Officer FAO REU