**Multi-stakeholder Forum on Science, Technology and Innovation for the SDGs (STI Forum)**

**FAO SIDE EVENT**

**STI for more efficient, inclusive, resilient and sustainable agrifood systems and achieving SDG-2**

**Date:** Thursday, 9 May 2024

**Time:** 08:30 – 09:45 (New York); 14.30 – 15.45 (Rome); 19:30 – 20.45 (Bangkok)



**Venue:** Virtual

**Register here:** <https://fao.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_OW7Cyu5HTY-5IWK-zfBJCw>

It is estimated that between 691 and 783 million people in the world faced hunger in 2022. Looking forward, projections indicate that almost 600 million people will be chronically undernourished in 2030. Science, Technology and Innovation (STI) serve as a pivotal means of implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and will be critical to accelerate progress towards SDG 2 on Zero Hunger and transitioning towards MORE efficient, inclusive, resilient and sustainable agrifood systems. In doing so, STI for SDG 2 can also bring positive results across the 2030 Agenda, including in terms of reducing poverty (SDG 1), climate change mitigation and adaptation (SDG 13) and by contributing to the creation of peace and strong institutions (SDG16) and by promoting partnerships for the goals (SDG17).

Innovative approaches, technologies and innovations present opportunities to boost production, reduce impacts of climate change, improve efficiency, minimize food loss and waste and reduce drudgery in agrifood systems, creating economic, social and environmental well-being. It is critical, however, to adopt a systems approach; identify and analyze opportunities, risks and trade-offs associated with technologies and innovations, and be deliberate in creating an enabling environment that will ensure that STI is accessible, affordable, adaptable and relevant to populations in vulnerable situations so as to promote inclusion rather than widen inequality gaps. Addressing the digital divide, gender inequality and youth inclusion is also key to ensuring that no one is left behind, as well as ensuring that efforts recognize, build on and complement, as appropriate, the knowledge of Indigenous Peoples, family farmers and small-scale producers.

The objectives of the side event are:

* share the experiences at national level in mainstreaming and addressing agrifood system challenges by promoting STI for SDG2.
* showcase successful examples of how technologies and innovations are supporting agrifood system transformation.
* throw light on how to create an enabling environment to scale up the use of STI in agrifood systems so as to achieve positive social, economic and environmental goals leaving no one behind.

The event will feature a panel comprising experienced senior experts from academic and research institutions, government ministries, inter-governmental organizations, regional agricultural research and extension organizations, and non-governmental organizations.

**AGENDA**

**Welcome remarks:**

**Vincent Martin**, Director, Office of Innovation, FAO (5 minutes)

**Keynote:**

**Shakuntala Thilsted**, Director for Nutrition, Health and Food Security Impact Area Platform, CGIAR and the Chair of Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC), UN Food Systems Coordination Hub (5 minutes)

**Panel Discussion:** Successful cases of co-development of technologies, innovations and integrating of STI into agriculture and food security programmes, investments and including institutional mechanisms to scale up the STI solutions contributing to achievement of SDG2 (20 minutes).

**Panelists:**

* **Maneshree Jugmohan-Naidu**, Director, Department of Science and Innovation, South Africa
* **Longbao Wei**, Director, Institute of Food and Agribusiness Management & Deputy Dean, China Academy for Rural Development (CARD), Zhejiang University, Hangzhou, China
* **Rikin Gandhi**, Chief Executive Officer, Digital Green, San Francisco, USA. (How disruptive are the AI and its application in agriculture)
* **Kacper Nosarzewski**, 4CF Strategic Foresight, The Futures Literacy Company

First round of Q&A – 15 Minutes

**Responses:** How can the international and intergovernmental organizations play a catalytic role in strengthening STI capacity and assist the countries to scale up the technologies and innovations? (10 minutes)

**Respondents**

* **Ramesh V. Sonti**, Director, New Delhi Component of International Centre for Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology, New Delhi, India
* **Botir Dosov**, CEO, Central Asia and the Caucasus Association of Agricultural Research Institutions (CACAARI), Uzbekistan.

**Science–Policy Interface****:** How to strengthen science and evidence-based decision to ensure effective policy integration?

* **Iain A Wright**, Deputy Director General Research and Development – Integrated Sciences, ILRI, Kenya (TBC).

**Second round of Q &A** – 10 minutes

**Closing** – Vincent Martin, Director, Office of Innovation, FAO (3 minutes)