

Side event 16 | Promoting energy access to safeguard food security and nutrition gains within the agrifood systems and beyond

Organized by:

- Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)
- World Food Programme Madagascar
- United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)
- Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS)

Wednesday, 25 October; 8.30 – 9.45 (UTC+2)
Iran Room & via Zoom

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Abstract

Energy is essential for food security and development. Lack of access to energy in many developing countries is a fundamental barrier to reducing hunger and ensuring that the world can produce enough food to meet future demand. Food security and nutrition can be safeguarded by ensuring access to sustainable energy in all areas of agrifood systems. This ranges from energy for irrigation and agro-processing, to cold chains for transport and storage of safe, nutritious food, and clean cooking in households. Renewable energy offers the opportunity to address the challenge of decoupling fossil fuel use from food system energy needs, while advancing rural development and contributing to climate action, building on the food-water-energy nexus.

This side event will explore different approaches to promoting energy access within agrifood systems and beyond, both from a global perspective and as exemplified with a number of country and regional case studies from Africa:

- 1) Sustainable Energy for enhancing circular economy that positively impacts on food security and nutrition in West Africa;
- 2) Building and enhancing food security with centralized access to basic services through the Rapid Rural Transformation model; and
- 3) Renewable Energy for Agrifood Systems – examples from Rwanda.

Objectives

- Demonstrate how sustainable renewable energy can be deployed in agrifood systems to safeguard food security and nutrition;
- Explore programmes and specific practices that have been successful in providing energy access and enhancing food security and nutrition;
- Discuss how successful examples can be amplified and replicated;