



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations



4 June | 12:00 12:45

Ethiopia room

National programs and FAO contribution to sustainable soil and forest management in Uzbekistan

Organizers

UN FAO - Uzbekistan Representation

GLOBAL SOIL PARTNERSHIP | 12th Plenary Assembly

03-05 June 2024





AGENDA

Background

Recently, government of Uzbekistan, one of the Central Asian countries, started to pay greater attention to issues of climate change, land degradation and restoration of ecosystems.

Uzbekistan greatly suffers from soil salinity, drought and land degradation. Among five Central Asian countries, it has the highest share of degraded lands reaching 26.1% of the total area. Pasture productivity on average is down 1.5% annually, down by 21% since the year 2000 nationally.

Being in line with the GSP's action area "Sustainably manage and restore soils for the provision of ecosystem services", the proposed Side Event aims to showcase the significant achievements of the ongoing two big state programs on ecosystem restoration and afforestation as well as to review the current soil and land related projects including CACILM2, FOLUR, SFM and LDN in Uzbekistan.

The ongoing afforestation and agroforestry activities implemented in Uzbekistan under the National Program "Green Area" (Yashil Makon). Initiated by the President of Uzbekistan in 2021, the "Yashil Makon" Initiative is an ambitious and visionary program to plant 1 billion trees and shrubs across the country over the next five years. Currently, according to data of the Forestry Agency under the Ministry of Ecology of Uzbekistan, the area of green cover in Uzbekistan is 8 percent. And the target is to increase this area up to 30 percent by year 2030.

Every year, 150 million tons of salt, dust and sand rise into the air from the dry seabed of the Aral Sea, polluting the atmosphere. To address this ecological disaster, the government of Uzbekistan boosted afforestation works implemented on the dry seabed of the Aral Sea. Greening the bottom of the Aral Sea began in 2018. As of end of 2023, 1 million 730 thousand hectares of the dry bottom of the Aral Sea have been planted by saxaul (Haloxylon) and tamarix (Tamaricus).





12:00 - 12:05	<p>Opening and introduction of participants, Mr. Sherzod Umarov, Assistant FAO Representative in Uzbekistan</p>
12:05 - 12:35	<p>Welcome address from H.E. Ambassador Abat Fayzullaev, Permanent Representative of Uzbekistan to FAO</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Overview of the state programs on ecosystem restoration in Uzbekistan Mr. Sherzod Umarov, AFAOR, and Olimjon Kakhkharov, Project technical coordinator/Advisor 2. Salinity and drought management activities implemented under “Integrated natural resources management in drought-prone and salt-affected agricultural production landscapes in Central Asia and Turkey” (CACILM-2) project in Uzbekistan Mr. Muhammadjon Kosimov, National Project Manager, FAO, and Mr. Khurshid Norov, Policy adviser, FAO 3. Success stories of “Sustainable management of forests in Mountain and Valley areas in Uzbekistan” (SFM) project, Mr. Olimjon Kakhkharov, Project technical coordinator/Advisor, FAO Mr. Umid Kuliyeu, Department of Control over the Implementation of Laws on the Use of Water Resources, General Prosecutor's Office, Uzbekistan 4. What “Food System, Land Use and Restoration Impact Program in Uzbekistan” (FOLUR) project can propose to ensure sustainable soil management? Mr. Aziz Nurbekov, National Project Coordinator, FAO 5. How can “Sustainable Forest and Rangelands Management in the Dryland Ecosystems of Uzbekistan” LDN project help to achieve land degradation neutrality in Uzbekistan? Mr. Nariman Nishanov, Chief Technical Advisor, FAO, and Mr. Furkat Ibragimov, Program Associate, FAO
12:35 - 12:45	<p>Discussion and Q&A (30 minutes) Closing</p>
<p>UZBEK SPECIALITIES WILL BE SERVED AFTER THE EVENT (UZBEKISTAN LOUNGE, BUILDING C, 8TH FLOOR)</p>	

Moderator: **Mr. Sherzod Umarov**, Assistant FAO Representative in Uzbekistan

Informational support will be provided by **Mr. Azizbek Abdumuhtorov**, Operations Specialist, FAO

