



WATER PRODUCTIVITY CONFERENCE

We are pleased to announce that the **First Water Productivity in Agriculture Conference**, organised by the **Collaborative Platform on Water Productivity of the Regional Water Scarcity Initiative (FAO-WSI)** for the **Near East and North Africa**, will be held in **Tunis, Tunisia**.

3-6
DECEMBER 2019
Registration is open now



CONTEXT

To face increased water scarcity and growing food demands, NENA countries (Near East and North Africa) are growingly improving water productivity (WP, defined as outputs per unit of water used) and to develop mechanisms for regional collaboration (FAO-WSI).

Clarification of concepts and operationalization of actions has become urgently needed. FAO build on two regional projects to support country needs: The Technical Cooperation Project “establishing a regional platform on water productivity” and the project “**Implementing the 2030 Agenda on Water Efficiency, Productivity and Sustainability in the NENA countries**”, funded by the Swedish International Development Agency (SIDA) are a major contribution in responding to the countries expectations.



OBJECTIVE

The conference aims to bring together experts working on improving water productivity from different perspectives to debate how WP improvements can reinforce agriculture sustainability.

They will examine how to bridge the gap between actual and potential productivity in farming systems, as well as how improved WP contributes to promoting economic development, maintaining social stability and protecting the environment for rural areas and equally cities. Specific objectives are spelled out under three themes.



THEMES

1• IMPROVING WATER PRODUCTIVITY: PROGRESS MADE AND INNOVATION TO BRIDGE THE WP GAP

What have been the achievements, and to what should they be attributed? What are the major factors that have impacted water productivity trends (policy choices)? Where are the limits of WP and what future changes are anticipated? What innovations can bridge the gap? Retrospective or prospective analysis of water productivity in the countries of the region are particularly encouraged.

2• MEASURING WATER PRODUCTIVITY AND PERFORMANCE MONITORING FOR SUSTAINABILITY

What water productivity do we want to measure? Are available technologies for monitoring crop distribution, yield and water use sufficient? What are the limitations of these technologies? What are the methods for incorporating water productivity data in decision-making? Which case studies on implementation of operational tools are suitable for benchmarking? What monitoring can ensure more crops, less water use and less energy use?

3• COMMUNICATING EFFECTIVELY ABOUT THE BENEFITS OF WATER PRODUCTIVITY

How do we communicate for greater impact? What are the prospects for future water scarcity and what is the need to focus on WP? How do we show that improving agricultural water productivity is beneficial to urban populations and society at large? What information on water use and agricultural production should be available for raising public awareness about the importance in investing in water productivity optimization? What data do decision makers and investors need to steer their development or investment plans in agriculture?

4• JOINING THE WORLD SOIL DAY - 5 DECEMBER 2019 - SHORT STORY OF SOIL & WATER PRODUCTIVITY

PROGRAMME OUTLINE

- Closed meeting
- Poster session
- Hackaton
- Opening and keynotes
- Technical session
- Breakout sessions

Tuesday 3 rd December					
9:00-10:30	Market Place setting		Steering committee TCP/RAB/3604 (closed)		
10:30-11:00			Coffee break		
11:00-13:00			Steering committee TCP/RAB/3604 (closed)		
13:00 - 14:30			Lunch break		
14:30 - 16:00	Poster session@ Market place	Hackathon : Pitch your idea			
16:00-16:30	Coffee Break @ Market place				
16:30 - 18:00	Poster session@ Market place	Hackathon : Pitch your idea			
Wednesday 4 th December					
8:00 - 9:00	Registration				
09:00 - 09:45	Opening Session				
09:45 - 10:10	Keynote 1: FAO Initiative on water scarcity & policies process				
10:10-10:30	Keynote 2: Water productivity in the NENA region : an overview of challenges and opportunities.				
10:30 - 11:00	Coffee Break@ Market place				
11:00 - 13:00	Technical session 1 :Improving water productivity: progress made and innovation to bridge the WP gap				
13:00 - 14:30	Lunch break				
14:30 - 16:30	Technical session 2 : Measuring water productivity and performance monitoring for sustainability				
16:30 - 17:00	Coffee Break@ Market place				
17:00 - 18:00	Poster session @Marketplace				
Thursday 5 th December (World Soil Day)					
08:00 - 8:30	Debriefing session of previous day				
08:30 - 10:30	Technical session 3 :Communication for impact				
10:30 - 11:00	Coffee Break@ Market place				
11:00 - 13:00	Technical session 4 :Soil productivity				
13:00 - 14:30	Lunch break				
14:30 - 16:00	Focus Group improving water productivity	Focus Group Measuring water productivity	Focus Group Communicating for impact	Focus Group Soil productivity	Focus group Water productivity baselines
16:00 - 16:30	Coffee Break@ Market place				
16:30-17:00	Feedback from Focus Groups				
17:00-18:00	Special plenary session : Hackathon results				
18:00-18:30	Conclusions & synthesis				
18:30-20:00	World Soil day Celebration				
Friday 6 th December					
07:00 - 18:00	Field trip				

REGISTRATION

Please note that this conference aims to enable exchange between participants and will therefore cater only for a limited number of participants. Register early as we will use the first come first served policy.

Participants will include representatives from FAO member states, scientists, practitioners working in related fields, representatives from NGOs, civil society and farmers' associations. Participants whose abstracts are accepted will be presenters (oral or Poster presentation) and will be registered in priority.

Even without submitting an abstract, or if your abstract is not accepted, you can express your interest to attend the conference through the online registration system.

Registration will be open until 10 November 2019

NOTE: There is no registration fee and participation in the conference is free. However, participants should bear their own travel and accommodation expenses.

PHOTO CONTEST

To participate scan the QR code



Register now: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/WPConf2019N>