



Ministry of Agriculture of the  
Republic of Azerbaijan

## INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON DIGITAL AGRICULTURE

### "VISION FOR THE FUTURE: TRANSITION TO DIGITAL AGRICULTURE"

Organized by the Ministry of Agriculture of the Republic of Azerbaijan with the support of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)

## AGENDA

**6 May 2022**

Hybrid participation (virtual & in person)

Digital technologies are rapidly changing the way people, businesses, and governments work. They affect entire food systems, everyone involved, and bring significant benefits to agriculture through lower information, transaction, and surveillance costs. While digital technologies can make a significant contribution to the achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, they also pose economic, social, and ethical challenges, in particular with regard to privacy and security, and in terms of the impact they can have on business, employment and markets.

The equity and efficiency of global agri-food systems can greatly benefit from digital technologies, and for that to happen, it requires a coordinated and inclusive promotion of innovative practices, and a balanced policy framework to reduce risks and ensure that no one is left behind.

**The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)** harnesses the power of digital technologies to pilot, accelerate and scale innovative ideas with high potential for impact in food and agriculture, transforming digital solutions and services into global public goods. It aims to explore the responsible application and adoption of existing and frontier technologies, design and scale new services, tools and approaches to empower rural households and inspire youth entrepreneurship in food and agriculture.

For the further development of the agricultural sector, **the Government of Azerbaijan** adopted in 2016 the Strategic Roadmap for the Production and Processing of Agricultural Products in the Republic of Azerbaijan, which foresees the establishment of an integrated electronic information portal with the aim of creating a unified database system. In 2019, the Government launched the website [www.eagro.az](http://www.eagro.az) as an online platform for Azerbaijan's Electronic Agricultural Information System to be closer to farmers. This is an innovative initiative that combines the principles of proximity, good governance, and innovation, as well as ensures access to agricultural services and transparency in the provision of digital services.

The **main objective** of this Conference is to bring together various stakeholders to share global experiences, visions, and developments in the area of agricultural and digital rural transformation, as well as present the Azerbaijani model and discuss further ways to improve the system and its possible replication in other countries.

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Friday, 6 May 2022

09.00 - 10.00	<b>Registration &amp; Welcome coffee</b>
<b>High-level opening session</b> 10.00 - 10.30	Welcome addresses: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>· <b>Mr Inam Karimov</b>, Minister of Agriculture of the Republic of Azerbaijan</li><li>· <b>Mr Qu Dongyu</b>, FAO Director-General</li><li>· <b>Mr Pablo Roca Blasco</b>, Director-General of the International Organization of Vine and Wine</li><li>· <b>Mr Mukhtar Babayev</b>, Minister of Ecology and Natural Resources of the Republic of Azerbaijan</li><li>· <b>Mr Goshgar Tahmazli</b>, Chairperson of the Food Safety Agency of the Republic of Azerbaijan</li></ul>
10.30 - 10.35	<b>Sustainable and Inclusive Agrifood Systems Development in Azerbaijan</b> (video)
<b>Keynote session I</b> 10.35 - 10.50	<b>Digital Technologies for the Sustainable Transformation of Agrifood Systems</b> Presenter: Mr Maximo Torero Cullen, Chief Economist, FAO
<b>Keynote session II</b> 10.50 - 11.05	<b>E-Agriculture – Azerbaijani Experience in Digitalization of Agricultural systems</b> Presenter: Mr Akbar Abbasov, Director of the Agrarian Innovation Center, Ministry of Agriculture of the Republic of Azerbaijan
11.10 - 11.30	<b>Q&amp;A</b>
11.30 - 12.00	<b>Coffee break</b>
<b>Panel session I</b> 12.00 - 12.45	<b>E-Government Services in Agriculture – an entry point to rural development, digitalization and modernization</b>  <b>Panelists:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>· <b>Mr Anastassios Haniotis</b>, Director for Strategy and Policy Analysis, European Commission</li><li>· <b>Mr Temesgen Gebeyehu Geleso</b>, Director of Digital Agriculture, Ethiopia Agricultural Transformation Agency</li><li>· <b>Mr Yakov Poleg</b>, Senior Deputy Director General – Center for Foreign Trade &amp; International Cooperation (CFTIC), Israel Ministry of Agriculture &amp; Rural Development</li><li>· <b>Ms Daniela Di Gianantonio</b>, Digital Agriculture Team Leader, FAO Regional Office for Europe and Central Asia</li><li>· <b>Mr Emre Tunali</b>, Co-founder, Agrovisio</li><li>· <b>Mr Yasin Hakki Kocaman</b>, Deputy Director-General of Information Technologies, Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, Turkey</li><li>· <b>Mr Nurlan Hamidli</b>, Head of Department for Information Technologies Application and Electronic Management, Ministry of Agriculture, Azerbaijan</li></ul> Moderator: Mr Maximo Torero Cullen, Chief Economist, FAO
12.45 - 13.00	<b>Panel Discussion / Q&amp;A</b>
13.00 - 14.30	<b>Lunch break</b>

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<p><b>Panel Session II</b> 14.30 - 15.15</p>	<p><b>Accelerating Digital Agriculture: Challenges, Perspectives and Sustainable Pathways for Data, its Access and its Ethical Use</b></p> <p><b>Panelists:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>· <b>Mr Dejan Jakovljevic</b>, Chief Information Officer, FAO</li><li>· <b>Mr Stefano Vaccari</b>, Director-General of the Council for Agricultural Research and Economics, Italy</li><li>· <b>Mr Qu Liang</b>, Director of the Joint FAO/IAEA Centre on Nuclear Techniques in Food and Agriculture</li><li>· <b>Mr Firdovsi Fikratzada</b>, Director of Agrarian Research Center, Azerbaijan</li><li>· <b>Ms Eموke Korzenszky</b>, Head of International Affairs Department of the Ministry of Agriculture, Hungary</li><li>· <b>Ms Natalia Mochu</b>, Regional Director at the International Telecommunication Union, Regional office for the Commonwealth of Independent States</li></ul> <p>Moderator: Mr Emin Aliyev, Deputy Head of Science and Education and Human Resources of the Ministry of Agriculture of the Republic of Azerbaijan</p>
<p>15.15 - 15.30</p>	<p><b>Panel Discussion / Q&amp;A</b></p>
<p>15.30 - 16.00</p>	<p><b>Coffee break</b></p>
<p><b>Ministerial Roundtable</b> 16.00 - 17.00</p>	<p><b>Digitalization in agriculture: the way forward, approaches and best practices for adoption</b></p> <p>Governments play a critical role in providing the core digital and data infrastructure, regulations, services, and public goods to enable technologies to flourish in agriculture. However, governments face several trade-offs when articulating their digital agriculture strategies, approaches and solutions. Which digital interventions should be prioritized to accelerate agricultural transformation?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>· <b>Mr Inam Karimov</b>, Minister of Agriculture of the Republic of Azerbaijan</li><li>· <b>Mr Qu Dongyu</b>, FAO Director-General</li><li>· <b>Mr Pablo Roca Blasco</b>, Director-General of the International Organization of Vine and Wine</li><li>· <b>Mr Henryk Kowalczyk</b>, Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development of the Republic of Poland (video message)</li><li>· <b>Ms Blayne Arthur</b>, Oklahoma Secretary of Agriculture (virtual speech)</li><li>· <b>Mr Otar Shamugia</b>, Minister of Environmental Protection and Agriculture of Georgia</li><li>· <b>Mr Rafael Mariano Grossi</b>, Director-General of the International Atomic Energy Agency (video message)</li><li>· <b>Mr Viorel Gherciu</b>, Minister of Agriculture and Food Industry of the Republic of Moldova</li><li>· <b>Mr Sadi Karimzoda</b>, Minister of Agriculture of the Republic of Tajikistan</li><li>· <b>Mr Vahit Kirisci</b>, Minister of Agriculture and Forestry of the Republic of Turkey (virtual speech)</li><li>· <b>Ms Mariam Almheiri</b>, Minister of Climate Change and Environment of UAE (video message)</li><li>· <b>Mr David Nabarro</b>, WHO DG Special Envoy on COVID-19 Senior Advisor, Food Systems Summit Dialogues (virtual join)</li><li>· <b>Mr Azamat Mukashev</b>, Deputy Minister of Agriculture, Water Resources and Regional Development of Kyrgyz Republic</li><li>· <b>Mr Gian Marco Centinaio</b>, Undersecretary for Agriculture, Food and Forestry Policies for the Italian Government (video message)</li><li>· <b>Ms Vladanka Andreeva</b>, UN Resident Coordinator in Azerbaijan</li></ul> <p>Guest country statements (3-4 min each)</p> <p>Moderator: Mr Viorel Gutu, Sub-regional Coordinator for Central Asia, FAO</p>

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**Closing session**  
17.00 - 17.10

- **Mr Inam Karimov**, Minister of Agriculture of the Republic of Azerbaijan
- **Mr Qu Dongyu**, FAO Director-General

18.30

**High-level Gala Dinner**



# Transition to Digital Agriculture

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