



Special Session 1

Achieving Food Security through Food Systems Transformation: Priorities and Actions

Tuesday, 14 March 2023, 4.15–5.45 p.m. Beirut time

Background and objective

Food systems transformation is a fundamental prerequisite for wider sustainable development transformations and for the ultimate achievement of the food security in the region. In 2021, pathways/actions were pledged by countries as part of the Food System Summit process, and it is now the time to move from formulation of actions to implementation of these actions.

ESCWA, FAO, the League of Arab States (LAS) and the Arab Organization for Agricultural Development (AOAD) are jointly organizing a special session during the 2023 Arab Forum for Sustainable Development with support from the Swedish Government.

The objective of this special session is to provide a platform to allow policy-makers and experts to exchange views and experiences on policies and programs that could lead to a sustainable transformation of the Arab food systems.

The expected outcomes

- Highlighting that regional coordination is key for food systems transformation;
- Enhanced understanding among stakeholders of food systems transformation as a lever and a cross-cutting theme for the SDG acceleration and breaking the silos;
- Enhanced knowledge of food systems transformation actions that are being implemented in the Arab region;
- An enhanced commitment for regional cooperation to accelerate transformation of food systems.

Questions to be addressed

- What lessons can be drawn from national actions to promote food systems transformation, and how challenges were addressed?
- What are the roles of the diverse actors (including the league of Arab States, other regional organizations and the UN system) to support countries in implementing their identified actions?

Master of Ceremony

Ms. Nora Ourabah Haddad, FAO, Lebanon

Introduction

Mr. Serge Nakouzi, FAO-RNE, Egypt

Presentation

Ms. Reem Nejdawi, UNESCWA, Lebanon

Moderator

Mr. Rami Zreik, American University of Beirut, Lebanon

Panelists

- Mr. Ibrahim El Dukheiry, The Arab Organization for Agricultural Development, Sudan
- Ms. Nada El Agizy, The League of Arab States, Egypt
- Mr. Said Zarouali, Haut-Commissariat Au Plan, Morocco
- Mr. Hasan Ashqar, Ministry of Agriculture, State of Palestine

Discussants

- Mr. Kamel Abdalla, Canal Sugar Company, Egypt
- Mr. Fadi Jabr, Arab Federation of food Industries, Jordan
- Ms. Darine Dogui, Tunisian National Institute for Consumer Affairs, Tunisia

Reflections for the future

- Ms. Sylvia Ekra, UN Food Systems Coordination Hub, Italy
- Ms. Reem Nejdawi, UNESCWA, Lebanon

This Special Session will be organized as a hybrid event. To participate over Zoom, please [register here](#). Those physically present at the UN House can attend the session in the Mezzanine meeting room (MZ floor).



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