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منظمة  
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للأمم المتحدة

## EUROPEAN COMMISSION ON AGRICULTURE

### FORTY-FOURTH SESSION

**Budapest, Hungary, 2–3 October 2025**

**Side event on**

**Biodiversity for Food and Agriculture: Ensuring policy coherence for food system transformation in Europe and Central Asia**

**Concept Note and Agenda**

**Date:** 2 October 2025

**Time:** 8:30-9:30 am

**Place:** Park Inn by Radisson Budapest, Conference room

**Languages:** English, Russian

**Format:** Hybrid

### Background

Biodiversity is the bedrock of our agrifood systems, essential for all crop and livestock production, forestry, fisheries and aquaculture. Yet, unsustainable agricultural practices, a primary driver of its decline, lead to land-use change, pollution, traditional agricultural knowledge erosion and overexploitation within these very systems. This degradation jeopardizes food and livelihood security, disproportionately affecting vulnerable groups such as smallholder farmers, local communities, women and youth while also impeding progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Transforming agrifood systems is therefore critical. Such transformation can reverse biodiversity loss and disrupt the vicious cycle in which climate change, land degradation and biodiversity loss exacerbate one another, ultimately threatening food and livelihood security.

The Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (KMGBF), adopted under the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), provides a road map for harmonizing our co-existence with nature and stresses the importance of meeting human needs through the sustainable use of biodiversity. Agrifood systems are central to implementing the KMGBF, with over half of the framework's 23 global targets directly dependent

Documents can be consulted at [www.fao.org](http://www.fao.org)

on agrifood systems and all others indirectly dependent. National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs) serve as a key national planning tools, outlining a country's strategy for achieving biodiversity objectives within its specific context. NBSAPs can be used to balance competing priorities and harness synergies between biodiversity and agrifood systems, ultimately contributing to the goals of all three Rio Conventions.

FAO has conducted a preliminary global analysis of updated NBSAPs to be published at the Twenty-seventh meeting of the CBD Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice. The analysis reveals that over a third of the actions contained in these NBSAPs are explicitly relevant to agrifood systems and that agrifood sector actions contribute to all 23 KMGBF targets. This effort has culminated in the launch of the Agri-NBSAPs Support Initiative, aimed at helping countries accelerate the integration of biodiversity into agrifood sectors to achieve the KMGBF.

### **Objective**

This event aims to demonstrate the multiple benefits of improved policy coherence between biodiversity and agrifood systems, emphasizing the critical need for synergistic actions across all three Rio Conventions: biodiversity (CBD), climate change (United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change), and land degradation (United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification).

### **Expected outputs:**

- Essential role of biodiversity in resilient and sustainable agrifood systems highlighted, along with its contribution to food security, climate action and rural livelihoods in the region.
- Countries informed on the benefits of integrating agrifood systems into their NBSAPs, demonstrated through FAO's preliminary analysis of NBSAPs.
- Conceptual road map for FAO engagement and technical support in preparation for the Armenian presidency of the Seventeenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the CBD (COP 17) in 2026 presented, as well as the wider support FAO can provide to Members in Europe and Central Asia under the Agri-NBSAPs Support Initiative.
- Groundwork prepared for the third FAO Regional Dialogue on Biodiversity.

### **Target audience**

Representatives from governments, civil society, non-governmental organizations, international organizations, FAO and other United Nations agencies.

## Agenda

<b>Time</b>	<b>Item</b>	<b>Responsible</b>
5 min.	Welcome address	Raimund Jehle, Regional Programme Leader, FAO Regional Office for Europe and Central Asia
10 min.	<b>Biodiversity and agrifood systems: Policy synergies and integration of agrifood systems into NBSAPs in Europe and Central Asia</b>	Frédéric Castell, Senior Natural Resources Officer, Biodiversity mainstreaming unit, Office of Climate, Biodiversity and Environment, FAO
30 min.	Panel discussion: <b>Aligning agrifood systems and biodiversity benefits through NBSAPs</b>	Representatives of the Directorate-General for International Partnerships European Commission and the Ministries of Agriculture from the region
10 min.	<b>Road ahead to COP 17 in Armenia</b>	Representative of the Armenian Presidency of the 2026 UN Biodiversity Conference
5 min.	Closing remarks	Raimund Jehle, Regional Programme Leader, FAO Regional Office for Europe and Central Asia