



Background

In 2021, the FAO Director-General and the leadership at FAO headquarters in Rome tasked all FAO Regional Offices to lead the way in the design and development of five regional technical platforms to accelerate innovation through the sharing of information and experiences. The FAO Regional Office for Europe and Central Asia, in line with its accumulated experiences and comparative advantage in several technical areas relevant to the greening of agrifood systems, was assigned to lead the Regional Technical Platform on Green Agriculture.

Launched in May 2022 at Thirty-third Session of the FAO Regional Conference for Europe, the Regional Technical Platform on Green Agriculture has made significant progress in promoting green agriculture and fostering knowledge exchange, inspired by exemplary models and experiences in the region and beyond on different technical areas. Its innovative nature lies in its holistic, multidisciplinary and food systems approach methodology. It addresses both technical and socioeconomic aspects, engaging global audiences using digital technologies and tools while establishing interregional networks of a broad range of stakeholders. To advance interregional learning, the FAO Regional Office for Europe and Central Asia has been provided with special resources to support the sharing of knowledge on green agriculture and inspire other regions to create an enabling environment for sustainable agrifood systems.

Furthermore, the inaugural Regional Science and Innovation Week for Europe and Central Asia, convened in 2023 under the auspices of the FAO Science and Innovation Forum, was designed to serve as a platform for governments, research institutions, civil society organizations and the private sector to discuss and exchange experiences concerning needs, gaps and opportunities related to the integration of science, research and innovation, alongside policy interface mechanisms, to accelerate the transition towards more sustainable, inclusive and resilient agrifood systems within the region. The event brought together more than 400 participants from more than 20 countries to explore ways to advance agrifood systems.

Building upon this commitment to sustainable agrifood systems, the Pact for the Future, the outcome of the United Nations Summit of the Future, envisions a more sustainable, equitable and resilient world. Central to this vision is the transformation of agrifood systems. To address the pressing challenges of agrifood systems, the pact emphasizes the adoption of innovative solutions and sustainable practices, aligning closely with FAO's strategic documents on science and innovation, climate change, and biodiversity mainstreaming. Specifically, the pact emphasizes the role of science and technology in addressing global challenges (Action 28) and stresses the importance of youth participation in shaping a sustainable future (Action 36).

Based on the green agriculture work of the FAO Regional Office for Europe and Central Asia and aligned with the Pact for the Future, the Global Forum on Green Agriculture and Second Regional Science and Innovation Week aim to accelerate the transition towards more sustainable agrifood systems and contribute to the achievement of several Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), notably SDG 2 (Zero Hunger), SDG 13 (Climate Action), SDG 14 (Life Below Water), SDG 15 (Life on Land), and SDG 17 (Partnerships for the Goals), as well as to relevant FAO Priority Programme Areas: Better Production 1, 4 and 5; Better Nutrition 3 and 4; Better Environment 1, 2 and 3; and Better Life 1, 2 and 4.¹

Embracing the pact's Declaration on Future Generations, which champions a people-centered approach and acknowledges the interconnectedness of past, present and future, the event also aims to contribute to SDG 5 (Gender Equality) and SDG 10 (Reduced Inequalities).

Main objective

The main objective is to encourage all FAO regions in greening their agrifood systems by providing a platform for the interregional sharing of knowledge and the dissemination of best practices from successful green agriculture policies and strategies. It will highlight emerging technologies and innovative and green practical solutions, emphasizing efficiency and inclusivity. Capitalizing on 80 years of FAO's service to countries, the event also will engage all generations to jointly explore the potential futures of agrifood systems in the regions and to identify sustainable solutions.

Expected outputs

- Evidence-based recommendations provided to policymakers to support the green transition of agrifood systems.
- Key trends and advancements and successful green innovation case studies showcased and shared.
- Discussions facilitated on the perspectives and priorities of various generations regarding the future of agrifood systems.

Target audience

- National government representatives from Africa, Asia, the Near East, Latin America, the Caribbean, Europe and the Pacific.
- Farmers, small-scale producers, Indigenous Peoples, civil society and the private sector.
- Representatives of research institutes, members of academia, and scientists, including university students and young researchers.
- United Nations agencies and development finance institutions.

Partners

- Joint FAO/IAEA Centre of Nuclear Techniques in Food and Agriculture
- Thematic Group on Green Architecture (European Union)
- Private sector
- Academia (Lighthouse Farm Academy)
- Non-governmental organizations
- Bioeconomy partnership

¹ Better Production 1, 4 and 5: Innovation for sustainable agriculture production, Small-scale producers' equitable access to resources, Digital agriculture. Better Nutrition 3 and 4: Safe food for everyone, Reducing food loss and waste. Better Environment 1, 2 and 3: Climate change mitigating and adapted agrifood systems, Bioeconomy for sustainable food and agriculture, Biodiversity and ecosystem services for food and agriculture. Better Life 1, 2 and 4: Gender equality and rural women's empowerment, Inclusive rural transformation, Resilient agrifood systems.



- United Nations agencies

Structure

Day 1. High-level dialogue: “A Global Perspective on Green Agricultural Policies”

This high-level dialogue will gather global stakeholders to explore green agriculture policies and strategies for sustainable and climate-resilient agrifood systems. Discussions will focus on translating global commitments into actionable policies; fostering innovation and investment; empowering women, youth and smallholders; and evaluating policy impact. The day will include two plenary sessions and three interactive panel discussions and will conclude with a round-table session to synthesize insights and outline future directions, aiming to foster collaboration and drive positive change in global sustainable agriculture.

Day 2. Practical workshop: “Innovating a Green Future”

This workshop will explore cutting-edge approaches to transforming agrifood systems for a greener future. The programme will consist of two parallel streams of sessions, each featuring expert panel discussions. Next-generation advocates will participate in these discussions, challenging established norms and contributing future-oriented visions. The workshop will then explore futuring methodologies, culminating in a group exercise designed to develop future scenarios for agrifood systems in the ECA region.

Day 3. Action Learning Expedition

To help them synthesize information from the event, participants will take a study trip on the third day to observe a successful case study related to green agriculture, science and innovation at a Lighthouse Farm location in either Austria or Serbia.

Green Science and Innovation marketplace (Days 1 to 3)

The marketplace will seek to enhance participant awareness of scientific discoveries, innovative ideas, pilot projects and market-driven solutions within agrifood value chains. The exhibition area will encompass in-person exhibitor booths and a dedicated poster exhibition. A call for expressions of interest will be issued to select participating exhibitors.

Green Science and Innovation days at FAO Country Offices (during the month of the event)

A series of engaging events will take place at FAO Country Offices in Europe and Central Asia in September, during the month of the event. Focusing on greening the future of agrifood systems, these gatherings will bring together thought leaders, policymakers, youth and schoolchildren and experts from agriculture and science to highlight the latest scientific breakthroughs, innovative solutions and forward-thinking approaches that are helping transform the agrifood landscape.



365 days of action

Draft Agenda

Day 1

High-level dialogue “A Global Perspective on Green Agricultural Policies”

Venue TBD

Time	Item	Speaker
	Moderator:	Raimund Jehle , Regional Programme Leader for Europe and Central Asia, FAO REU
10:00-10:35	Welcoming remarks	TBC, Qu Dongyu , FAO Director General Viorel Gutu , FAO Assistant Director-General and Regional Representative for Europe and Central Asia TBC, Ministry of Agriculture, Hungary TBC, Ministry for Innovation and Technology, Hungary
	Video and introduction to the Global Forum and the 2nd S&I week	Tania Santivanez , Agricultural officer and Regional Focal point for Science and Innovation, Responsible for Green Agriculture FAO REU
	Keynote address	TBD, International Expert on Green Agriculture, Green architecture group
Session 1: Green agricultural Policies and Strategies for greening agrifood systems around the World		
10:35-11:25	Regional strategies shaping green agricultural policies: Roundtable 1	RNE team RLC team
11:25-11:40	Coffee break with marketplace exploration	
11:40-13:00	Regional strategies shaping green agricultural policies: Roundtable 2	RAP team REU team RAF team
13:00-14:30	Lunch with marketplace exploration	
Session 2: Fostering Sustainable and Impactful Agrifood Systems		
14:30-15:20	Pannel discussion 1: Bridging science, green technology and inclusive agrifood policies	TBD – China TBD – EC Directorate-General for Research and Innovation TBD - Brazil Moderator: Dr. Shaikh Tanveer Hossain , Director, Policy and Strategy, IFOAM-Organics Asia
15:20-16:10	Pannel discussion 2: Bridging green finance and agrifood policies	TBD – Country case, Africa TBD – Country case, Middle East TBD – Country case, Uzbekistan Moderator: Pedro Arias , Economist / Akos Szebeni, FAO Regional Office for Europe and Central Asia
16:10-16:40	Coffee break with marketplace exploration	
16:40-17:30	Pannel discussion 3: Methodologies and strategies for assessing the effectiveness and impact of existing agricultural policies	TBD – Germany TBD – María Florencia Millán , Agriculture, Transport and Competitiveness Consultant, World Bank TBD - RNE Moderator: Dmitry Zvyagintsev , Policy Officer, FAO Regional Office for Europe and Central Asia



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18:30	Dinner	
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Day 2

Practical workshop “Innovating a Green Future”

Venue TBD

Time	Item	Speaker
	Moderator:	Tania Santivanez , Agricultural Officer and Regional Focal Point for Science and Innovation, Responsible for Green Agriculture, FAO Regional Office for Europe and Central Asia
10.00–10.05	Summation of the first day	TBC, FAO Regional Office for Near East and North Africa
10.05–10.20	Keynote speech: Innovating a green future for agrifood systems	TBC, Vincent Martin , Director, Office of Innovation, FAO
10.20–11.10	Panel discussion 1: Risks and advantages of emerging technologies for greening agrifood systems	Introduction Panel: - TBC, Sandro Scandolo , Deputy Secretary General of the International Union of Pure and Applied Physics. Topic: Quantum computing - TBC, Laura Roman , Policy Officer, Directorate-General for Research and Innovation, European Commission. Topic: Towards the European strategy for artificial intelligence in science - TBC, Joint FAO/IAEA Centre of Nuclear Techniques in Food and Agriculture. Topic: A balance of risks and gains of nuclear applications for greener agrifood systems - TBD, Youth advocate Moderator: TBC, FAO Regional Office for Europe and Central Asia Digital Agriculture Team
11.10–11.20	Coffee break with marketplace exploration	
11.20–12.10	Panel discussion 2: People-centered and frugal innovation for greening agrifood systems	Introduction Panel: - TBC, Sophie Howe , Intergenerational Fairness Adviser, first Future Generations Commissioner for Wales. Topic: How to think and act for future generations - TBC, Anamika Dey , Society for Research and Initiatives for Sustainable Technologies and Institutions, India. Topic: Addressing agrifood challenges with frugal creativity - TBC, Cortney Price , Innovation Officer (Behavioural Science), FAO. Topic: Behaviour change, pro-innovation culture and moving through resistance - TBD, Youth advocate Moderator: TBC, FAO Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific
12.10–13.00	Panel discussion 3: Governance and financial innovation for greening agrifood systems	Introduction Panel:



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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - TBC, Cristian Matti, Policy Analyst at the European Commission Joint Research Centre. Topic: Critical role of “intermediation” in driving systemic change in agrifood sectors - TBC, Tania Rodriguez Riestra, Co-founder and CEO of CO₂. Topic: Systemic investing: aligning capital and collaborative action with transformative change (Nature to Nurture initiative) - TBD, Youth Advocate <p>Moderator: TBC, FAO Regional Office for Europe and Central Asia</p>
13.00–14.00	Lunch with marketplace exploration	
	Collaborative exercise: Futuring agrifood systems in Europe and Central Asia: anticipating change and science and innovation solutions	
14.00–14.30	Market place panel discussion	
14.30–14.50	Deep dive on futuring tools	<p>Keynotes:</p> <p>Horizon Scanning: European Union Policy Lab study. TBC, Jacqueline Whyte, Policy Analyst, European Commission Joint Research Centre</p> <p>Global FAO horizon scanning and strategic foresight analysis on emerging technologies and innovations for agrifood systems transformation. TBC, Nevena Alexandrova, Agricultural Extension Officer, FAO Office of Innovation</p>
14.50–16.50	Interactive exercise on scenarios development and plenary	Facilitator: TBD, United Nations Futures Lab
16.50–17.20	Round of closing addresses from the regions	Regional representatives
17.20–17.30	Closing remarks	TBC, Viorel Gutu , FAO Assistant Director-General and Regional Representative for Europe and Central Asia

