



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations



Koronivia Joint Work on Agriculture Virtual Regional Workshop for the Arab Region

Monday, 27 July 2020
11.00 - 14.00 Cairo time

INFORMATION NOTE

The League of Arab States and the Food and Agriculture Organization are jointly organizing the Virtual Regional Workshop for the Arab Region in partnership with the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA). The Workshop will discuss the Koronivia Joint Work on Agriculture and provide a platform for sharing on regional perspectives and issues related to agriculture and climate change negotiations. The regional meeting will be held on 27 July 2020 virtually, on an online meeting platform, from 11:00 to 14:00 Cairo time.

Background

The countries of the Arab region face increasingly serious challenges related to limited and degraded natural resources. The agricultural sectors face particular challenges under climate change, with projected negative impacts on its livelihoods, scarce freshwater resources, food security and nutrition. A FAO analysis of the Nationally-Determined Contributions (NDCs) submitted by the countries of the region shows that agriculture and adaptation are key priorities; 75 percent of submissions refer to crops and livestock, 56 percent to forestry, and 44 percent to fisheries and aquaculture. Ninety-three percent of regional NDCs include adaptation to climate change. The 2019 Special Report on Climate Change and Land by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), reinforced the critical link between food security and climate change, calling for strengthened and timely action from all countries, and stressing the urgency of combating desertification and land degradation for achieving food and nutrition security, sustainable food systems, and the protecting the water-food-energy nexus.

The Koronivia Joint Work on Agriculture (KJWA) presents a key entry point and a timely opportunity for the inclusion of agricultural concerns in the UNFCCC. The KJWA decision ([Decision 4/CP.23](#)) was reached in at COP23 in 2017, and since 2018, in-session workshops have been held at the UNFCCC Conference of Parties and meetings of the Subsidiary Bodies on the six topics of the [KJWA roadmap](#). More recently, at the 25th Conference of Parties (COP) held in Madrid, Spain in December 2019, the following activities were conducted: 1) an in-session workshop on *improved nutrient use and manure management towards sustainable*

and resilient agricultural systems, and 2) the consideration of workshop reports on (i) methods and approaches for assessing adaptation, adaptation co-benefits and resilience, and (ii) improved soil carbon, soil health and soil fertility under grassland and cropland as well as integrated systems, including water management. In 2020, three workshops and three more submissions were to be undertaken by Parties to the UNFCCC under the KJWA roadmap, as well as a report to the COP on the progress and outcomes of the KJWA. COP26 has been since postponed to 1-12 November 2021 due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The workshop builds on existing regional initiatives supporting Arab States in climate negotiations and implementation of climate actions. Supported by ESCWA and partners, the Arab Centre for Climate Change Policies (ACCCP), established in June 2018 provides technical assistance and capacity development services to Arab States, organizing to date thirteen regional Training Workshops on Capacity Development for Climate Change Negotiations for the Arab Countries. FAO is working towards assisting countries on implementing NDC priorities with respect to agriculture and water, including a regional workshop organized in November 2019. These past activities have highlighted the need for a platform for countries to share knowledge and experiences on global climate change issues, especially on implementing and financing adaptation of the agriculture sectors and co-benefits for mitigation, and meeting Sustainable Development Goals. This workshop will add to these initiatives aiming to inform on the latest climate change assessments and global activities, and to bridge the science-policy interface.

Workshop objectives and topics of discussion

The **KJWA Virtual Regional Workshop** for the Arab Region aims to bring negotiators and other core representatives to:

- Understand the history/background and rationale of agriculture in the Convention and the KJWA roadmap;
- Debrief on the outcomes of the KJWA workshops in relation to progress at the COP;
- Take stock of different regional perspectives on the KJWA;
- Discuss issues related to agriculture in the upcoming COP26 and KJWA sessions of importance to the Arab region;
- Understand the EU Green Deal (especially the Farm-to-Fork Strategy) and its implications on regional trade and agriculture;
- Facilitate increased coordination between countries and within ministries of countries towards building a common understanding of regional positions and priorities.

Participants

Participants will be limited to invited and nominated representatives from the Arab Region, including agriculture representatives to the UNFCCC negotiations from LAS countries (including LAS sub-group on agriculture); agriculture technical specialists, other government representatives as indicated by Ministries, and resource persons and experts.

Workshop organization and correspondence

The regional meeting will be held virtually on the Zoom application. Approved and registered participants will be provided with a link and password to participate in the workshop. The meeting and related materials will be presented in Arabic and English. Interpretation in Arabic, French and English will be provided.

All session-related correspondence should be sent to the following League of Arab States, FAO and ESCWA officials:

Mr. Ashraf Nour Shalaby
Regional Coordinator for
Climate Change and
Meteorology
Department of Environment
and Meteorology
Economic Sector
League of Arab States
Cairo, Egypt
Tel: +202 25750511
Fax: +202 25743023
Email: ashraf.shalaby@las.int
ashrafnour03@hotmail.com

Ms. Theresa Wong
Natural Resources Officer
(Climate Change)
FAO Regional Office for the
Near East and North Africa
Cairo, Egypt
E-mail: theresa.wong@fao.org

Ms. Reem Nejdawi
Project Coordinator and
Chief
Food and Environment
Policies Section
ESCWA
Beirut, Lebanon
Tel: + 961 1 978 558
Fax: + 961 1 981 510/
511
Email: nejdawi@un.org

Workshop schedule

Duration	Topic	Speaker
5 min	Welcome to meeting	Chair: Mr. Jean-Marc Faurès, Regional Programme Leader, FAO Regional Office for Near East and North Africa
15	Opening Remarks	Dr. Mahmoud Fath-Allah, Director, Department of Environmental, Meteorological Affairs, Economic Sector, the League of Arab States Mr. Abdessalam Ould Ahmed, Assistant Director General for FAO Regional Office for Near East and North Africa Ms. Roula Majdalani, Cluster Leader, Climate Change and Natural Resources Sustainability, ESCWA Mr. Ayman Shasly, Chair, Arab Negotiation Group on Climate Change
PART 1: GLOBAL PERSPECTIVES ON AGRICULTURE AND CLIMATE CHANGE		
25	Agriculture in the Convention, and the Koronivia Joint Work on Agriculture	Ambassador Ayman Amin, Lead Coordinator for G77+China on Agriculture Dr. Martial Bernoux, Senior Natural Resources Officer, Climate and Environment Division, FAO

10	Q&A	All participants
15	Special topic: EU Green Deal, Farm-to-Fork and implications of regional trade in agriculture	Mr. Herwig Ranner, Policy Officer on Climate Change, Environment, Climate Change, Forestry and Bio-economy Unit, Directorate-General for Agriculture and Rural Development, European Commission.
10	Q&A	All participants
PART 2: REGIONAL PERSPECTIVES ON AGRICULTURE AND CLIMATE CHANGE NEGOTIATIONS		
10	Climate impact in the Arab region	Mr. Tarek Sadek, ESCWA Ms. Reem Nejdawi, ESCWA
5	The IPCC Special Report on Climate Change and Land	Mr. Albara Tawfiq, Saudi Arabia
20	Sharing from regional negotiating blocs	Mr. Mohamed Osama for the Arab Group Ambassador Ayman Amin for G77+China Ms. Dada Bacudo for ASEAN Group Mr. Rafik Aini for Africa Group
10	Q&A	All participants
15	Panel Discussion: National perspectives from the Arab region	Panelists: Prof. Khalid Tamsamani, Morocco Dr. Donia Hassan, Sudan Dr. Sahar Zayan, Egypt
20	Discussion and Q&A	All participants
10	Reflections and closing remarks	Ambassador Ayman Amin, Egypt and G77+China Dr. Martial Bernoux, FAO Ms. Reem Nejdawi, ESCWA Mr. Ayman Shasly, League of Arab States
	Close	Chair