



Shared Prosperity Dignified Life



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Organization of the  
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**Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA)**

## **REPORT**

### **YOUTH DIALOGUE ON FOOD SYSTEMS TOWARDS THE ARAB REGIONAL FOOD SYSTEMS DIALOGUE”**

**ONLINE VIRTUAL MEETING, 9 MARCH 2021**

#### **Summary**

In preparation for the Arab Regional Food Systems Dialogue to be held as a special event on 29 March 2021 during the Arab Forum on Sustainable Development (AFSD) 2021, the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) in collaboration with the Regional Office for the Near East (RNE) of the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) organized, on March 9, 2021, the Youth Dialogue on Food Systems virtually via ZOOM. The meeting brought together about 44 participants representing a wide range of regional and national youth organizations and United Nations agencies.

The Dialogue’s objective was to provide an integrative and engaging platform to enable youth to share their views, perspectives, experiences, and propose solutions to ensure that the region’s food systems is healthy, inclusive and sustainable, in addition to enhancing their resilience within the COVID-19 context. The Youth Dialogue output will be used as one input to the regional views, perspectives, and experiences. It will be also presented as input to the food Systems Summit (FSS) in September 2021.

The Youth Dialogue was divided into two parts. Part I presented the background information about the food system summit and context for the Arab region, while Part II used an interactive discussion platform including MURAL and open discussions to allow participants to identify game changing solutions.

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## **INTRODUCTION**

1. The United Nations Secretary-General called for the Food Systems Summit (FSS) to be convened in September 2021 with a broad vision to launch actions, solutions and strategies and identify pathways to accelerate progress towards more sustainable, inclusive and healthy food systems that are resilient to shocks like the COVID-19. Food systems, the way the world produces and consumes food, need a revolutionary transformation to deliver on the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).
2. In preparation for the 2021 FSS, the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) in cooperation with regional offices of the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), World Food Programme (WFP), World Health organization (WHO), International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) and the Arab Organization for Agricultural Development (AOAD) are organizing the Virtual Arab Regional Food Systems' Dialogue that is taking place on 29 March 2021. As a special event during the Arab Forum on Sustainable Development (AFSD) 2021, the Arab Regional dialogue aims to consolidate regional views, perspectives, and experiences of diverse stakeholders from the countries. A Regional Outcome document to reflect those discussions will be presented to FSS.
3. In view of this event and as a preparation for the Arab Regional Food Systems Dialogue, ESCWA in cooperation with FAO organized the Youth Dialogue on Food Systems. Owing to COVID-19 restrictions, the dialogue was organized as a 90-minute online meeting using the Zoom platform on Tuesday, 9 March, from 11.00 am-12:30 pm Beirut time. Representatives from regional and national youth organizations, as well as resource persons from FAO and ESCWA were brought together to highlight the summit objectives, identify game changing actions based on experiences and needs of the stakeholders, and encourage initiation of national dialogues.
4. The dialogue modality allowed for active participation of stakeholders using a combination of tools including an interactive online platform "MURAL" where participants could write their game changing actions directly and time was allocated for oral discussions in relation to the actions.

## **CONCLUSIONS AND WAY FORWARD**

5. The output of the Arab Youth Dialogue to be used as input to the Arab Regional Dialogue on Food Systems to be held on March 29, 2021.
6. As more than half the Arab Population is under 25, they have the right to be in control of their food system, and work towards having access to healthy and sustainable diets
7. Four issues of relevance to the region were identified along these five action tracks of the Food systems summit, namely: transitioning to healthy foods, optimized sustainable production advancing equitable livelihoods, and responding to risks and hazards
8. The game changing actions identified across each of the four issues and identified key intervention areas that were discussed, and voted upon as priority based on experiences are as follows: (other actions/solutions are available in the discussion section and all the proposals of participants are available in Annex 1)

- (a) For Transitioning to Healthy Food,
  - Make laws that makes it illegal to waste food
  - Reduce the consumption of junk food especially for children
  - Raising awareness on the effect of malnutrition (diabetes, obesity, health related cost, etc)
- (b) For Advancing Equitable Livelihoods
  - Stop child forced labour
  - Implement youth economic empowerment programs to reduce high unemployment rate among youth in the region
  - Give equal right to women and men in accessing resources
- (c) For Optimizing Sustainable Production
  - Capacity building for CSOs on using use solar power
  - Use crops that are climate resilient and require less amount of water
- (d) For Responding to Risks
  - Reduce import dependency by diversifying trade partners
  - Build capacities of youth and civil society to adapt to climate change

## SUMMARY OF DISCUSSIONS

### A. OPENING SESSION

9. **Ms. Reem Nejdawi**, Chief, Food and Environment Policies Section, Climate Change and Natural Resources Sustainability, ESCWA, thanked all participants for their participation and highlighted the importance of cooperation between ESCWA and FAO in enhancing the capacities and resilience of Arab countries to achieve sustainable food security. She underlined the challenges facing the Arab region owing to existing food systems such as nutritional deficiencies, obesity and lack of nutrients which impact the health and livelihoods. She also acknowledged the importance of providing the youth with a voice as they are the future leaders representing more than 32% of the Arab region population. She also indicated that this dialogue comes as part of a series of dialogues addressing the priorities to transform food systems and referenced the Arab Regional Dialogue to be held during the Arab Forum for Sustainable Development on March 29, 2021.
10. **Mr. Jean-Marc Faures**, Regional Program Leader for FAO Regional Office for Near East and North Africa, thanked all participants in advance for their contributions and accredited the support and collaboration between FAO and ESCWA on this fundamental theme for achieving the SDGS by transforming food systems. Mr. Faures reiterated that this dialogue is an opportunity to listen to the youth in the region as the systems summit is a people's summit.
11. **Ms. Julie Abouarab**, Associate Coordination Officer at ESCWA, reviewed with participants the set objective of the dialogue and methodology to be followed to consolidate the ideas of the participants in order to inform the summit of proposal for actions to improve the Arab region food systems. She indicated the four priority issues to the Arab Region that will be discussed in the dialogue and that go along with the five action tracks of the summit.

12. **Ms. Julie Abouarab** also informed participants of the use of an application “Mural” to review key and relevant facts, collect proposals for actions needed, and identify actors responsible for implementing these actions. Ms. Abouarab stressed on the need to be creative in proposing game changing actions that should be scalable, actionable, and sustainable while being mindful of gender and geographic equity.

**B. PART I: BRIEF ON THE 2021 FOOD SYSTEMS SUMMIT AND ITS FIVE ACTION TRACKS**

13. **Mr. Jean Marc Faurès**, presented the United Nations Food Systems Summit, convened by the UN Secretary General indicating that transforming the ways we consume and produce food has tremendous impact on achieving SDG goals. He described the summit as a solutions’ summit and stressed on the fact that it is a dialogue for all people to participate as everyone has a role in impacting the way food is consumed and produced. He then introduced the three types of dialogues being convened including the member state summit dialogues, global summit dialogues, and independent summit dialogues.

14. **Mr. Jean Marc Faurès** also briefed the participants on the selected five action tracks that cover all dimensions of food systems, ensuring access to safe and nutritious food for all; shifting to sustainable consumption pattern, boosting nature-positive production at sufficient scale, advancing equitable livelihoods and value distribution, and building resilience to vulnerabilities, shocks and stresses. He reiterated on the importance of coming up with actionable plans as this dialogue will feed into the Arab regional Dialogue on Food systems. Mr. Faurès ended by providing an overview of the main drivers affecting food security within the context of the Arab region, such as conflicts, water scarcity, and climate change.

*Figure 1: The five action tracks identified by summit*



**C. PART II: BUILDING SOLUTIONS TOGETHER**

15. **Ms. Maya Atie**, ESCWA consultant, provided a quick tutorial on how to access the Mural application link that was used and demonstrated to participants how to navigate through it (add/remove sticky notes, vote, zoom in/out). She also facilitated the discussion for building solutions together in the four identified sections, each related to one of the four identified issues.

16. Participants then started navigating through the application and started proposing game changing actions based on their experiences and perceived priorities of the region. After collectively reviewing the proposals, they voted to identify the most relevant and impactful action from the proposed list and identified the stakeholders concerned with implementing proposed and immediate beneficiaries.

17. On the first priority issues regarding the **Transitioning to Healthy Foods**, key challenges and facts in the region were presented. In the Arab region 116 million people are food insecure, 43 million undernourished, 115 million obese. There exist high levels of child stunting (22%), wasting (8.2%) & women anaemia (35.5%). Subsidies and policies favour nutrient-poor consumption and levels of food loss and waste reach 210 kg/capita/year. The key intervention areas identified included addressing obesity and malnutrition and reducing food loss and waste.
18. **Ms. Maya Atie** then facilitated the discussion and identified with participants game changing actions and enabled them to vote on the three actions they consider most relevant to region. The following actions were proposed based intervention area: (results as provided by participants are available in Annex 1)
- Key intervention area 1: address obesity and malnutrition
    1. Raise awareness on the effects of malnutrition and its cost on health and importance of consuming healthy food
    2. Provide system-wide solutions to address the issues of malnutrition and obesity
    3. Raising awareness on the effect of malnutrition (diabetes, obesity, health related cost, etc) (3<sup>rd</sup> most voted on)
    4. Reduce the consumption of junk food especially for children (2<sup>nd</sup> most voted on)
  - Key intervention area 2: reduce food loss and waste
    1. Youth to initiate wasted food collection and to distribute it to populations in need
    2. Better understanding of the food chain so that people can come closer to the source of their food and appreciate its value and reduce its waste
    3. Subsidize initiatives to reuse wasted food to make compost, energy and animal feed.
    4. Raise awareness of young people in urban cities on importance of reducing waste
    5. Make laws that makes it illegal to waste food in retail shops (most voted on)
    6. Protect indigenous rights and local communities
19. For the most voted on action, the main actors and stakeholders identified were governments; as they need to prepare the laws, adopt them, and ensure their application nationwide. The identified actors for the second most voted action, youth and farmers were identified as the main actors while the academia and private sector are identified as the involved in the application of such solutions.
20. On the Second priority issue related to **Advancing Equitable Livelihoods**, Ms. Julie Abouarab indicated that 29 per cent of the population in the Arab region, are poor of which 70 per cent of poor live in rural areas. Of the total employment share, 16 per cent work in agriculture. Women and youth unemployment rates are 20 and 26.5 per cent respectively. In general, the region has limited access to infrastructure and services in rural areas where agriculture contributes to 7 per cent of the regional GDP. The suggested key intervention areas for this issue include promoting decent work for all, reducing inequitable access to resources.
21. Participants with Ms. Maya Atie facilitating the discussion identified game changing actions and voted on the three actions they consider most relevant to region. The following actions were proposed based on type of action: (results as provided by participants are available in Annex 1)

- Key intervention area 1: promote decent work for all
    1. Give equal right to women and men in accessing resources
    2. Implement youth economic empowerment programs to reduce high unemployment rate among youth in the region (2<sup>nd</sup> most voted on)
    3. Make union workers possible for all to promote workers' rights
    4. Contribute to limit wars and conflict
    5. Encourage social innovation to be formulated and recognized
    6. Promote entrepreneurship among youth
    7. Empower women and get them involved
    8. Stop child forced labour (most voted on)
    9. Improve decent education for all
    10. Register all rural dwellers to ensure they can be reached by social protection
    11. Making apps and programs and increase monitoring
    12. Implement zero-interest leasing financing for agrarian households
  - Key intervention area 2: Reduce inequitable access to resources
    1. Make available different sets of food pricing to enable access to cheap food for the most deprived
    2. Shorten food chains and promote healthy food
    3. Make access to basic food a basic right for all.
    4. Review land and water tenure modalities to ensure equitable access to resources and allow land access to nomad Bedouins
    5. Give equal right to women and men in accessing resources (3<sup>rd</sup> most voted on)
    6. Promote sustainable initiatives targeting specific groups needs
    7. Increase the role of foodbanks
    8. Stop economic sanctions
    9. Implement national security over resources
    10. Make data open and strengthening infrastructure
    11. Have an allotment system for low income households in peri-urban environments
22. For the most voted on action, governments were identified as the responsible entity in ensuring the implementation of most proposed actions. Indeed, government should reinforce laws to halt and reduce forced child labour and provide economic incentives to make this sector an attractive sector for public and private investment that will result in increased employment to the benefit of society at large.
23. In the third section of the interactive dialogue, **Ms. Julie Abouarab** presented the related key challenges and facts related to **Optimized Sustainable Production**. The Arab region is water scarce where renewable water resources per person is 600 m<sup>3</sup>/year, that is 10 per cent of the world average. Total cropland is 5 per cent of arable land, that is 0.15 ha of arable land/person (20 per cent of world average), and 90 per cent of region is arid or hyper arid land. Soil productivity is reduced by 30-35 per cent of potential productivity due to overexploitation and two thirds of farmers practice relatively low yield, rainfed and pastoral agriculture. The suggested key intervention areas include integrated management of scarce resources and increasing productivity with technology and investments.

24. **Ms. Maya Atie** along with participants identified and prioritized related game changing actions. Stakeholders identified the following actions based on action type (results as provided by participants are available in Annex 1)

- Key intervention area 1: integrated management of scarce resources

1. Capacity building for CSOs and to use solar system (**most voted on**)
2. Improve use of permaculture and agroforestry
3. Improve use of green technologies that are affordable
4. Use water saving technology to help farmers
5. Enhance biodiversity
6. Use of nonconventional water resources

- Key intervention area 2: increase productivity with technology and investments

1. Improve use of efficient irrigation systems such as drip irrigation and smart agriculture such as vertical farming
2. Promote research, use of technology and renewable energy
3. Implement early warning systems
4. Use climate resilient crops that require less amount of water (**2<sup>nd</sup> most voted on**)
5. Save local seeds and improve agro-diversity

25. For the most voted on action, governments were identified as responsible for setting up these solutions, that include providing incentives for community to invest in renewable energy systems including the reliance on solar power and for research centres to develop and promote use of drought resistant crops. Biggest beneficiaries of such solutions would be farmers that would see their productivity increasing and their production bill reduced should such solutions be applied, in addition to motivating youth to learn and apply related new technologies.

26. When reviewing the key facts for the fourth priority issue related to responding to risks and hazards, Ms. Julie Abouarab indicated that while the Arab region houses 5 per cent of the world population it imports more than one third of all global sheep meat and 63 per cent of its consumed wheat. Accordingly, there are increased risks associated with unpredictability of food supply levels and potential price volatility in times of crisis. Further, climate change is impacting the region with forecasted rise in sea levels and expected coastal areas flooding that may impact about 20 million people. Conflicts, wars, and occupation have also forced millions to become refugees or internally displaced. As a result of all those challenges, the proposed key intervention areas revolved around reducing vulnerabilities to import dependencies and building resilience to risks and hazards.

27. Participants identified game changing actions related to the issue of responding to risks with **Ms. Maya Atie** and prioritized actions most relevant to region. The following actions were identified and classified according to the action type: (results as provided by participants are available in Annex 1)

- Key intervention area 1: Reduce vulnerabilities to import dependencies

1. Empower farmers and facilitate access to the funding
2. Promote work opportunities for youth and youth contribution to start-up
3. Shift to plant-based protein consumption and reduce meat consumption
4. Go back to local food traditions instead of globalized ones. The local foods are the ones most adapted to local climatic conditions



5. Increase local food security at the very local/city level
  6. Protect agricultural land
  7. Valuation of agricultural products
  8. Reduce import dependency by diversifying trade partners (2<sup>nd</sup> most voted on)
  9. Provide protection against economic sanctions
  10. Increase trade on food products between Arab nations
- Key intervention area 2: Build resilience to risks and hazards
1. Follow scientists' recommendations on climate change issues and other hazards
  2. Build capacities of youth and civil society to adapt to climate change (most voted on)
  3. Promote use of animal feed that provides adequate fats and more food for people
  4. Raise awareness on green projects
  5. Subsidize environmentally friendly agriculture practices: permaculture
  6. Train people to deal with hazards
  7. Protect land against climate change and implement project to adapt to risk of climate change such as floods and droughts
  8. Increase resilience capacities of the weakest actors, such as farmers' education
28. For the most voted on action, governments were identified as responsible for its implementation. Indeed, governments should lead the country on the most sustainable way to adapt to climate change by providing the necessary strategies and cross sectoral policies. Furthermore, most strategic crops are imported by governments for local consumption and they should ensure that they have a large variety of suppliers to provide them with needed commodity in times of uncertainty, crisis and even pandemic as witnessed lately during the COvid-19 times.
29. In the open discussion that followed **Mr. Tareq Hassan**, from the Arab Youth Sustainable Development Network (AYSDN), Yemen, requested to add the non-governmental organizations as an additional stakeholders to be listed for their active role at community level in ensuring proposer functioning of systems and also inquired about the possibility of participating in the AFSD and the Regional Dialogue. **Mr. Naseam Elzenatiy**, AYSDN, drew attention to the need to involve youth in pilot projects being implemented and to encourage their entrepreneurship potential. **Mr. Rayan Kassem**, Regional food system support of the MENA region, invited the participants and other youth to join regional and global meeting held by youth in preparation for the Food Systems summit and to be many in voicing out their concerns and to propose actions.

#### D. CLOSING SESSION

30. **Ms. Dalia Abulfotuh**, Agricultural Officer - Youth Focal Point, FAO, also encouraged youth to participate in the World Food forum that will take place from 16-21 July 2021 and will also continue beyond that. This youth driven global movement aims to initiate movement to transform food systems. Ms. Abulfotuh also shared a two minutes video about the forum<sup>1</sup>. The main message being that providing actionable solutions and commitment to building back better are necessary to building a new normal where people realize that without food there can be not health.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://share.wochit.com/5fc8fce4b639e84c30340a8e>

31. **Ms. Reem Nejdawi**, ESCWA thanked the participants for their active participation and their valuable feedback throughout the dialogue. She indicated that invitation to AFSD is open for everyone and that a nominee will be selected to report on the youth dialogue discussion during the Arab Regional Food Systems Dialogue taking place 29 March 2021. She also announced that ESCWA and AOAD are launching a land degradation video challenge with the support of the UN Office of Information and Communications Technology in celebration for the desertification and drought day 2021 “Restoring Degraded Land in the Arab Region: A Youth Challenge”. She solicited active engagement and dissemination with the respective youth networks. Further Ms. Nejdawi reiterated that ESCWA and FAO are ready to support the region to organize national and independent dialogues to better inform the FSS in September with national and regional perspectives.

## ORGANIZATION

### A. DATE AND VENUE

32. The meeting was held virtually via Zoom on 9 March 2021. The dialogue modality allowed for active participation of stakeholders using a combination of tools including an interactive online platform “MURAL” where participants were invited to write their proposals live while broadcasting and later time was allocated for discussions to go through participants comments and remarks on those actions.
33. The recording of the event is available on with Access Passcode: e4NH51%8





[https://fao.zoom.us/rec/share/nmdaR3iUnnvu8g-esVYBkLBznId-byHUsVcm3wYWHA\\_g\\_4rRvup1zIBfR7dbU-Qb.eYPZ8\\_RIzfw4hkVy](https://fao.zoom.us/rec/share/nmdaR3iUnnvu8g-esVYBkLBznId-byHUsVcm3wYWHA_g_4rRvup1zIBfR7dbU-Qb.eYPZ8_RIzfw4hkVy)

### B. PARTICIPANTS

34. Key stakeholders including representatives from regional and national youth organizations were invited to the dialogue to share their expertise, views, perspectives and to propose solutions on making the region’s food systems healthier, inclusive, sustainable, and resilient.
35. The full list of participants is provided in Annex 3.

# ANNEX 1: RESULTS OF BUILDING SOLUTIONS TOGETHER

## I. Game changing actions to transition towards healthy foods

### Game Changing Actions

Intervention Area 1 Address Obesity & Malnutrition	Intervention Area 2: Reduce Food Waste & Loss
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Raising awareness on the effects of malnutrition (obesity, obesity and its cost on health and financial costs).</li> <li>practising more sports and eat a little bit of carbohydrate</li> <li>reduce the consumption of junk food especially for our children</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Role of youth: collecting wasted food to be given to populations in need</li> <li>Suburban initiatives to ensure wasted food to enter animal, energy and animal feed.</li> <li>Leave to make it legal to waste food for shops</li> <li>protection of indigenous rights and local communities</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>System-wide solutions</li> <li>Less transformed food,</li> <li>raise awareness of the importance of healthy food</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>raising societal awareness</li> <li>lack of responsibilities</li> <li>Raise awareness among young people in cities</li> </ul>

**Other Areas for Action**

trans-boundary conflicts	integrated water management	Band-aid solutions	economic sanctions	economic crises	التدابير التي تتخذ من أجل معالجة الأزمات الاقتصادية	support traditional food cultures
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### Transitioning to Healthy Foods

116 Million food insecure, 43 Million undernourished, 115 Million obese

High levels of child Stunting (22%), Wasting (8.2%) & Women Anemia (35.5%)

**Key Intervention Areas**

Subsidies & policies favor nutrient-poor consumption (cereals, oil & sugar)


FLW: 210 kg/capita/year, ex. 31% of cereals, 56% of fruits & vegetables

Address Obesity & Malnutrition

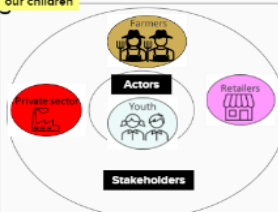
Reduce Food Loss & Waste

**Actors & Stakeholders**





Laws to make it illegal to waste food for shops



reduce the consumption of junk food especially for our children



## II. Game changing actions to advance equitable livelihoods

### Game Changing Actions

Intervention Area 1 Promote Decent Work for All	Intervention Area 2: Reduce Inequitable Access to resources
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>strengthen national institutions responsible for all</li> <li>stakeholder initiatives</li> <li>get more women involved</li> <li>take into consideration gender</li> <li>making work and programs to enter all these activities</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>improve access to rural resources</li> <li>improving the role of households</li> <li>healthy food promotion</li> <li>stop gender inequality</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>contribute to Eradh work and support</li> <li>stop child forced labor</li> <li>increase monitoring the animal wastes</li> <li>empower women</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>shorten food chains</li> <li>limit poverty</li> <li>Data open</li> <li>starting sustainable initiative</li> </ul>

**Other Areas for Action**

### Advancing Equitable Livelihoods

29% of population are poor, 70% of poor live in rural areas

16% work in Agriculture (as a share of total employment)  
20% women unemployment rate & 26.5% for youth

**Key Intervention Areas**

Limited access in rural areas to infrastructure & services (energy, water, finance)


Governments provide limited support to agriculture, 7% agriculture contribution to regional GDP


Promote decent work for all

Reduce inequitable access to resources


**Actors & Stakeholders**

Implement youth economic empowerment programs to reduce high unemployment rate among youth in the region







### III. Game changing actions to optimize sustainable production




Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations



ESRS



Sustainable Development Goals



FOOD SYSTEMS SUMMIT 2021  
DIALOGUES

#### Game Changing Actions

Intervention Area 1: Integrated Management of Resources	Intervention Area 2: Increasing Productivity with Technology & Investment	
Capacity building for CSOs and to community to use solar system	permaculture	green and solar system
Green technologies that are affordable	Agroforestry	using solar technology to help farmers to store agricultural crops
التقنيات الخضراء	Use of non conventional water resources	Use of technology
		تكنولوجيا الزراعة
		vertical farming
		use renewable energy
		Smart agriculture
		using local seeds
		agrobiodiversity
		التقنيات الزراعية

**Other Areas for Action**

Lack of knowledge on sustainable consumption and production methods among young people and CSOs in the region.

reduce food loss by applying circular economy

raise the awareness of renewable energy

#### Optimizing Sustainable Production


Water scarcity, renewable water resources 600 m<sup>3</sup>/person/year (10% of world average)

0.15 ha of arable land/person (20% of world average), 90% is arid or hyper arid land

Soil productivity reduced by 30-35 % of potential productivity (Production and breeding of high-water consuming crops and animals)

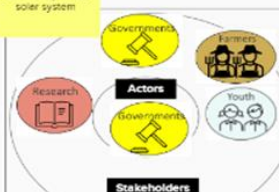
2/3 of farmers practice relatively low yield, rainfed and pastoral agriculture

**Key Intervention Areas**




#### Actors & Stakeholders


Capacity building for CSOs and to community to use solar system




استخدام محاصيل أقل من المياه وملائمة لتغير المناخ




### IV. Game changing actions to respond to risks




Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations



ESRS



Sustainable Development Goals



FOOD SYSTEMS SUMMIT 2021  
DIALOGUES

#### Game Changing Actions

Intervention Area 1: Reducing vulnerabilities to import dependency	Intervention Area 2: Building resilience to Hazards
Reduce import dependency by diversifying trade partners	Increase trade in food products that adds value
Shift to plant-based protein	train people to deal with hazards
Building capacities	value on agricultural products
Focus on local sources of products	protection against economic sanctions
Facilitate access to the funding	

**Other Areas for Action**

#### Responding to Risks


The region houses 5% of the population of the world, but imports more than 1/3 of all global sheep meat & 63% of its consumed wheat

Increased risks due to unpredictable food supply & price volatility since 4/5 region's imported calories from 5 global suppliers

20 million people are projected to be affected by rising sea levels and coastal seas flooding (Climate Change)

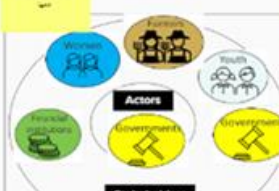
Conflict, wars and occupation forced millions to become refugees or internally displaced

**Key Intervention Areas**




#### Actors & Stakeholders

تعزيز التجارة العالمية



Reduce import dependency by diversifying trade partners



## ANNEX 2: AGENDA OF THE DIALOGUE

<b>Thursday, 9 March 2021</b>	
<b>11:00 – 11:05</b>	<p><b>WELCOMING REMARKS</b>  <b>Ms. Reem Nejdawi, ESCWA</b>  <b>Mr. Jean Marc Faures, FAO</b></p>
<b>11:05 – 11:10</b>	<p><b>OBJECTIVE OF DIALOGUE AND AGENDA</b>  <b>Ms. Julie Abouarab, ESCWA</b></p>
<b>11:10 – 11:20</b>	<p><b>BRIEF ON THE 2021 FOOD SYSTEMS SUMMIT AND ITS FIVE ACTION TRACKS</b>  <b>Mr. Jean Marc Faures, FAO</b></p>
<b>11:20 – 12:20</b>	<p><b>BUILDING SOLUTIONS TOGETHER</b>  Interactive discussion using MURAL application, and identification of actions  <b>Facilitators:</b>  <b>Ms. Maya Atie, ESCWA</b>  <b>Ms. Julie Abouarab, ESCWA</b></p> <p>Issue 1: Transitioning to Healthy Food  Issue 2: Advancing Equitable Livelihoods  Issue 3: Optimizing Sustainable Production  Issue 4: Responding to Risks</p>
<b>12:20 – 12:30</b>	<p><b>CLOSING REMARKS</b>  <b>Ms. Dalia Abulfotuh, FAO- Youth Focal Point</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Presenting the Video on Youth and the 2021 Food Systems Summit</li> </ul> <p><b>Ms. Reem Nejdawi, ESCWA</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Restoring degraded land in the Arab Region: A Youth Challenge</li> <li>- Next Step: Arab Regional Food Systems Dialogue (March 29, 2021) and Food Systems Summit in September 2021</li> </ul>

## ANNEX 3: LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

### ESCWA Member Countries

#### Algeria

**Mr. Abdeldjalil Ali Abbas**

President

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