

# Enhancing climate action in agriculture in Europe and Central Asia

Concept Note for FAO REU Regional Climate Workshop  
25-27 September 2024

## BACKGROUND

Climate change significantly threatens agriculture through altered rainfall patterns, droughts, floods, and pest and disease redistribution. Additionally, greenhouse gas emissions from agriculture, livestock, and the food system contribute to climate change. However, sustainable agrifood practices can help countries adapt, build resilience, and reduce emissions, ensuring food security.

FAO collaborates with governments and communities to tackle food security, climate change, and biodiversity loss simultaneously. FAO provides technical expertise, mobilizes support, and establishes partnerships to transform agrifood systems, increasing productivity and reducing emissions. To enhance climate resilience, FAO focuses on climate change planning, implementation, monitoring, and reporting, offering policy support, tools, and technical guidance. FAO supports the development and implementation of Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) and National Adaptation Plans (NAPs), emphasizing finance and engagement with global climate funds like the Global Environment Facility (GEF) and the Green Climate Fund (GCF). FAO also helps countries enhance transparency and reporting through initiatives such as the Capacity-building Initiative for Transparency (CBIT) and the Enhanced Transparency Framework (ETF).

The 2023 United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP28) made significant progress, particularly with the COP28 UAE Declaration on sustainable agriculture and climate action, marked by a decision on the first global stocktake. COP29 in Baku, Azerbaijan, will build on this momentum, focusing on regional priorities like water, land, and soil, and defining a new collective goal for climate finance.

## WORKSHOP OBJECTIVES

The workshop aims to underscore the critical role of agrifood systems in addressing climate change and implementing climate actions. It will focus on building capacity to integrate food systems and agriculture into international climate negotiations and national strategies through presentations of tools, information, and guidance. By covering these topics, the workshop seeks to foster meaningful discussions, knowledge exchange, and capacity building, contributing to effective COP29 preparation and enhancing climate action in the agricultural sector.

The workshop will be organized into three main sections:

- I. **Negotiations:** With a focus on negotiations items relevant to agriculture and food systems, this segment will highlight the Sharm el-Sheikh joint work on implementation of climate action on agriculture and food security and provide an in-depth analysis of key agenda items for COP29, including the enhanced transparency framework, climate finance, the Framework for Global Goal on Adaptation, the Mitigation Work Programme, and Article 6 of the Paris Agreement. Guidance on COP preparation and participation, including engagement with UNFCCC, will also be provided.
- II. **UNFCCC COP Presidency Initiatives:** The segment will cover COP Presidency initiatives



from COP27 to COP29, introducing the Food and Agriculture for Sustainable Transformation (FAST) Initiative and Partnership, which aims to enhance climate finance contributions to transform agriculture and food systems by 2030. Key topics covered will also include climate finance for agricultural transformation, with briefings on opportunities from the GCF, GEF, and other sources. Additionally, the COP29 Presidency initiative, “Harmoniya 4 Climate Resilience: Empowering Farmers, Villages, and Rural Communities,” along with other initiatives will be presented.

- III. **Call to Action – NDC 3.0:** With all countries required to submit NDCs 3.0 in 2025, this segment will cover the integration of agricultural sectors and food systems in NDCs, utilizing tools and targeted support including an overview of Policy Analysis of Nationally Determined Contributions in the Europe and Central Asia Region – 2024 Report.

**Additional focus will be placed on the following:**

- **Loss and Damage:** This segment will highlight FAO's expertise and tools to help countries assess and address loss and damage in agrifood systems, ensuring protection for vulnerable communities and food security.
- **Gender:** Recognizing the significant roles women play in agrifood systems and their disproportionate impact from climate change, this segment will focus on integrating gender perspectives into climate change and agricultural initiatives.
- **Enhanced Transparency Framework (ETF) and Biennial Transparency Report (BTR):** With the first BTRs due by the end of 2024, this segment will support understanding of ETF requirements, the BTR preparation process, and share experiences in enhancing transparency and reporting on climate actions.

#### EXPECTED PARTICIPANTS

Representatives from Programme Countries (number to be confirmed) in FAO's Region of Europe and Central Asia: National UNFCCC focal points and officials from relevant national agencies involved in climate negotiations, mitigation policies and adaptation actions, particularly in the agricultural sector.

The languages of the workshop: English and Russian.

#### FORMAT and Duration

Hybrid: online and in person 3-day workshop

#### WORKSHOP AGENDA

## 1.day, 25 September – Negotiations and Presidency Initiatives

Time	Topic	Lead Responsibility
08:30 - 09:00	Registration of participants onsite, welcome coffee	FAO
08:30 - 09:00	Press conference/ media interviews <i>(for identified spokespeople - TBC)</i>	MoA/ FAO
<b>All participants proceed to the conference room</b>		
09:15 – 09:55	Opening session <i>(for all participants, onsite and online)</i>	Majnun Mammadov, Minister of Agriculture of Azerbaijan Umayra Taghiyeva, Deputy Minister of Ecology and Natural Resources of Azerbaijan State Resources Agency Nasar Hayat, FAO Representative, Azerbaijan
09:55 – 10:00	Group photo	FAO
10:00 - 10:35	Introduction to the Workshop	Jeremy Schlickerrieder, Natural Resources Officer, FAO REU Evetta Zenina, Natural Resources Officer, FAO SEC Leyla Jabbarli, Deputy Chairperson, Agro Credit and Development Agency, Azerbaijan
10:35 - 11:00	Understanding and Preparing COP29 - Key agenda items for COP29 - COP 29 Presidency Action Agenda	Firidun Taghiyev, Namig Shalbusov, Ministry of Agriculture of Azerbaijan Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources of Azerbaijan
11:00 - 11:20	Enhancing Climate Action in Agriculture in the context of UNFCCC - From KJWA to Sharm el Sheikh joint work on implementation of climate action on agriculture and food security	Pierre Brender, Programme Officer, AFOLU Unit, Transparency Division, UNFCCC
11:20 – 11:55	Road from COP28 to COP 29 – FAO engagement and support to countries	Martial Bernoux, Senior Natural Resources Officer, FAO Office Climate Change, Environment and Biodiversity (OCB) Liva Kaugure, Natural Resources Officer, FAO OCB
11:55 - 12:10	Technical break	

<b>12:10 - 13:00</b>	Group work: negotiation simulations	Moderators: Martial Bernoux, Liva Kaugure, FAO OCB Participants: TBC
<b>13:00 – 14:00</b>	Lunch	
<b>14:00 - 14:30</b>	Integrating Regional Priorities in COP Processes with the focus on Central Asia	Vladimir Grebnev, Regional Climate Change Specialist, Regional Environmental Centre for Central Asia (CAREC)
<b>14:30 - 15:15</b>	Panel discussion: Harvesting Progress: Implementing Climate Action in Agriculture and Food Security at COP29	Moderator: TBC Participants: AZE – Firidun Taghiyev and/ or Namig Shalbuzov – TBC; Country 2; Country 3; Country 4
<b>15:15 – 15:45</b>	UNFCCC COP Initiatives: Harmoniya and Food and Agriculture for Sustainable Transformation (FAST) and other Initiatives	Leyla Jabbarli, Agro Credit and Development Agency, Azerbaijan Martial Bernoux, Liva Kaugure, FAO OCB Liva Kaugure, Natural Resources Officer, FAO OCB
<b>15:45 - 16:30</b>	Panel discussion: Cultivating Change: Advancing Climate Finance and Sustainable Agriculture through the FAST Partnership	Moderator: TBC Participants: AZE – Firidun Taghiyev and/ or Namig Shalbuzov – TBC; KAZ – TBC; Country 3; Country 4
<b>16:30 – 16:45</b>	Coffee break	
<b>16:45 - 17:10</b>	Securing Climate and Environmental Financing for Present and Future Climate Action (GEF-GCF, GCF, AF, and Beyond), at country and regional levels	Kaan Basaran, FAO REU GEF Support Specialist Martina Duncan, FAO REU
<b>17:10 – 17:50</b>	Open discussion: map the climate finance priorities, exchange on challenges and best practices	Moderators: Kaan Basaran, Martina Duncan, FAO Participants: all
<b>17:50 - 18:00</b>	Conclusion of the day	Leyla Jabbarli, Agro Credit and Development Agency, Azerbaijan

## 2. day, 26 September - Call to Action – NDC 3.0, Loss and damage

Time	Topic	Lead Responsibility
<b>08:45 - 09:00</b>	Registration of participants (prior to online participants)	FAO
<b>09:00 - 09:15</b>	Recap of day 1	Participant
<b>09:15 - 09:35</b>	NDC 3.0	Deo Gabinete, Regional Manager, NDC Partnership Support Unit

<b>09:35 - 09:55</b>	Regional analysis of NDCs	Evetta Zenina, Jeremy Schlickerieder FAO SEC and FAO REU
<b>09:55 - 10:45</b>	Panel discussion on NDC revision process	Moderator: Deo Gabinete, NDC Partnership  Participants: AZE – Firidun Taghiyev and/ or Namig Shalbusov – TBC; Country 2: Country 3; Country 4
<b>10:45 – 11:05</b>	Coffee break	
<b>11:05 - 11:40</b>	Addressing Disaster Risk Reduction and Climate Action for Resilient Futures	Aleksandrina Mavrodieva, Risk Knowledge support officer, UNDRR
<b>11:40 – 12:10</b>	FAO's Role in Addressing Loss and Damage: Tools, Finance Mobilization, and Sustainable Practices	Anastasia Kvasha, FAO REU
<b>12:10 – 13:00</b>	Group work:  Addressing Loss and Damage - Identifying Support Needs and Bridging Gaps	Moderators: Aleksandrina Mavrodieva, UNDRR; Anastasia Kvasha, FAO REU  Participants: all
<b>13:00 - 14:15</b>	Lunch	
<b>14:15 - 14:45</b>	Connecting Scientific Research with Climate Change Action: Strategies and Opportunities	TBC
<b>14:45 - 15:20</b>	Sustainable use of natural resources (land and water) with the example of the Nature-based Solutions	Fabien Techene, Senior Nature-based Solutions Programme Officer at IUCN ECARO ( <i>online</i> )
<b>15:20 - 15:35</b>	Coffee Break	
<b>15:35 - 16:30</b>	Panel discussion: best examples of NBS in the region	Moderator: TBC  Participants (from 4 countries): AZE - Rashad Huseynov, Director of the Agro Research Centre; Country 2; Country 3; Country 4
<b>16:30 - 16:45</b>	Conclusion of the day	Leyla Jabbarli, Agro Credit and Development Agency, Azerbaijan

### 3.day, 27 September – FAO climate tools, Gender and ETF

Time	Topic	Lead Responsibility
<b>08:45 - 09:00</b>	Registration of participants (prior to online participants)	FAO
<b>09:00 - 09:15</b>	Recap of Day 2	Participant
<b>09:15 - 10:00</b>	FAO' climate tools overview (CRTB and CAVA)	Arianna Gialetti, Climate Risks Specialist, FAO OCB

<b>10:00 - 11:00</b>	Group work using FAO climate tools	Moderator: Arianna Gialetti, FAO OCB Participants: all
<b>11:00</b>	Working coffee break	
<b>11:00 - 11:35</b>	Gender Mainstreaming in Sustainable Agrifood Systems: FAO's Role and Support	Marianna Bicchieri, Gender Officer, FAO REU
<b>11:35 - 12:05</b>	Digital Solutions for Climate-Resilient Agrifood Systems: Enhancing Adaptation and Innovation	Daniela DiGianantonio, Head of Digital Agriculture, FAO REU
<b>12:05 - 13:00</b>	Panel discussion: Showcasing Success: Digital Innovations, Gender Inclusion, and Climate-Resilient Agrifood Systems	Moderators: Daniela DiGianantonio, Marianna Bicchieri, FAO REU Participants: AZE - Aynur Gurbanli, Deputy director, MoA; Country 2; Country 3; Country 4
<b>13:00 - 14:00</b>	Lunch	
<b>14:00 - 14:35</b>	Unlocking Transparency: Exploring the Enhanced Transparency Framework (ETF) and Latest Developments	Marlan Pillay, Programme Officer, UNFCCC ( <i>online</i> )
<b>14:35 - 15:05</b>	Regional Support for the Enhanced Transparency Framework (ETF)	Evetta Zenina and UNEP GSP ( <i>online</i> )
<b>15:05 - 15:25</b>	ICAT Assessment Guide for Policies in Agriculture	Oleg Bulanyi, Senior Programme Manager at the Initiative for Climate Action Transparency, UNOPS
<b>15:25 - 16:15</b>	Panel discussion – how is the ETF process going?	Moderator: TBC Participants: AZE – Firdun Taghiyev and/ or Namig Shalbusov – TBC; Country 2: Country 3; Country 4
<b>16:15 - 16:30</b>	Coffee break	
<b>16:30 - 17:15</b>	BTR readiness: group work	Moderators: Evetta Zenina, Jeremy Schlickenrieder, Kaan Basaran, FAO SEC and REU Participants: all
<b>17:15 - 17:30</b>	Conclusion of the day Workshop Closing	Leyla Jabbarli, Agro Credit and Development Agency, Azerbaijan Bariz Mehdiyev, AFAOR Azerbaijan Evetta Zenina, Jeremy Schlickenrieder, FAO SEC and REU