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Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA)

REPORT

ARAB REGIONAL FOOD SYSTEMS DIALOGUE ONLINE VIRTUAL MEETING, 29 MARCH 2021

Summary

In preparation for the 2021 Food Systems Summit (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) organized the Arab Regional Food Systems' Dialogue on 29 March 2021 virtually via ZOOM as a special event during the Arab Forum on Sustainable Development (AFSD) 2021. The meeting brought together about 250 participants including a wide range of stakeholders from universities, ministries, farmer's groups, research institutions, unions, civil society, industries, and United Nations agencies.

The Dialogue's provided an integrative and engaging platform that enabled regional actors to share perspectives, experiences, and issues on making the region's food systems healthier, more inclusive and more sustainable, and enhancing their resilience within the COVID-19 context. Participants called for involvement of all stakeholders in dialogues, ensuring strategic reserves of essential commodities, establishment of an Arab Centre for Food Security and provided key provided consolidated key messages from the regional dialogues. The Regional input of the dialogue will be submitted to the Summit Secretariat in preparation for the Food Systems Summit in September 2021.

The Arab Regional Dialogue was divided into three parts. Part I the background information about the food system summit was presented, in Part II participants shared views and perspectives on challenges and priorities to transform arab food systems, while Part III 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) organized the Virtual Arab Regional Food Systems' Dialogue on 29 March 2021 as a special event during the Arab Forum on Sustainable Development (AFSD) 2021.
3. Owing to COVID-19 restrictions, the dialogue was organized as a 90-minute online meeting using the Zoom platform on Monday, 29 March, from 5:30 pm - 7:00 pm Beirut time. A diverse range of stakeholders were brought together to consolidate regional views, perspectives and experiences regarding pathways and potential actions for equitable and sustainable food systems transformation and support the implementation of the SDGs within the context of current realities.
4. The dialogue modality allowed for active participation of stakeholders where participants provided solutions and actions either through direct intervention or by writing in chat box. Organizers simultaneously copied all proposals into the interactive online platform called "Mural" to make them graphically visible for all to see and comment on.

RECOMMENDATIONS AND KEY MESSAGES

5. Call for all stakeholders to work together for implementing game changing actions in the food systems. They all share the responsibility to shift food systems and change the rules of the game to achieve sustainable food security and nutrition for all.
6. Develop and adopt regional guiding legislations to ensure strategic stocks of essential commodities (food or non-food) to avoid shortages during any crisis such as the Covid-19 pandemic.
7. Establishment of an Arab Centre for Food Security, that brings together successful Arab initiatives related to enhancing food systems sustainability and facilitates investments for promising regional initiatives.
8. Below are the key messages emanating from the dialogue. These messages, along with other regional processes' outcomes undertaken in the Arab Region (Arab Youth and Arab Stakeholders Dialogues), will be included, in a dedicated document that organizers will be submitting to Secretariat of the Food Systems Summit. The document will present pathways and key propositions for sustainable Arab food systems
 - (a) Need for improved coordination and cooperation as transformation is a shared responsibility that involves partnerships among all sectors of society and transparency is a prerequisite for the success of those partnerships.
 - (b) Adoption of a food systems approach that acknowledges inter-system and intersectoral linkages and the multiple outcomes of the food system: food security and nutrition, environmental, social and economic.

- (c) Development of an evidence-based decision-making process by collecting, analysing, and sharing food system data and scientific analysis for the purpose of supporting the transformation process.
 - (d) Adoption of a context-specific approach to food systems resilience and sustainability at individual, household, social class and regional levels, taking into account shocks and stresses.
 - (e) Addressing issues of inequalities associated with gender, age and marginalization, especially but not exclusively those relating to the food system and that impinge on food security and nutrition and equitable, sustainable and resilient livelihoods including equal pay for equal job, access and ownership of resources, and forced child labor.
 - (f) Providing incentives for the adoption of nature-friendly technologies, entrepreneurs, climate smart agriculture, with special focus on the water, food and energy nexus as main derivatives for agricultural development and food security in the region
 - (g) Building capacities to adapt to climate change encourages use of renewable energy for food production and processing and using modern and appropriate technologies throughout the food systems value chain.
9. The resulting document and meeting report will be shared with member countries to guide and support the national dialogues when undertaken.

SUMMARY OF DISCUSSIONS

A. OPENING SESSION

10. **Ms. Reem Nejdawi**, Chief of Food and Environment Policies Section, ESCWA welcomed participants and partners and provided few instructions on the dialogue's logistics then introduced the curator of the dialogue, Ms. Nawal Al Hamed.
11. **Ms. Nawal Al Hamed**, Deputy Director General, Public Authority for Food and Nutrition, Kuwait, welcomed participants, thanked organizers for the important dialogue and informed participants of the dialogue's objectives. She then introduced **Ms. Rola Dashti**, Executive Secretary of ESCWA and **H.E. Mr. Dy Ould Zein**, Minister of Rural Development, Mauritania, Chair of General Assembly of the Arab Organization for Agriculture – AOAD and invited them to provide their welcoming remarks.
12. **Ms. Rola Dashti**, welcomed participants on behalf of the Regional UN Agencies organizing the dialogue, thanked partners and regional organizations for holding this timely dialogue to support member states in improving and transforming their food systems towards achieving the 2030 Agenda. She emphasised on importance of holding dialogues in various forms to enable discussion, exchange of ideas between a variety of stakeholders aiming to present to the United Nations Food Systems Summit proposals for actions to achieve sustainable food systems in the Arab region. She also indicated that the COVID-19 pandemic highlighted the fragility of food systems, with 50 million people suffering from undernutrition, and a third of women of childbearing age suffering from anaemia. She added that the fragility of food security in the region was mainly due to poverty, unemployment, occupation, and conflict. Limited food production due to water and arable land scarcity, and the rise in food import bill also contributed to worsen the situation. Ms. Dashti concluded by emphasising the need to implement policies and measures to enhance the food systems in the region addressing the challenges related to natural resources, agricultural sector, trade, industry, food support and consumer awareness.

13. **H.E. Mr. Dy Ould Zein**, Minister of Rural Development, Mauritania, Chair of General Assembly of AOAD, in his recorded intervention indicated that the Arab food systems suffer from diverse difficulties and limitations. He indicated the key role that ministers responsible for agriculture in Arab countries can play through coordination and cooperation with other sectors to transform Arab food systems into healthier, more sustainable, and equitable food systems that cater for Arab citizens. He clarified that to achieve tangible result, all stakeholders need to work together: the governments, the private sector, and other stakeholders from local, regional, and international organizations. He also mentioned that bold new measures to achieve progress across all the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals are essential. H.E. Mr. Dy Ould Zein concluded by indicating that Arab Governments should seize this opportunity to review food systems along the five action tracks and to review the ministries' roles towards achieving greater progress in regional cooperation for food production and import encouraging intra-regional food trade .

B. THE 2021 FOOD SYSTEMS SUMMIT: INTRODUCTION AND DIALOGUE PROCESSES

14. **Mr. Martin Frick**, Deputy to the Special Envoy for 2021 Food Systems Summit, provided a global perspective to the United Nations World Food System Summit and its objectives indicating that it comes at a very pertinent time that is witnessing a broken food system as we witness high levels of malnutrition and obesity at the same time. Mr. Frick stressed that food deals with producers (farmers, fishers, herders) and all processes related to food as a system (cooling, shipping, waste, safety, processing). As such, the summit convened by the Secretary General of the United Nations aims at underpinning how food systems are affecting the achievement of SDGs and how the summit can become an agent to fulfilling these SDGs especially for the Arab region who is facing many challenges. He further elaborated that this people's summit activates everyone in society to think and participate around food systems dialogues. The national country level dialogues are taking place and need to bring together all related government ministries (agriculture, health, youth education climate, etc...) and encouraged governments to engage civil society (consumer organization, farmers, small holders, city mayors, among others) to discuss food as a system in a holistic manner. He concluded that Dialogues are needed to build a new narrative and new way to operationalize food systems. He referred the participants to websites that display dialogues undertaken by diverse conveners around the world.
15. **Mr. David Nabarro**, Senior Advisor for the FSS Dialogues, discussed the significance of convening food system dialogues that include a multiplicity of actors and processes that enable people to access the food they need and at the same time regeneration of the precious resources of the planet. Therefore, to enable people to participate in changing systems, they need to be engaged and given a chance to express their points of view. He also went through the summit dialogue process in which governments and stakeholders can explore options to change food systems to become more sustainable and equitable in line with all 17 SDGs. He also indicated that more than 80 countries have so far registered their national dialogues and have either convened or will convene soon their dialogues. Mr. Nabarro indicated the three expected outcomes of the summit which include shaping the pathway of future food systems of the future good for people and the planet, identifying needed changes now to get on pathway, and exploring what different stakeholders in countries can do to commit to making the changes happen. He stressed that this is not a straightforward process because Food policy touches many sectors and involves multiple actors if it is to be shifted. As such, countries participating in dialogues are working on three different stages including identifying participants, convening the dialogues, and consolidating outcomes and emerging with pathways. He indicated that countries that were able to finalize their dialogues early can participate in the Pre- Summit happening in July, whereas countries that need further time will have a chance to participate in September.

C. VIEWS AND PERSPECTIVES ON CHALLENGES AND PRIORITIES TO TRANSFORM ARAB FOOD SYSTEMS

16. **H.E. Ms. Jehad Abdullah Alfathel**, Member of Shoora Council of Bahrain, Deputy Chairman of the Parliamentarian Network for Food Security and Nutrition in Africa and Arab World, made reference to the global food security index, indicating that Arab region is performing poorly and therefore the urgent need to unify efforts. Ms. Jehad Alfathel reviewed some of the regional legislations related to food security and indicated that COVID-19 pandemic exposed the need to realign strategies, and revise and close gaps in the legislations. She also provided examples of countries that formulated, prior to the pandemic, legal frameworks to contribute to food security, specifically through laws to govern strategic food stock including Oman (passed in 2017) and Sudan (passed in 2000). Then, Ms. Alfathel discussed the role of the Parliamentary Network. She mentioned that the members of the network hold consultations with the Arab Parliament to encourage laws that enhance food security including strategic food stock/storage for certain essential commodities. She also proposed developing a model law guiding the strategic stocks for essential commodities that include food and non-food products and adopting this proposal to avoid any future risks. She also recommended to establish an Arab Centre for Food Security to focus efforts on country initiatives and provide adequate funding for these initiatives. She also reiterated that the Parliament need to work with partners to make sure the legislations are implemented and proposed holding a Food Security Year as an outcome of the food system Dialogues.
17. **Ms. Fatima Eltahir Alhassan**, Secretary General of the Food Security Technical Secretariat (FSTS), Sudan, discussed the vulnerability of food systems in Sudan which was further exacerbated by COVID-19 pandemic. She explained Sudan suffered in 2020, in addition to COVID-19 pandemic, climate change impacts reflected in major floods damaging crops and livestock. She indicated that the weekly rise in prices of food commodities and agricultural inputs impacted vulnerable individuals and communities the most. This situation contributed to the further weakening of the agricultural production systems especially for small holder farmers. Ms. Eltahir also indicated that Sudan is in the process of developing strategies to reduce food loss and waste, to enhance food security in the country. She concluded by stressing on the need for further Dialogues especially in terms of building resilience in response to crisis
18. **Mr. Tareq Hassan**, Head of the Arab Youth Sustainable Development Network (AYSDN) highlighted the need to review and discuss challenges for transforming current food systems into healthy and nutritious food systems. He indicated that many factors are essential to move towards healthy consumption patterns. These include availability of affordable healthy food, enhancing information, and raising awareness on sustainable consumption patterns. He also shed light on agriculture and water policies that need to be revisited to ensure sustainability. Other challenges identified included poor management of land and high levels of food waste and loss. Mr. Hassan reiterated the important role of the Arab youth in raising awareness on sustainable food consumptions patterns. He emphasized the psychological impacts facing youth and communities due to poverty and conflicts which in turn affects their choice of food and ultimately impact their health. Mr. Hassan concluded by highlighting the initiative to hold the Youth Food Systems Dialogue which took place on March 9 and uniting efforts of youth for better food systems.

D. INTERACTIVE DISCUSSION ON TRANSFORMING FOOD SYSTEMS IN THE ARAB REGION

19. The curator, Ms. Al Hamed, introduced **Mr. Rami Zurayk**, Professor, American University of Beirut, Lebanon who will facilitate the participants' interactive discussion. Mr. Zurayk presented the framework for food systems, external drivers, outputs, and constraints and outlined the five action tracks of the summit namely: i) ensuring access to safe and nutritious food for all; ii) shifting to sustainable consumption pattern, iii) boosting nature-positive production at sufficient scale, iv)

advancing equitable livelihoods and value distribution, and v) building resilience to vulnerabilities, shocks and stresses. He also identified cross cutting issues that impact these action tracks including climate change, innovation, women, youth, and finance.

20. Mr. Zurayk reviewed the main outputs and messages from the two regional dialogues held earlier by ESCWA and FAO early in March for Arab youth and Arab organizations and stakeholders. Main messages included call for adopting a food systems approach, developing evidence-based decision-making, building national food security and nutrition policies, enhancing resilience of food systems, addressing issues of inequality, providing incentives for the adoption of environmentally friendly and climate-smart agriculture, and the shared responsibility between all sectors and actors in society for improving these systems.
21. In the interactive discussion session, Mr. Zurayk requested participants to share game changing actions in the chat box that were simultaneously added on the Mural application to be graphically displayed for participants to see. He also encouraged and invited participants to share their views and solutions through direct intervention from the floor.
22. **Ms. Razan Zuayter**, Arab Network for Food Sovereignty (ANFS), indicated that access to food is a right and more efforts are needed to protect small holder farmers and local production systems. Countries need to maintain this right to access food and provide reserves. She indicated that peace building mechanisms should be enhanced to stop the root causes of wars and conflicts and highlighted the need to prevent politicizing food aid. She also underlined providing civil society organisations opportunity to be active in food system discussion and she hoped that the collaboration between Food Systems Summit and the World Economic Forum will not impact small businesses.
23. **Ms. Jehad Al Fathel** called for collaboration and organization of a fund dedicated for food security in the Arab region. She provided the example of Bahrain’s initiative in increasing the reserves to enhance food security. She also highlighted other initiatives in Bahrain such as opening markets for farmers, training youth interested in agriculture, and initiating laboratories for improving agriculture sector.
24. **Mr. Ayoub Aljawaldeh**, Regional Advisor in Nutrition, WHO- EMRO indicated that there is a need to take into consideration the diversity of Arab region in terms of socio-economic levels which consequently impacts levels of Food systems performance. Therefore, it is expected to have different countries expressing solutions that not necessarily meet the priorities of all countries.
25. **Mr. Zurayk** started then discussion on the first identified track for the food systems summit: ensuring access to safe and nutritious food for all. Discussion from the intervenors included **Mr. Mohamad Sleiman**, Advisor at the Ministry Environment and Agriculture, Saudi Arabia, that indicated the need to share experiences especially on how countries responded to COVID-19 and to develop practical solutions. He also shared that Saudi Arabia developed an emergency unit to deal with crisis which was very successful and could be used as a model. Afterwards **Ms. Fatima Altahir** reiterated the need for the proper management of natural resources in each country to ensure availability of local food production. She also unindicated the importance of cooperation and collaboration amongst Arab countries to meet the food needs of Arab countries based on the points of economic and endowment in natural resources strengths of each country.
26. Written Solutions provided in chat box and copied onto the Mural application were as follows: (results provided by participants are available in Annex 1)
 - i. *Tack 1: Ensuring access to safe and nutritious food for all*
 - Monitor the quality of the raw materials involved in the production process (basic and secondary materials)

- Support the inclusion of fish in the food and nutrition program
 - Monitor local markets in terms of food quality and compliance with standards of healthy food
 - Establish micro-scale food production systems in cities and villages distributed among the population and including the entire agriculture chain
 - Support civil society organizations in food systems and encouraging related projects
 - Increase collaboration between Arab countries especially those with common issues and establish mechanism between countries that aid in establishing a food security fund that supports food baskets
 - Develop food banks and food-for-work programs
 - Secure strategic Arab stocks that are not subjected to political tensions and establish an Arab food security centre
 - Improve government support for food factories (large and medium) such as stockpiling raw materials and considering them initial parts of strategic food storage
 - Develop policies that control the food market and form regional operations unit that reports movement of the global stockpile of major food commodities and global price expectations
 - Create data centres that provide advice to food industries in Arab region
 - Implement an Arab regional strategy to ensure food safety
 - Launch the International Year of Food Security to raise awareness and develop solutions
 - Promote consumption of traditional food
 - Initiate technical, administrative, and marketing units for food factories, that can prepare food industry managers and provide quality control
 - Provide resources, consultations, and education to farmers and livestock keepers on how to maintain healthy and proper production. Further enhance training and specializations related to agriculture
 - Establish an emergency committee during crises
 - Encourage adoption of health standards and environmental labels, especially data related to product life-cycle analysis during the various stages of procurement, supply, storage and distribution
27. For discussing action track two, **Mr. Zurayk** requested participants to propose actions that motivate and empower consumers to make informed, healthy, safe and sustainable choices and thus changing consumer behaviour. **Ms. Marie Therese Seif**, President of Human Environmental Association for Development, indicated that challenges to achieving sustainable and resilient food systems are similar for many countries and as such recommended to develop mechanisms of coordination between countries to help each other for example through ensuring sufficient nutritious food baskets. **Mr. Said Zurouali**, High Commission for Planning of Morocco, encouraged the consumptions from local markets to ensure achievement of track two objectives. **Ms. Oumaima Lfakir**, Regional Director for the International Association of Students in Agricultural and Related Sciences MENA branch, reinforced the need for responsible and knowledgeable media to move forward the sustainable development agenda.
28. Written Solutions provided in chat box and copied onto the Mural application were as follows: (results provided by participants are available in Annex 1)
- ii. Tack 2: Shifting to sustainable consumption pattern*
- Enable dialogues with all the actors to reach healthy food systems
 - Reconsider the freedom of children to choose and buy their meals before going to school
 - Support production of high-quality homemade food while ensuring their affordability and promote local food production and traditional ways and educating consumers about the importance of supporting local products

- Propose a World Nutrition Day
 - Increase consumer awareness and motivate and enable them to make good and healthy choices through social media, training and educational workshops, and providing offers on health products
 - Raise awareness among media workers of the importance of healthy food
 - Raise awareness among media workers of importance of healthy food and building on consumers' interests and perceptions of nutritional risks to change their food behaviour
 - Set up appropriate educational programs, courses and group activities targeting children and youth to changing consumer behaviour, and use social media to achieve this goal
 - Prepare a national action plan to develop sustainable consumption and production systems
 - Exchange experiences and success stories and educate consumers and producers to move towards sustainable consumption and production patterns.
 - Review national social protection programs, and replicate successful experiences from other countries
 - Establish laws to ensure product quality, impose quality control and penalties on violators, and apply food taxes
 - Ensure the establishment of an institutional framework concerned in transforming food systems into sustainable and healthy consumption and production systems and developing legislations that contribute to accelerating this transformation.
 - Enhance the role of health institutions in raising consumers' awareness of the need to change their unhealthy
 - Enhance food integration departments, where each department coordinate among its members to address the quantitative or qualitative food shortage under the supervision of the United Nations as technical support.
 - Provide financing to private institutions on projects that adopt sustainable production systems and establish new consumption behaviours that take into account the requirements of sustainability and waste reduction
 - Increase investment in innovation and logistics systems such as climate-smart agriculture and improve post-harvest operations, infrastructure, packaging and cooling centres to reduce food waste and loss.
29. Mr. Zurayk also asked participant to determine actions to sustainably manage existing food production systems considering scarcity in water and arable land and existing environmental degradation to address action track three. **Mr. Walid Abdo**, projects & programs coordinator for the Yemen Development Foundation, indicated that all proposed actions and solutions need to reflect specific needs and requirements of the country and he encouraged the development of evidence-based policies for more impact.
30. Written Solutions provided in chat box and copied onto the Mural application were as follows: (results provided by participants are available in Annex 1)
- iii. Tack 3: Boosting nature-positive production at sufficient scale*
- Reclaim and rehabilitate agricultural lands, encourage good management of resources and increase efficiency of resources used, especially ground and surface water and agricultural lands through the use of modern technology
 - Enhance provisions related to technology transfer and capacity building included in the UN Climate Change Agreement
 - Improve skilled professional and provide the necessary infrastructure
 - Enhance the role of research and encourage scientific agricultural studies to solve problems of agricultural production, especially applied research

- Improve regional cooperation in scientific research, Arab partnerships, and exchange of capabilities according to the comparative advantage of agricultural production
 - Promote genetic improvement programs for quantitative and qualitative production
 - Endorse national campaigns on environmental challenges, and include in the education curriculums and disseminate pioneering experiences in agriculture and food processing
 - Establish pilot projects that improve water and energy use and reduce pollution to support countries in crisis and with funds from World Bank, Green Climate Fund and FAO
 - Support entrepreneurial projects and grant provision for youth initiatives
 - Implement educational program on leadership in the field of agriculture and specializations related to urban agriculture
 - Provide support for vehicles transporting crops and reduce transportation costs and provide qualified warehouses designated for storage and packaging
 - Develop local plant varieties and animal breeds to increase production and productivity
 - Develop post-harvest services through improving packaging, grading, transportation, storage, and manufacturing
 - Enhance information availability on capabilities and provide a modern and up-to-date database
 - Expand the use of digital solutions such as e-commerce platforms
 - Reduce industrial costs by reducing taxes imposed on food factories and inviting them to exploit the largest available percentage of production capacity, adopting special prices for fuel (especially electricity) and supporting use of renewable energy equipment
 - Find working storage for Arab food factories in the manufacture of grains, sugar, oils, and edible fats, dairy, red meat, production of broiler chicken and table eggs.
31. In addressing the fourth action track, participants identified policies and actions needed to advance equitable and sustainable livelihoods across the food system. **Mr. Osama Rayes**, Lead Scientist in the Nile Tech in Sudan, stressed on addressing three important issues: building knowledge, developing a financing mechanism for food production, and use of energy related technology. **Mr. Mahmood Radi**, Arab Union of Fish Producers, highlighted the significant role of fish production for enhancing food security in the Arab region, and suggested incorporation fish production in all food security policies and plans as it's a natural source of needed proteins for healthy diets.
32. Written Solutions provided in chat box and copied onto the Mural application were as follows: (results as provided by participants are available in Annex 1)
- iv. Tack 4: Advancing equitable livelihoods and value distribution*
- Provision of financing mechanisms
 - Focus specializations in universities based on qualifications and available resources
 - Create youth leadership positions
 - Encourage self-production and educating consumers about the importance of supporting local products
 - Improving practical education on agriculture in communities, homes and buildings so that everyone can produce food
 - Strengthen effective social protection networks based on sustainable financial resources and enhance the concept of social security through the preparation and support of the food basket and food banks
 - Integrate social justice in the distribution and allocation of agricultural resources (land and water)

- Implement digital solutions such as e-commerce platforms, digital payments and simple digital technologies to enable smallholders to access data and knowledge to make timely and informed decisions and to connect them directly with markets and finance
- Focus on vulnerable groups, especially small farmers through providing support and financing and introducing modern technologies that increase productivity and production and improve their income.
- Integrate disaster risk reduction considerations into sustainable development strategies and policies to mitigate losses.
- Support animal breeders
- Activate the role of food cooperatives
- Resolve local and regional conflicts and alleviate the effects of wars, disasters and political sanctions to shift focus on productivity rather than conflicts
- Provide basic services in the countryside and enhance the methods and tools of rural finance so that the rural producers can enter the countryside and engage in production
- Support agri-food microfinance projects such as microfinance banks
- Facilitate access to agricultural lands for young women
- Promote and support women and youth participation in value chains by providing capital and financing mechanisms to invest in agriculture, as well as creating job opportunities and developing needed skills such as negotiation and project management.
- Use of modern technology, creating appropriate conditions for rural employment, and ensuring the sustainability of supply chains for various agricultural products.
- Review national legislations and regulations and integrate environmental protection policies adapting to climate change and limiting its effects, in line with conditions of each Arab country.

E. CLOSING SESSION

33. **H.E. Mr. Ibrahim El Dukhairi**, Director General, AOAD, thanked participants and organizers of the timely organization of the Dialogue. He indicated that the Arab vision is clear and that the proposed actions in this dialogue require regional collaboration. He highlighted that the challenges faced in the region hinder the implementation of SDGs and thus the achievement of sustainable food systems. These challenges include climate change, land degradation, low productivity, low purchasing power, and population growth in addition to others. Mr. Dukhairi further explained that Dialogues at local, national, and regional levels are necessary for transforming current food systems into sustainable food systems. He further gave examples of upcoming Dialogues such as the Kuwait National Dialogue on Food Systems, Youth dialogue, Global Dialogue on Water, and presummit in July 2021, all leading to a Global Food System Summit in September 2021.
34. Ms. Nawal Al Hamad thanked the participants for their active participation and their valuable feedback throughout the dialogue. Ms. Reem Nejdawi, closed the dialogue by reiterating that ESCWA and partners are ready to support the Arab Countries in organizing national and independent dialogues to better inform the FSS in September.

ORGANIZATION

A. DATE AND VENUE

35. The meeting was held virtually via Zoom on 29 March 2021. The dialogue modality, that included direct interventions, interactive discussion and use of chat box, allowed for active participation of stakeholders where participants could either comment, provide remarks or write their game changing actions directly in the chat box and ESCWA's team copied them simultaneously on the interactive online platform called "MURAL.

36. The recoding of the event is available on the following link with Access Passcode: **f7aLvD7***

https://fao.zoom.us/rec/share/8oU9SznIUUKbi0T15fo6NNG1XYvsC4f-B4pZFQlacABpK228OgiUfsNFomeZxO-m.1563xS58TLD_ru4

B. PARTICIPANTS

37. A diverse group of stakeholders attended the virtual meeting. They either represented Arab member States, academia, regional, sub regional and national organizations, institutions, private sector, farmers' groups, Union of Arab Chambers of Commerce, Industry and Agriculture, Arab Agricultural Engineers Union or various civil society organizations engaged in food system issues in Arab States. International experts and organizations were also 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. The full list of participants is provided in Annex 3.

ANNEX I: RESULTS OF BUILDING SOLUTIONS TOGETHER

I. Game changing actions to transition towards healthy foods

What actions are needed to provide accessible nutritious and safe food to all whilst ensuring equity, and sustainability?

ما هي اقتراحات الحلول اللازمة لتوفير طعام مغذٍ وسليم وبسبيل المثلل للجميع مع ضمان المساواة والاستدامة؟

ACTION TRACK 3
ACCESS TO NUTRITIOUS AND SAFE FOOD

زيادة الاستثمار في أنظمة الابتكار والخدمات الراجعة مثل الزراعة الذكية مناخياً وتحسين عمليات ما بعد الحصاد والبيئية الصحية والتجفيف ومراكز التبريد لتقليل الفاقد من الغذاء	الإهتمام بجودة المواد الأولية الداخلة في العملية الإنتاجية (مواد أساسية) وعودة تكتوية	ضرورة اندماج الاسهام في برنامج الغذاء والتغذية في جميع الدول العربية لدعم وتحسين الامن الغذائي	مراقبة للسوق المحلية من حيث جودة الاطعمة ومدى موافقتها لمعايير الغذاء الصحية	تطوير عائلات التعاون مع الدول العربية ذات القدرات التنموية المشتركة	بناء منظومات التاج الغذاء بنطاق في المدن و (Micro scale) المتكبرو الذي يركز على بين السكان و تشمل كامل المساحة من الزراعة و الإنتاج الحيواني و الحفظ و التسويق بوزارة غذائية متخصصة
المهتمة بمجال جودة الأنظمة الغذائية وتبني مشاريع متعلمة وتشجيعها	توفير تلك غذائي واعداد برنامج الغذاء مقابل العمل	تأمين مخزون عربي استراتيجي لا يخضع لتجارب سياسي وانه لا يكون هناك قانون لتوحيده لتتجاوز الاستراتيجي لتسلسل الغذائي وانشاء مركز عربي لضمان الغذائي	وضع سياسات تضيق السوق الغذائي	دعوة الحكومات العربية لتبني الدعم واستاد للصناع الغذائية العربية (كبيرة والمتوسطة) لتكون خبزها من المواد الأولية التكتوية واضرارها رافد من روافد الخزير الغذائي الاستراتيجي	تحتوي خطة عمليات القيمة اعداد تقارير بيئية حول حركة اعمق المعظم تسلسل الغذائية الرئيسية وتواتر الاسرار الغذائية واعداد مراكز معلومات لتبني المشورة لتغلبها من صناع الغذاء العرب
اطلاق السنة الدولية للامن الغذائي لتكثيف الاهتمام واعداد الحلول بهذا الجانب	اعداد الكوادر التقنية والإدارية والتشويقية لتصنيع الغذائية وخاصة اعداد الكوادر الصانعين الغذائيين لادارة التصنيع وربطها مع خطط الجودة والحفظ على البيئة السليمة الصحية وضمن التعاون مع لوائحها العربية	التركيز على اهمية المواد الي النظم الغذائية التطبيقية لكل حسب/بوتولة	وضع استراتيجيات عربية لضمان سلامة الاغذية ووضع خطة متكاملة لقطاع التطبيق والرصد والتقييم الدوري والمناهج لتتفاه العلة	توفير الموارد والموائل المحلية وتبني الاستشارات وتبني المزارعين ومربي المواشي بكيفية الحفظ على الإنتاج والصحة والسليم والطرق المساهمة لتطبيق تلك	انشاء آلية للتسيق بين كافة الدول العربية لمساعدة بعضها عبر اشاء صندوق لضمان الغذائي ودعم السنة الغذائية في المدن المتقدمة
رفع مستوى الدخل في الكثير من البلدان العربية	انشاء لجنة طوارئ اخلال الازمات لتبني المجالات المتعددة	انشاء مركز عربي لضمان الغذائي	political will from rich countries to poor ones, governance policies, dealing collaboratively with emergency attacks, having a long strategic plan for the whole region of food systems...	تحزير المناهج التبريرية وتأهيل التخصصات المتعلقة بالزراعة وخاصة الحضرية	
ضمان الاستخدام الامن والملائم لمداخلات الإنتاج	الارادة والالتزام من قبل الحكومات	وجود أطر مؤسسية لضمان الغذائي والتشريحي لتناول قضية الامن الغذائي والاستفادة من تجربة السودان	تقوية نظم سلامة الغذاء للوقاية من الأمراض المرتبطة	إمكانات الشرايات العمومية المساهمة لتبني التحول نحو ثقافة غذائية أكثر استدامة الترويج على إيجاد النواصير الصحية والعدالت البيئية وضمان المصالح المتعلقة بخطين بدرجة اشد من تلك من طلب برهان (الشراء أو التردد والتخزين)	

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II. Game changing actions to advance equitable livelihoods

What is needed to motivate and empower consumers to make informed, healthy, safe and sustainable choices and thus changing consumer behavior?

ما هو المطلوب لتحفيز المستهلكين وتمكينهم من اتخاذ خيارات صائبة وصحية وأمنة ومستدامة وبالتالي تغيير سلوكهم الاستهلاكي؟

ACTION TRACK 3
GO TO SUSTAINABLE CONSUMER FOR FUTURE

Review national social protection programmes, and replicate successful experiences from other countries	إعداد النظر في الحرية لشفوحة التحليل للاختيار وشراء ومجانهم قبل الذهاب للمدرسة	دعم المنتجات محلية الصنع ذات الجودة العالية	Food taxes	وجود نوع الاغذية لادسي بيوم عالمي لاهمية الغذاء لكافة ابناء من عدم الامن الغذائي افرح يوم عالمي التغذية	تعزيز مشاريع الشباب التي تعطي هذا الجانب ودعمها بتوفير البنية التحتية والمعايير الرقابية الشاملة	من شدة هوية يفتي بين كافة الفئات المستهلكين في نظم غذائية صحية
انشاء صندوق عربي مع آلية لتتسيق ما بين الدول العربية لمساعدة بعضها وخاصة خلال الازمات	الرقبة والجودة للمواد الغذائية و فرض عقوبات على المخالفين	مواجهة المعلومات المغلوطة	تغيير الانماط الاستهلاكية الضارة بالصحة مثل زيادة استهلاك الشوكلات والتي لا يكون سببه رخص الاسعار او صرف خصومات ترويجية	توفير المنتجات الغذائية الضرورية لتجميع اياها داخل علي دعم الصناعة المحلية والإنتاج المحلي	التوسع على كافة مزارح مستوي جلي خاصة في عمليات الإنتاج مع مساهمة في تطوير القدرات التنموية في قطاع الزراعة	تعزيز الوعي المجتمعي في كافة الفئات وخاصة في الفئات الأقل حظا من خلال توفير المعلومات الصحية وخدماتها
تحفيز المستهلكين وتمكينهم من اتخاذ قرارات سليمة وصحية من خلال معرفة وفهمها على مفاهيم المستهلكين وعلاقتها بالمنتجات الغذائية ومساعدتهم في تغيير سلوكهم الاستهلاكي	مواظبة على شتات العورات الزبانية جيدة توفر ضمان سلامة وائل صحي لكاملها والذكية	تعزيز دور المؤسسات الصحية في تقديم الخدمات الغذائية مثل تخفيف العبءات الغذائية والترويجية وشركات واذاهم	تغيير العادات الاستهلاكية الغذائية التطبيقية	التكامل العربي في مجال إنتاج الغذاء وفق المعايير الصحية	التوسع على كافة مزارح مستوي جلي خاصة في عمليات الإنتاج مع مساهمة في تطوير القدرات التنموية في قطاع الزراعة	تعزيز الوعي المجتمعي في كافة الفئات وخاصة في الفئات الأقل حظا من خلال توفير المعلومات الصحية وخدماتها
دعم الغذاء والمخبرات التي يحتاجها الأفراد من طريق الترويج على منتجات المجتمع الصحية	رفع مستوى الوعي والتثقيف لدى المستهلكين ولدى العاملين في الامتياز	إعداد خطة العمل الوطنية لتعزيز نظم الاستهلاك و الإنتاج المستدامة في كل دولة	التركيز على حلول العورات وائل قصي الترويج مع تثقيف اهل حول توجه المواطنين تغيير عادات استهلاكهم الغذائية والترويجية	شراء المستهلك شراء البقالة بجماعة قدر الامكان بعدة ترويجية كشي لخط استهلاك جاذبة وذات جودة مصنوعة	تعزيز الغذاء الخاص من خلال توفير المعلومات الصحية والترويجية والتثقيف على المستهلكين في جميع مستوياتهم من المستهلكين من الفئات	تعزيز الوعي المجتمعي في كافة الفئات وخاصة في الفئات الأقل حظا من خلال توفير المعلومات الصحية وخدماتها
تعزيز الوعي المجتمعي في كافة الفئات وخاصة في الفئات الأقل حظا من خلال توفير المعلومات الصحية وخدماتها	وضع قوانين لضمان جودة المنتجات وتبني الدعم لهم من خلال الحكومات	توعية بأهمية الغذاء الصحي والترويجية والارشاد الصحي العامة	إعداد خطة العمل الوطنية لتعزيز نظم الاستهلاك و الإنتاج المستدامة في كل دولة	شراء المستهلك شراء البقالة بجماعة قدر الامكان بعدة ترويجية كشي لخط استهلاك جاذبة وذات جودة مصنوعة	تعزيز الغذاء الخاص من خلال توفير المعلومات الصحية والترويجية والتثقيف على المستهلكين في جميع مستوياتهم من المستهلكين من الفئات	تعزيز الوعي المجتمعي في كافة الفئات وخاصة في الفئات الأقل حظا من خلال توفير المعلومات الصحية وخدماتها
تعزيز الوعي المجتمعي في كافة الفئات وخاصة في الفئات الأقل حظا من خلال توفير المعلومات الصحية وخدماتها	أهمية الصمود لتحليل اختياراته وجاهته خاصة في الداء السريعة به من امة الطرفة	الترويج للمنتجات الغذائية المحلية والنظم التطبيقية	تبني قاعدة معلومات حديثة وعصرية	تعزيز المستهلك من وسائل التواصل الاجتماعي وميديا والبريد الإلكتروني	الترويج على الإنتاج الذاتي وتوعية المستهلكين بأهمية المنتجات المحلية عبر كافة الوسائل	تعزيز الوعي المجتمعي في كافة الفئات وخاصة في الفئات الأقل حظا من خلال توفير المعلومات الصحية وخدماتها

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III. Game changing actions to optimize sustainable production

How can we sustainably manage existing food production systems, in light of the water and arable land scarcity, and environmental degradation?					ACTION TRACK 3 RURAL RESILIENCE PROMOTION
كيف يمكننا إدارة نظم الإنتاج الغذائية القائمة على نحو مستدام في ظل معوقات ندرة المياه والأراضي الصالحة للزراعة وتدهور حالة البيئة؟					
تحفيز دور البحوث و تشجيع الدراسات العلمية الزراعية لحل مشاكل الإنتاج الزراعي وخاصة الأبحاث التطبيقية	العمل على حسن إستغلال البنى التحتية ونقل التكنولوجيا وبناء القدرات المصممة في الإثاقية الأممية لتغير المناخ	استصلاح الأراضي الزراعية وإدارة الجيدة للموارد والتأهيل الجيد للقائمين بالأمر	زيادة كفاءة الموارد المستخدمة وبالخاص المواد الجوفية والسطحية والأراضي الزراعية	تأهيل كوادر مهنية ماهلة وتوفير البنية التحتية اللازمة لهم	الحرص على إقامة بخر مؤسسي يبنى بصورة فعّلة لإنتاج و الإثاق نحو المستدامة و تطوير التشريعات التي تشاهدي تسريع سبل التحول نحو النم
تعزيز برامج التحسين الورتاتي للإنتاج الزراعي الكمي والتوعوي	الشراكة العربية وتبادل الإنمكالت حسب الميزة النسبية لإنتاج الزراعي بين الأقطار	تبادل الخبرات وتبادل قصص النجاح مع تكثيف العمل حول توعية المواطنين لتغيير أنماط الاستهلاك والمصانيع لتغيير أنماط إنتاجهم نحو الاستدامة	توفير المناخ للمبادرات الشبابية في تحقيق برامج بيئية زراعية ترفع المحاصيل والنقص المتواجد	استغلال مساحات زراعية في البلدان التي تعاني من نقص بالمحاصيل و توفير مستوي دعم لهذه البلدان	دعم لسيارات نقل الحاصلات أو دراسة تطوير كاتيف نقل قسم الزراعة البحر لعموية لتتضمن تشترتها بعد أجزاء الحاصلات الأربعة عليها من أماكن حصادها إلى مرفق تصفيها وتغير مرفق مؤهلة مخصصة لغازها وتوصيها
National campaign/ awareness on environmental challenges, and include these themes in the education curriculums	دعم المشاريع الريادية والعمل على توفير بيئة وبرنامج أكاديمي الريادية في مجال الزراعة	تعزيز مشاريع الزراعة الحافظة والزراعة التكميلية لزيادة الإنتاج الزراعي	نشر التجارب الرائدة في الزراعة والتصنيع الغذائي مثل تجربة الزراعات الأسترالية ووحدة التصنيع الغذائي المنزلية	العمل على تطوير الأصداف النابتية والسلاسل الجوالية المحلية باتجاه زيادة الإنتاج والإنتاجية	زيادة الإنتاج والإنتاجية وإعداد التقنيات الحديثة في الزراعة والتركيز على المزايا النسبية لكل دولة و توفير خدمات ما بعد الحصاد من خلال تحسين التعبئة والتغليف والتشريح والنقل والتخزين والتصنيع
الإهتمام وتطوير الأوعية التراثية والتطبيقية	الإستفادة من المعونات المتاحة من البنك العالمي والبنوك الأخرى للترويج وإثاق مشاريع نموذجية من شأنها تحسين إستعمال المياه والطقا والمخ من التوت	تعزيز المناخ التشريعية وتأهيل التخصصات المتعلقة بالزراعة وخاصة المحصرية	معرفة معلومات صحيحة حول مقرراتنا ضمن قاعدة معلومات حديثة وعصرية	الإكتفاء الذاتي من المحاصيل الزراعية والموارد الغذائية	توسيع استخدام الحلول الرقمية مثل منصات التجارة الإلكترونية
تطوير استخدام التكنولوجيا الحديثة في مجالات الإنتاج والتحويل الزراعي	إعداد خطة العمل الوطنية الممتدة بتطوير نظم الإنتاج والاستهلاك و الإثاقية في كل دولة	تطبيق تلك الصناعة من خلال تنفيذ الصوب الفرمية على الصانع الغذائي ودعمه لتأمين عليها إستقلال كمرحلة ثانية من القدرات الإنتاجية وخلق عمل خاصة تولد و خاصة كتهمة بدعم صلات الطاقة لتجدة	إيجاد الخزين المعامل للمصانع الغذائية العربية و تصنيع الجيوب السكر، الزيت، والدهون الغذائية إنتاج مادة	التعاون الإقليمي في البحث العلمي والشراكة العربية وتبادل الإنمكالت حسب الميزة النسبية لإنتاج الزراعي بين الأقطار	

IV. Game changing actions to respond to risks

What policies and actions are needed to advance equitable and sustainable livelihoods across the food system?					ACTION TRACK 4 RURAL LIVELIHOODS PROMOTION
ما هي السياسات والإجراءات اللازمة للتبويض بظن العيش المعنلة والمستدامة عبر النظم الغذائية؟					
إيجاد الآليات المعنلة للتحويل والتي تحفّظ من مترواح إلى آخر بحسب المجال والأهداف وطرق التنفيذ وإختصاص جهة التمويل	برنامج تخصص زراعية في الجامعة لايد أن يتوافق مع مؤهلات وموارد المنطقة	تسهيل وصول الشباب المناصب القيادية والتحول مع أصحاب المصلحة ليكون لهم دور فعال	التشجيع على الإنتاج الذاتي وتوعية المستهلكين بأهمية دعم المنتجات المحلية عبر كافة الوسائل	تعزيز شبكات المصلحة الاجتماعية الفاعلة القائمة على موارد مالية مستدامة وتعزيز مفهوم الضمان الاجتماعي من خلال أحدات ودعم المصلحة الغذائية	
إعداد كليات ومدارس متخصصة في تأهيل كوادر زراعية	استخدام الحلول الرقمية مثل منصات التجارة الإلكترونية والمعلومات الرقمية لزيادة كفاءة الخدمات الزراعية الوصول إلى الفيلد والخدمة لاحتياجات صغار الفيلد في الوقت المناسب ويمكن منحهم بتدريب والتدريب	توسيع تجربة بنوك الطعام للأحضر الضعيفة	تعليم عملي على الزراعة في المنزل والحى والمبني و ذلك من ضمن التعليم العام بحيث يتمكن الجميع من إنتاج غذاء	ادماج الحدالة الاجتماعية في ترويج وتخصيص الموارد الزراعية (أراضي ومياه	
الإهتمام بفئات الضعيفة في المجتمعات العربية وخاصة صغار الفيلد من من خلال تقيم لهم وصول لهم وخلق فرص العمل لهم وخلق فرص العمل لهم وخلق فرص العمل لهم وخلق فرص العمل لهم	علاوة تعزيز الإثاق والنظم عبر دعم قدرات المزارعين الضعيف ودعم قدراته للمصود	تفعيل جانب التعاونيات الغذائية	إنمك اعتبار الحد من مخاطر الكوارث في إستراتيجيات ومبادرات التنمية المستدامة للتخفيف من الحاصلات المدوية والضرية	دعم مربيين الحيوانات كما يتم دعم المزارعين	
إعداد خطة للجنة للمخاطر وإفراض أسماء المدياريوهات بعد كوفيد ١٩	توفير بنك غذائي وأعداد برنامج الغذاء مقابل العمل	تسوية وحل النزاعات المصلحة والإقليمية لتخفيف من آثار الحروب والكوارث والظروف السياسية والتركيز على الإثاقية بولا من النزاعات التي تنفق حرية إستغلال الموارد الطبيعية	توفير الخدمات الأساسية بالريف تعزيز أساليب ولوات التمويل الريفي حتى يتمكن الريفيين المعنلين إلى الريف وممارسة الإنتاج	الدعم الحكومي لمشاريع التمويل الأصغر الزراعية الغذائية مثل بنوك التمويل الأصغر	
عرض المنتجات محلية الصنع للمستهلكين مع ضمان جودتها وأن يكون سعرها يعكس جميع الفئات	مراجعة التشريعات والأنظمة الوطنية والإلزام بالتطبيق وإيلاءها الأهمية	إنمك سياسات الحفظ على البيئة والتكيف مع تغير المناخ والحد من آثاره ضمن الإستراتيجيات والسياسات الصحية الرقمية، بما يقوى والظروف الاقتصادية والاجتماعية لكل دولة عربية	مراجعة حل مشاكل الفجوات الزراعية لتوفير أسهل مناسبة لكل المصنوع كالخضار والفاكهة	تسهيل الحصول على أراضي فلاحية خاصة للشباب الحامل لمشاريع زراعية ذات قيمة مضافة	

ANNEX 2: AGENDA OF THE DIALOGUE

Introduction: Ms. Reem Nejdawi, ESCWA

Welcoming Note

- Ms. Nawal Al-Hamad, Deputy Director General, Community Nutrition Sector, Public Authority for Food and Nutrition- Kuwait

Opening Remarks

- Ms. Rola Dashti, Executive Secretary ESCWA on behalf of UN agencies
- H.E. Mr. Dy Ould Zein, Minister of Rural Development, Mauritania, Chair of General Assembly of the Arab Organization for Agriculture - AOAD

The 2021 Food Systems Summit: Introduction and dialogue processes

- Mr. Martin Frick, Deputy of the UN Secretary-General's Special Envoy for the Food Systems Summit 2021
- Mr. David Nabarro, Senior Advisor for the FSS Dialogues

Views and Perspectives on Food Systems

- H.E. Ms. Jihad Abdullah Alfathel, Member of Shoora Council of Bahrain, Deputy Chairman, Parliamentarian Network for Food Security and Nutrition in Africa and Arab World
- Ms. Fatima Eltahir Alhassan, Secretary General of the Food Security Technical Secretariat (FSTS), Sudan
- Mr. Tareq Hassan, Head of the Arab Youth Sustainable Development Network (AYSDN)

Interactive Discussion on Transforming Food Systems

- Facilitator: Mr. Rami Zurayk, Professor, American University of Beirut

Interventions from the floor from a variety of stakeholders and requesting from participants to share game changing actions in the chat box that would be added on the whiteboard/ Mural application

Closing Remarks and Way Forward

- H.E. Mr. Ibrahim El Dukhairi, Director General, AOAD

ANNEX 3: LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

I. Arab Countries

Algeria

Mr. Mehdi Remaoun

Deputy Director of Cooperation in the Field of Sustainable Development
Ministry of Foreign Affairs
E-mail : m.remaoun@mae.dz

Mr. Fayssal Ayad

Head of Office monitoring the implementation of the SDGs
Ministry of Foreign Affairs
E-mail: faylosophie@hotmail.com

Ms. Houria Adem

Environmental Engineer
Ministry of Environment
E-mail: wrida1978@gmail.com

Mr. Oumid Bedreddine

General Director
Arab Organization for Agricultural Development
E-mail: oumid@yahoo.fr

Mr. Abdeldjalil Aliabbas

Secretary General
Dounia Association of Environment Protectors
E-mail: jellil.aliabbes@hotmail.com

Ms. Zerdoum Saliha

Expert SDGs
Environment
E-mail: zerdoum.saliha@gmail.com

Ms. Sakina Benabdelkader

Project leader
Ibn El-Bitar Project
E-mail: sakina.benabdelkader@yahoo.fr

Mr. Youssef Didi

National Observatory for the Environment and Sustainable Development
Department of the Environment
E-mail: youssef_icp@yahoo.fr

Mr. Hassina Mokadem

Student
Accounting
E-mail : mokadem.hassina@ccomptes.org.dz

Mr. Said Benmeheirisse

Student
Accounting
E-mail: benmeheirisse.said@ccomptes.org.dz

Bahrain

Dr. Jehad AlFadhel

Deputy Chairwoman of the Parliamentary Network of Food Security and Nutrition in Africa and the Arab World
Shura Council
E-mail: dr.jehadalfadhel@hotmail.com

Mr. Mohamed Ali

Member
Shura Council
E-mail: anamahasan@hotmail.com

Mr. Yaser Humaidan

Member
Shura Council
E-mail: yhumaidan@shura.bh

Mr. Sadeq Alhalwachi

Media specialist
Shura Council
E-mail: salhalwachi@shura.bh

Dr. Shereen Alkazaz

Veterinary doctor
Ministry of Agriculture
E-mail: drshereenadel50@gmail.com

Ms. Asma Abahussain

Professor Earth Sciences and Environment
University of Bahrain
E-mail: dr.asma.abahussain@gmail.com

Dr. Suha Ghareeb

Veterinarian
Animal Wealth Resources
E-mail: sghareeb@mun.gov.bh

Mr. Rashed Algayeb

Editor
Albilad newspaper
E-mail: algayeb@gmail.com

Djibouti

Mr. Abdoufatah

Deputy Director of the Great Green Wall
Ministry of Housing, Urban Planning and
Environment
Djibouti
E-mail: abdoufatah91@outlook.fr

Egypt

Ms. Aya Nawwar

Deputy Head
Sustainable Development Unit
Ministry of Planning and Economic Development

E-mail: aya.nawwar@mped.gov.eg

Ms. Gihan Ahmad

Head of organization
National Nutrition Institute
E-mail:

Ms. Hanan Ahmed AbdElhalim Hamad

Mentor
Professional Society for Health Economics and
Outcomes Research - ISPOR
E-mail: hananahmed_136@hotmail.com

Mr. Shaker Arafat

Professor
Food Technology Research Institute
E-mail: dr_shakerarafat@yahoo.com

Mr. Mahmoud Naem Abass

Demonstrator
Mansoura University
E-mail: mahmoudnaem@mans.edu.eg

Mr. Mahmud Rashed

Statistics Manager
Egyptian Aviation Services
E-mail: mrashed2030405060@gmail.com

Ms. Amna Elhaghamad

Professional
Arab Bank for Economic Development in Africa
(BADEA)
E-mail: amna.elhaghamad@badea.org

Jordan

Mr. Ayman Al Salti

Secretary general assistance for projects and rural
development
Ministry of Agriculture
E-mail: Aymansalti2@hotmail.com

Mr. Rami Al-Habahbeh

Director of studies and production chains
development
Ministry of Agriculture
E-mail: Rami144@hotmail.com

Ms. Nada Frihat

Head of Organizations division
Ministry of Agriculture
E-mail: sps@moa.gov.jo

Mr. Fadi Jabr

General Secretary
Arab Federation for Food Industries
E-mail: arabfood3@gmail.com

Ms. Razan Zuayter

President
Arab Group for the Protection of Nature
Arab Network for Food Sovereignty
E-mail: info@sanabel-landscape.com

Mr. Kamil Shideed

Member of the Steering Committee
High Level Panel of Experts - Committee on
World Food Security (HLPE- CFS)
E-mail: kamelshideed@gmail.com

Iraq

Mr. Haider Al Awadi

Head Sawa Org.
Sawa Org. for Human Rights
E-mail: hu_samawa@yahoo.com

Ms. Dhuha Alaa

Coordinator
Alaghsan Foundation
E-mail: info.alaghsan.iq@gmail.com

Mr. Rami Radhi Hassan Thueini

Arab Federation of Fish Producers
E-mail: arfishf@gmail.com

Mr. Rashid Bahaa Eldin
Expert
Iraqi Innovation and Creativity Center
E-mail: bahaddinr@yahoo.com

Kuwait

Ms. Nawal Alhamad
Deputy Director General
Public Authority for Food and Nutrition
E-mail: N.alhamad@pafn.gov.kw

Mr. Mohamed Al Sharif
Economic Expert
Arab Fund for Economic & Social Development
(AFESD)
E-mail: m.alsharif@arabfund.org

Ms. Fatemah Albisher
Nutritionist
Public Authority for Food and Nutrition
E-mail: al-bisher2@hotmail.com

Lebanon

Ms. Wafaa El Dikah Hamze
Senior Adviser -Former Minister
Ministry of Agriculture
E-mail: wdikah@gmail.com

Ms. Mariam Eid
Head of Agro Industries Service
Ministry of Agriculture
E-mail: mimo_eid@hotmail.com

Ms. Lina Assi
Engineer- Head of Standards and Quality
Inspection Department
Ministry of Interior and Municipalities
E-mail: lina.h.assi@gmail.com

Mr. Rami Zurayk
Professor
American University of Beirut
Email: ramizurayk@gmail.com

Mr. Nadim Farajalla
Program Director
American University of Beirut
E-mail: nf06@aub.edu.lb

Mr. Abed Al Kareem Yehya
Research and Admin assistant
American University of Beirut
Email: ay27@aub.edu.lb

Ms. Rachel Bahn
Coordinator
American University of Beirut
E-mail: rb89@aub.edu.lb

Ms. Maha Hoteit
Head of Nutrition Department
Faculty of Public Health
Lebanese University
Email: m.hoteit@ul.edu.lb

Mr. Ramy Boujawdeh
Deputy General Manager
Berytech
E-mail: rboujawdeh@beryttech.org

Mr. Georges Khoury
Vice Chair
National Association for the Rights of Disabled
People (NARD)
E-mail: georgekhuri16@gmail.com

Ms. Marie Therese Seif
Architect & President
Human Environmental Association for
Development (HEAD)
E-mail: mtseif4@gmail.com

Mr. Talal Darwish
Consultant
National Center for Remote Sensing
E-mail: tdarwich@cnrs.edu.lb

Ms. Julie Barmo
Food Safety Specialist
Georges N. Frem Foundation
E-mail: Julie.Barmo@georgesnfrem.org

Ms. Sandy Tanios
Researcher
Lebanese Parliament
Lebanon
E-mail: sandy-tanios@hotmail.com

Ms. Minerva Sadek
Research Assistant
Arab Group for the Protection of Nature (APN)
Lebanon
E-mail: mas147@mail.aub.edu

Libya

Ms. Aisha Ashbat
Chairman of the Board of Directors of Beit Al-
Khair Association
E-mail : aishashabat@gmail.com

Morocco

Ms. Maakoul Sihame

Ministry of Agriculture, Maritime Fisheries, Rural Development and Water and Forests
E-mail: Sihammaakoul87@gmail.com

Ms. Hasna Senhaji

Officer
Ministry of Economy and Finance
E-mail: hasna.senhaji@gmail.com

Ms. Hasna Elalaoui

Head of Division
High Commission for Planning (HCP)
E-mail: h.elalaoui@hcp.ma

Mr. Said Zarouali

High Division
High Commission for Planning (HCP)
E-mail: s.zarouali@hcp.ma

Mr. Jamal Ait Mouha

Researcher
High Commission for Planning (HCP)
E-mail: j.aitmouha@hcp.ma

Ms. Oumaima Lfakir

Regional Director
International Association of Students in Agricultural and Related Sciences
Middle East and North Africa
E-mail: o.lfakir@elaraki.ac.ma

Oman

Ms. Fatma Aljailani

Acting Director of Food Security
Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries Wealth and Water Resources
E-mail: fatmaaljailani@gmail.com

Mr. Sultan Al-shibli

Head of the import and export permits department
Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries Wealth and Water Resources
E-mail: Sultanalshibli5@gmail.com

Mr. Shahab Al-Bulushi

Acting Head of the Preventive and Therapeutic
Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Water Resources
E-mail: shdx.2009@gmail.com

Mr. Hilal Al Hinai

Laboratory Technician
Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Water Resources
E-mail: hilalalhinai1987@gmail.com

Mr. Talal Saadi

Director
Ministry of Economy
E-mail: talal@scp.gov.om

Mr. Waleed Almaamari

Plant Quarantine
Head Department
Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Water Resources
E-mail: almaamariwalid@gmail.com

Ms. Salima Al Maamari

Doctor
Ministry of health
E-mail: Dr.salima.almamary@gmail.com

Ms. Hala Al-Hikmani

Director of food safety
E-mail: Hala1213@gmail.com

Ms. Nawal Al-wahibi

Head of the Agricultural Extension Section
Head of the Agricultural Extension Department
E-mail: nawal-alwahibi@live.com

Mr. Rashid Said

Shura Arab Forum
E-mail: alremaheu@gmail.com

Ms. Huda Al Siyabi

Researcher
Shura Council
E-mail: HudaKhalfan@hotmail.com

Palestine

Mr. Hasan Ashqar

Director General of Planning and Policies
Ministry of Agriculture
E-mail: hasan.ashqar@moa.pna.ps

Mr. Mousa Al-Halaika

Director of Nutrition Department
Ministry of Health
E-mail: mosahalaika@gmail.com

Ms. Nrmeen Mohamad
Nutritionist
Ministry of Health
E-mail: nrmeenmohamad1996@gmail.com

Mr. Naseam Elzenatiy
Partnerships and Memberships Officer
Arab Youth Sustainable Development Network
(AYSDN)
E-mail: naseam.alzeinati@aysdn.org

Mr. Wiam Maktari
Communication Assistant
Arab Youth Sustainable Development Network
(AYSDN)
E-mail: Wiammaktari@aysdn.org

Mr. Osama Tabash
Projects Manager
Abasan Al Kabira Municipality
E-mail: Osamatabash@hotmail.com

Mr. Mahmoud Jamal
CEO
E-mail: m17mod@gmail.com

Qatar

Dr. Mohammad Alsheyab
Senior Expert of Environmental Development
Ministry of Development Planning and Statistics
E-mail: malsheyyab@gmail.com

Mr. Hamad Alhajri
Ministry of Municipality and Environment Food
Security
E-mail: Hhalhajri@mme.gov.qa

Ms. Tahra El-Obeid
Head, Department of Human Nutrition
Qatar University
E-mail: TAHRA.E@QU.EDU.QA

Saudi Arabia

Mr. Arif Alkalali
General Director Water Management
Ministry of Environment, Water and Agriculture
E-mail: alkalali@ualberta.net

Mr. Naif Ghazi Alshammari
International Relations
Ministry of Environment, Water and Agriculture
E-mail: naifghazi@mewa.gov.sa

Mr. Mohamed Al Suleiman
Consultant
Ministry of Environment, Water and Agriculture
E-mail: alsulaiman@mewa.gov.sa

Mr. Mohammed Alfawzan
Deputy Director General
Food Security Strategy Execution
Saudi Grains Organization (SAGO)
E-mail: mifawzan@sago.gov.sa

Mr. Mohammad Alhammad
Food quality regulations manager
Saudi Grains Organization (SAGO)
E-mail: Hammad@sago.gov.sa

Mr. Mohammed Alabdulsalam
Database Administrator
Saudi Grains Organization (SAGO)
E-mail: m.alabdulsalam@sago.gov.sa

Mr. Saad Habshan
Scientific Evaluation Expert
Saudi Food and Drug Authority (SFDA)
E-mail: sfhabshan@sfda.gov.sa

Mr. Mohammed AL Fakheri
Monitoring Expert
Saudi Food and Drug Authority (SFDA)
E-mail: mafakheri@sfda.gov.sa

Ms. Rawan Alobaid
Senior Regulations and Standards Specialist
Saudi Food and Drug Authority (SFDA)
E-mail: raobaid@sfda.gov.sa

Mr. Khalid Albaqami
Food Safety
Saudi food and Drug Authority (SFDA)
E-mail: Knbogime@hotmail.com

Ms. Tagreed Alfuraih
Senior regulation specialist
Saudi Food and Drug Authority (SFDA)
E-mail: Tmfuraih@sfda.gov.sa

Mr. Yasir Alaqil
Standards & Technical regulations expert
Saudi Food and Drug Authority (SFDA)
E-mail: Yaaqil@sfda.gov.sa

Ms. Shihana Alakeel
Senior Research
Saudi Food and Drug Authority (SFDA)
E-mail: saakeel@sfda.gov.sa

Ms. Latifah Almasaud

Senior Risk Assessment Specialist
Saudi Food and Drug Authority (SFDA)
E-mail: ldmasaud@sFDA.gov.sa

Mr. Faisal Bensaidan

Saudi Food and Drug Authority (SFDA)
E-mail: Faisal_sa888@hotmail.com

Ms. Roaa Almarwani

Senior Risk Communication Specialist
Saudi Food and Drug Authority (SFDA)
E-mail: ramarwani@sFDA.gov.sa

Mr. Enas Aljarwan

Researcher
Saudi Food and Drug Authority (SFDA)
E-mail: Enas.F.Aljarwan@gmail.com

Ms. Atheer Shayea

Dietitian
Saudi Food and Drug Authority (SFDA)
E-mail: Asraqea@sFDA.gov.sa

Ms. Azhar Bokhari

Clinical Nutrition Specialist
Saudi Food and Drug Authority (SFDA)
National Nutrition Committee
E-mail: Azhar.s.13@hotmail.com

Mr. Faisal Binsunaid

Healthy Food Department
Saudi Food and Drug Authority (SFDA)
E-mail: ffsunaid@sFDA.gov.sa

Ms. Ghadir Fallata

Senior Research
Saudi Food and Drug Authority (SFDA)
E-mail: gafallata@sFDA.gov.sa

Mr. Mohammed Babiker

CSR Consultant
Hashem Contracting & Trading Co.
E-mail: mur1@hotmail.com

Mr. Mark Tester

Professor
King Abdullah University of Science and
Technology
E-mail: mark.testers@kaust.edu.sa

Ms. Shahrah Al-Qahtani

PhD student
University of Birmingham
E-mail: Shahrah_saad@outlook.sa

Somalia**Mr. Aidarus Moallim Hassan**

Deputy Director
Somali Bureau of Standards
E-mail: deputy@sobs.gov.so

Mr. Ahmed Ibrahim

Standards
Somali Bureau Of Standards
E-mail: laqanyoj@gmail.com

Mr. Mohamed Aden Hirsi

Inspector
Somali Bureau Of Standards
E-mail: maxersi@gmail.com

Mr. Ahmed Ismail

Statistician
National Bureau of Statistics
E-mail: Ahmed.hassanisma@gmail.com

Mr. Abdirahman Omar

Officer
Somali National Bureau of Statistics
E-mail: geele308@gmail.com

Mr. Abdirashid Mohamed Abdi

Inspector
Somali Bureau of standards
E-mail: kabacade20@gmail.com

Sudan**Ms. Fatima Eltahir Alhassan,**

Secretary General
Food Security Technical Secretariat,
E-mail: fatmaeltahir59@gmail.com

Ms. Wesal Mahmoud

Agricultural economist
Food security and Poverty reduction Department
Ministry of Agriculture
E-mail: wesalahmed2012@gmail.com

Ms. Wafaa Ibrahim

Agriculture Engineer
Ministry of Agriculture and Forests
E-mail: wafaamusal@yahoo.com

Mr. Osama Rayis

Lead Scientist
Nile Tech
E-mail: rayis@hotmail.com

Syrian Arab Republic

Mr. Tahani Alidee

Department of food technology
General Commission for Scientific Agricultural
Research
E-mail: tahane.alidee@yahoo.com

Ms. Abeer Aboushaar

Agricultural engineer specialized in food sciences
General commission of scientific agricultural
researches
E-mail: abeeraboushaar7903@gmail.com

Mr. Reda Al-Damaksi

Member of Parliament
Syrian People's Assembly
E-mail: diab.abdulazim@gmail.com

Mr. Mohamad Alshehabi

Head of food technology department
General Commission for Scientific Agricultural
Researches (GCSAR)
E-mail: mohamadalshehabi@yahoo.com

Tunisia

Mr. Lotfi Ben Said

Director General
Ministry of Local Affairs and the Environment
E-mail: b.said.lotfi@gmail.com

Mr. Mohamed Maher Meddeb

Deputy Director
Ministry of Foreign Affairs
E-mail: m.meddeb@diplomatie.gov.tn

Mr. Wadie Bencheikh

Ministry of Foreign Affairs
E-mail: wadiebencheikh@gmail.com

Ms. Nadoua Gmir Dhaou

Studies and Planning Department
Ministry of Agriculture
E-mail: nadia.gmirdhaou@gmail.com

Mr. Nabil Hamdi

Director
Ministry of Environment
E-mail: hamdienvironnement@yahoo.com

Mr. Sabeh Ouni

Senior Technician
General Directorate of Studies and Agricultural
Development
E-mail: sabeh_ouni@yahoo.fr

Ms. Asma Fedhila

Student
E-mail: Asma.Fdhila@courdescomptes.nat.tn

Mr. Mohamed Amine

Student
E-mail:
mohamedamine.rbiaa@courdescomptes.nat.tn

United Arab Emirates

Ms. Seta Tutundjian

Director of Programs
International Center for Biosaline Agriculture
E-mail: s.tutundjian@biosaline.org.ae

Ms. Ahlam Almannaei

Agriculture Engineer
Ministry of climate change and Environment
E-mail: aaalmannaei@moccae.gov.ae

Ms. Maryam Albedwawi

Agriculture Engineer
Ministry of Climate Change and Environment
E-mail: Maalbedwawi@moccae.gov.ae

Yemen

Mr. Ali Abdullah

Deputy
Minister of Agricultural Planning and Information
Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation and Fish
Wealth
E-mail: a-gnid@hotmail.com

Mr. Aseel Alnajjar

Human Rights Ministry
E-mail: Aseelobad62@gmail.com

Ms. Fatooma Al-Hattami

Project Management
Banat belqis
E-mail: fatialrooh@gmail.com

Mr. Waleed Abdo

Projects & programs coordinator
Development foundation
E-mail: waleed.abdo@ydfy.org

Mr. Tareq Hassan

Head
Arab Youth Sustainable Development Network
E-mail: taha.amer@aysdn.org

Ms. Wedyan Bin Gadem
Secretary
Arab Youth Sustainable Development Network
E-mail : widyam.bingadem@aysdn.org

Mr. Noor Ghulam
Website Assistant
Arab Youth Sustainable Development Network
E-mail: noorg0967@gmail.com

Ms. Manal Noman
Graphic designer
Arab Youth Sustainable Development Network
E-mail: engmanalnoman21@gmail.com

Mr. Abdullah Alhemyari
Content writer
Arab Youth Sustainable Development Network
E-mail: abdullhalhemery@gmail.com

Mr. Eissa Hassan
Program Assistant
Arab Youth Sustainable Development Network
E-mail: eissahassan77@gmail.com

Mr. Salah Al-abdali
Relationship Manager
International Youth Council (IYCY)
E-mail: Salah.alabdali@iycy.org

Mr. Muneer Al Frhan
Executive Director
Yemeni Food Bank
Yemen
E-mail: alfrhan1985@gmail.com

Mr. Ahmed Ashaybani
General Director
Central Organization for Control and Auditing
(COCA)
E-mail: ashaybani2002@yahoo.com

Mr. Mohammed Alarifi
Logistic Officer
Foundation Development
E-mail: mohammed.alarifi.1987@gmail.com

II. Other Countries

Louise Kantrow
Permanent Observer for the International Chamber of
Commerce (ICC) to the United Nations
United States
E-mail: lkantrow@gmail.com

Ms. Ahlam Al-yafeai
Professor
University of Jena
Germany
E-mail: Ahlam.ya2010@outlook.de

Mr. Kamil Hamati
Scientific collaborator
University of Geneva
Switzerland
E-mail: Kamil.Hamaty@gmail.com

Ms. Nadia Al-Naggar
GYC
Germany
E-mail: nadianajjar2012@gmail.com

Mr. Najeeb Alomaisi
GYC
Germany
E-mail: nalomaisi@yahoo.com

Mr. Khawaja Masuood Ahmed
National Coordinator Nutrition and National
Fortification Alliance
Ministry of Health, Government of Pakistan
Pakistan
E-mail: nfakistan@gmail.com

III. Regional Organizations

Arab Authority for Agricultural Investment and Development (AAID)

Mr. Tarek Abdellatif
Agriculture Expert
AAID
Egypt
E-mail: tabdellatif@aaaid.org

Arab Organization for Agricultural Development (AOAD)

H.E. Dr. Ibrahim El Dukhairi
Director General
Sudan
E-mail: ibrahim.dukheri@outlook.com

Dr. Raed Hattar
Deputy director General
Sudan
E-mail: raedhattar@hotmail.com

Ms. Fida'a Rawabdeh
Head of Eastern Office
Jordan
E-mail: rawabdehfidaa@gmail.com

Mr. Kamel ElSayed
Head of the Middle Region Office
Egypt
E-mail: kamel.mostafa.elsayed@gmail.com

Mr. Salem Allozi
Former Director General
Jordan
E-mail: Salem.allozi@gmail.com

Mr. Khalil Abu Afifeh
Forest and Range Expert
Jordan
E-mail: khalilabuafifa@gmail.com

IV. United Nations

Ms. Year Ortiz de Urbina
Deputy Director
UN Regional Commissions NYO
United States
E-mail: yera.ortizdeurbina@un.org

Ms. Agnese Spiazzi
Head of Office
UN Lebanon
E-mail: spiazzi@un.org

United Nations Food System Summit 2021

Martin Frick
Deputy of the UN Secretary-General's Special
Envoy for the Food System Summit 2021
United Nations
Italy
E-mail: martin.frick@un.org

Mr. David Nabarro
Senior advisor
UN Food System Summit
Switzerland
E-mail: david@4sd.info

International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD)

Mr. Thoodan Al-Eryani
Programme Analyst
Egypt
E-mail: t.al-eryani@ifad.org

Mr. Shaik Nagula Meera
Senior Technical Expert, Digital Agriculture
Egypt
E-mail: n.shaik@ifad.org

Ms. Christa Ketting
Social Inclusion Officer
Egypt
E-mail: c.ketting@ifad.org

Mr. Sooyeon Kim
Environment and Social Inclusion Specialist
Egypt
E-mail: soo.kim@ifad.org

Ms. Elena Bertusi
Program Officer, FSS
Italy
E-mail: e.bertusi@ifad.org

Ms. Christine Ciccone
Special Advisor, Food Systems Summit
Italy
E-mail: c.ciccone@ifad.org

Ms. Gadzeni Mulenga
Consultant
Italy
E-mail: g.mulenga@ifad.org

Ms. Francesca Galiazzo
Consultant
Italy
E-mail: francig1702@gmail.com

Mr. Nicolas Tremblay
Lead Regional Environment and Climate
Specialist
United Kingdom
E-mail: n.tremblay@ifad.org

Ms. Francesca Rappocciolo
FSS team
Netherlands
E-mail: f.rappocciolo@ifad.org

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (UN-FAO)

Mr. Jean-Marc Faurès
Regional Program Leader
Egypt
E-mail: jeanmarc.faires@fao.org

Mr. Mohamed Ahmed
Policy Officer
Egypt
E-mail: mohamed.ahmed@fao.org

Ms. Dalia Abulfotuh
Agricultural Officer - Youth Focal Point
Egypt
E-mail: dalia.abulfotuh@fao.org

Ms. Theresa Wong
Natural Resources Officer
Egypt
E-mail: theresa.wong@fao.org

Mr. Jose Valls Bedeau
Policy Officer
Egypt
E-mail: jose.vallsbedeau@fao.org

Mr. Ayman Omer
Senior Field Programme Officer
Egypt
E-mail: ayman.omer@fao.org

Ms. Yara Hazzory
Environmental Expert
Egypt
E-mail: yara.hazzory@fao.org

Mr. Kenya Konno
Programme Officer
Egypt
E-mail: kenya.konno@fao.org

Ms. Laura De Matteis
Programme Analyst
Egypt
E-mail: laura.dematteis@fao.org

Ms. Jennifer Smolak
Value Chains and Agribusiness Specialist
Egypt
E-mail: jennifer.smolak@fao.org

Ms. Dahlia Radwan
Administrative Assistant
Egypt
E-mail: dahlia.radwan@fao.org

Ms. Hebatallah Fahmy
Administrative Assistant
Egypt
E-mail: hebatallah.fahmy@fao.org

Mr. Tommaso Mattei
Project Management Specialist
Italy
E-mail: tommaso.mattei@fao.org

Ms. Etienne Careme
Liaison & Resilience Officer
Lebanon
E-mail: etienne.careme@fao.org

Ms. Solange Matta
Assistant
FAO Representative (Programme)
Lebanon
E-mail: solange.mattasaade@fao.org

Mr. Sameh Henry
E-mail: sameh.henry@fao.org

Mr. Matthieu Berardi
Project Manager
Palestine
E-mail: matthieu.berardi@fao.org

Mr. Armen Sedrakyan
Economist
United Arab Emirates
E-mail: armen.sedrakyan@fao.org

United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)

Mr. Fekadu Terefe
Programme Specialist
Jordan
E-mail: fekadu.terefe@undp.org

United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)

Mr. Paolo Marengo
Project Associate
Bahrain
E-mail: paolo.marengo@un.org

World Bank

Ms. Sarah Doré
Climate Change Consultant
World Bank Center for Mediterranean Integration
France
E-mail : sdore@worldbank.org

World Health Organization (WHO)

Mr. Ayoub Al Jawaldeh
Regional Advisor in Nutrition
WHO- EMRO
Egypt
E-mail: aljawaldeha@who.int

Ms. Dana Darwish
NCD officer
Jordan
E-mail: darwishd@who.int

Ms. Yasmin Rihawi
Program Assistant
Lebanon
E-mail: rihawiy@who.int

Mr. Chizuru Nishida
Unit Head
Switzerland
E-mail : nishidac@who.int

Ms. Hanna Leppäniemi
Technical Officer in Nutrition
WHO Regional Office for the Eastern
Mediterranean (EMRO)
Finland
E-mail: leppaniemih@who.int

Ms. Eman Ibrahim
Nutrition Technical Officer
Egypt
E-mail: eibrahim@who.int

World Food Programme (WFP)

Mr. Oscar Ekdahl
Head of Resilience
Egypt
E-mail: oscar.ekdahl@wfp.org

Mr. Hagar Salama
Programme Assistant
Egypt
E-mail: hagar.salama@wfp.org

Ms. Helen Bekele
External Partnerships Officer
Egypt
E-mail: helen.bekele@wfp.org

Mr. Rawad Halabi
Country Director
Libya
E-mail: rawad.halabi@wfp.org

Mr. Aziz Erden
Head of Field Office
Turkey
E-mail: aziz.erden@wfp.org

Mr. Nitesh Patel
Regional Nutrition Advisor
United States
E-mail: nitesh.patel@wfp.org

Mr. Walid Abed Rabboh
Senior Policy Advisor
United States
E-mail: walid.abedrabbo@gmail.com

Mr. Omar Farook
Anticipatory Action and Climate Services
Specialist
Egypt
E-mail: omar.farook@wfp.org

Ms. Soha Farouk
World Food Programme (WFP)
Egypt
E-mail: soha.farouk@wfp.org

Ms. Soha Haky
Programme Policy Officer (Gender)
Regional Bureau
Egypt
E-mail: soha.haky@wfp.org

Ms. Aya Salah
Resilience Programme
Policy Officer
Egypt
E-mail: aya.salah@wfp.org

Ms. Marah Alkhayyat
Senior Regional Partnerships Officer
Jordan
E-mail: marah.khayyat@wfp.org

Mr. Mohammad Ismail
Programme Policy Officer
Jordan
E-mail: mohammad.ismail@wfp.org

Ms. Laurene Goublet
Head of Programme
Jordan
E-mail: laurene.goublet@wfp.org

Ms. Racil Charara
Programme Policy Officer
Lebanon
E-mail: maracil@gmail.com

Mr. Kassem Jouni
Programme Policy Officer
Lebanon
E-mail: kassem.jouni@wfp.org

Mr. Salah Lahham
Vulnerability Assessment and Mapping officer
Palestine
E-mail: salah.lahham@wfp.org

United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO)

Mr. Adel Sabri
National Project Coordinator
Egypt
E-mail: m.sabri@unido.org

Ms. Annachiara Scandone
Industrial Development Expert
Egypt
E-mail: a.scandone@unido.org

United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)

Mr. Fengyi Yin
Trainee
Egypt
E-mail: f.yin@unesco.org

United Nations Information Centres (UNIC)

Ms. Cynthia Khoury
Public Information Officer
Lebanon
E-mail: khouryc@un.org

Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR)

Ms. Tamara Bou Chahine
Human Rights Assistant
Lebanon
E-mail: tbouchahine@ohchr.org

United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (UN-ESCWA)

Ms. Rola Dashti
Executive Secretary
E-mail: rola.dashti@un.org

Ms. Roula Majdalani
Cluster Leader,
CCNRSC
E-mail: majdalani@un.org

Ms. Karima El Korri
Cluster Leader
2030 Agenda
E-mail : elkorri@un.org

Ms. Reem Nejdawi
Chief, Food and Environment Polices Section
FEPS/CCNRSC
E-mail: nejdawi@un.org

Mr. Ziad Khayat
First Economic Affairs Officer
WRS/SDPD
E-mail: khayat@un.org

Mr. Elias Ghadban
Regional Advisor
FEPS/CCNRSC
Email: elias.ghadban@un.org

Ms. Maisaa Youssef
Sustainable Development Officer
2030 Agenda
E-mail : youssef8@un.org

Mr. Fidele Byiringiro
Economic Affairs Officer (EAO)
FEPS/CCNRSC
E-mail: byiringiro@un.org

Ms. Julie Abouarab
Associate Coordination Officer
FEPS/CCNRSC
E-mail: abouarab@un.org

Ms. Lara Geadah
Economic Affairs Assistant
FEPS/CCNRSC
E-mail : geadahl@un.org

Ms. Maya Atie
ESCWA Consultant
FEPS/CCNRSC
E-mail: maya.atie@un.org

Ms. Rita Wehbe
Research Assistant
FEPS/CCNRSC
Email: wehbe@un.org

Ms. Layale Gedeon
Research Assistant
FEPS/CCNRSC
E-mail: gedeon1@un.org

Ms. Sarah Daniel
ESCWA Consultant
FEPS/CCNRSC
E-mail: sara.daniel@un.org

Ms. Lina Fleifel
Research Assistant
CCNRSC
E-mail: lina.fleifel@un.org

Ms. Nour El Jundi
Research Assistant
NAFS
Email: nour.eljundi@un.org

Ms. Eliane Hamdan
Consultant
2030 Agenda
E-mail: Ehamdan.eh@gmail.com

Ms. Hania Sabbidin Dimassi
Researcher
2030 Agenda
E-mail: dimassi@un.org

Ms. Grace Farah
Communications Assistant
E-mail: grace_farah25@hotmail.com

Mr. Raja Abou Ezzeddine
Communications Assistant
E-mail: raja.abouezzeddine@un.org

ESCWA Mailing Address
United Nations Economic and Social Commission
for Western Asia (UN-ESCWA)
UN House
P.O. Box: 11-8575
Riad El-Solh 1107 2812
Lebanon
Tel.: (+961-1) 981501/2

Interpreters

Ms. Joyce Khoury Makary
Lebanon
Email: joyce.makary@googlemail.com

Ms. Rana Daou
Lebanon
Email: rana_daou@hotmail.com

Ms. Layal Hashem
Lebanon
Email: hashemlayal@hotmail.com

Ms. Rita El Yahchouchy
Lebanon
Email: ritayahchouchy@hotmail.com

Ms. Mirna Tabet
Lebanon
E-mail: mirnatabet@hotmail.com

Ms. Nour Assaad
Lebanon
E-mail: n.lassaad@gmail.com