



Food and Agriculture
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Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA)

Expert Group Meeting to review Guidelines for Improved Water Allocation for Agriculture
16 September 2021

Information note

1. Background

The Joint Water-Agriculture Ministerial Meeting held on April 4, 2019 in Cairo resulted in the adoption of the 2019 Cairo Declaration. During its first meeting on October 2019, the newly established High-Level Joint Water-Agriculture Technical Committee (HLJTC) adopted five priority areas its work on Agriculture and Water.

Water allocation
in agriculture

Water
productivity

Efficient water
usage

Use of non-
conventional
water in
agriculture

Water-food-
energy nexus

Towards this end, the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (UN ESCWA), and the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), are supporting the Joint Technical Secretariat comprised of the Arab Organization for Agriculture Development (AOAD) and the Arab Water Ministerial Council Secretariat (AWMC) in developing “Voluntary Guidelines” for allocating water resources for agriculture. It is anticipated that the revised version of the Guidelines will be presented at the upcoming Third meeting of the HLJTC that will take place on 26 October 2021 on the sidelines of the Cairo Water Week. The recommendations of the HLJTC on the guidelines will be presented in the meeting of the Joint Water-Agriculture Ministerial Council, on 27 October 2021 to obtain the directions and course of action through a resolution from the council.

A working group comprising ESCWA, FAO, Joint Technical Secretariat and external senior consultants prepared the Guidelines that propose relevant approaches and principles for (1) development and design, (2) implementation (3) monitoring and (4) enforcement of water allocation regimes for improved use of water resources in agriculture across the different Arab countries. Ultimately, these guidelines aim at providing guidance to decision makers and planners in Arab countries. In this respect, ESCWA, in partnership with FAO and the Joint Technical Secretariat, is organizing an Expert group meeting on September 16, 2021 to review and discuss the draft Guidelines and receive feedback from experts in the related fields. Throughout this interactive online session, the draft guidelines will be presented, and time will be allocated for attending experts to critically review and provide their technical feedback.

2. Objective

Invited experts will review and discuss the draft version of the “*Guidelines for Improved Water Allocation in Agriculture*” through providing their technical comments and proposing modifications.

3. Participants

Participants will include invited representatives and experts from national and regional organizations in the Arab region along with experts in fields related to water resources and agriculture.

4. Logistical Information

The regional meeting will be held virtually using Zoom Application on Thursday September 16, 2021, from 11:00-13:30 (Beirut time). Invited participants to register on the following link:

https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_QZTOxsBOQ1SPInL-mMLi3w

The meeting and related materials will be presented in English languages. Interpretation into Arabic and between both languages will be provided.

All session-related correspondence should be sent to the following ESCWA officials:

Ms. Julie Abouarab Associate Coordination Officer Food and Environment Policies Section ESCWA Beirut, Lebanon Email: abouarab@un.org	Ms. Layale Gedeon Research Assistant Food and Environment Policies Section ESCWA Beirut, Lebanon Email: Lgedeon@un.org
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5. Proposed Agenda

Duration (min)	Topic	Speaker
10	Opening Session and Welcoming Remarks	ESCWA FAO
10	Presentation 1 <ul style="list-style-type: none">Effective water governance for improved water allocationTowards improved water allocation for agriculture	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Mr. Frank van SteenbergMr. Nadim Farajalla
45	Open Discussion	
10	Presentation 2 <ul style="list-style-type: none">Getting the process to work for improved water allocationApplication of the assessment tool	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Mr. Frank van SteenbergMr. Nadim Farajalla
45	Open Discussion	
5	Presentation 3 <ul style="list-style-type: none">Recommendation for projects	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Mr. Frank van SteenbergMr. Nadim Farajalla
15	Open Discussion	
10	Closing Session and Way Forward	AOAD AMWC