



Shared Prosperity Dignified Life



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Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA)

Expert Group Meeting on the Food Systems Assessment Tool
Thursday, 14 September 2023, 13:00-15:00 (Beirut Time)

Information Note and Agenda

Background

The recent food and commodity price shocks have led countries of the region to re-evaluate their food security strategies. However, to develop a comprehensive strategy there is a need to better understand the functioning and performance of their food systems. It is in this context that the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA), is endeavoring to propose a way to effectively visualize national food systems and assess their performance in terms of their delivering on national policies, strategies and programmes and responding to arising global threats that might undermine their food security.

In 2019, ESCWA, in collaboration with the Arab Organization for Agriculture Development (AOAD) and the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations with the support of the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida) developed a food security monitoring framework following a substantial consultative process. The framework, which revolves around 24 indicators to provide an overview of the food security situation as well the stressors impacting its outcome, was adopted by the Arab Ministers responsible for Agriculture during the 35th meeting of the Executive Committee of AOAD.

However, in 2020, the High-Level Panel of Experts (HLPE) on Food Security and Nutrition, in its report No. 15, proposed to expand the food security dimensions from four to six through the addition of a dimension on Agency, to account for people choices, and Sustainability, to account for the long-term regeneration. The expansion requires the addition of selected new indicators as well as their streamlining and redistribution to remove overlaps and keep it manageable. In addition, following the Food Systems Summit in 2021, the need to assess the functioning and performance of national food systems has become apparent. To this end, an assessment typology is being proposed, which combined with the above monitoring framework could allow an evaluation of national food systems in terms of resilience, inclusivity, and sustainability.

In this respect, ESCWA is organizing this “Expert Group Meeting on the Food Systems Assessment Tool, 14 September 2023, 13:00-15:00 by zoom, to present and discuss the outcome of the monitoring framework expansion exercise.

Agenda

The meeting will be held virtually on Thursday, 14 August 2023, from 13:00 to 15:00 (Beirut time). Interested experts are invited to register through this link. The report and zoom link will be shared prior to the meeting with registered participants.

The meeting will be conducted in both Arabic and English with interpretation provided.

13:00-13:10	Opening Remarks
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Ms. Reem Nejdawi, Chief, Food and Environment Policies, Climate Change and Natural Resources Sustainability Cluster, ESCWA
13:10-14:10	Key messages
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Mr. Fidele Byiringiro, Food and Environment Policies, Climate Change and Natural Resources Sustainability Cluster, ESCWA- Ms. Pilar Ouro-Paz, Food and Environment Policies, Climate Change and Natural Resources Sustainability Cluster, ESCWA- Dr. Rami Zurayk, Consultant, Climate Change and Natural Resources Sustainability Cluster, ESCWA
14:10-15:00	Discussions
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Discussions- Closing remarks

Correspondence

All meeting-related correspondence should be sent to:

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