

























## TOWARDS THE UN FOOD SYSTEMS SUMMIT 2021

# Arab Youth Dialogue on Food Systems

11:30 am-1:00 pm March 9, 2021

#### WHAT DO WE WANT TO ACHIEVE TODAY?

#### WHAT ARE WE GOING TO DO?

- Review the facts & the challenges of the Arab food systems
- Identify what needs to be done by whom (actors) & who will be impacted the most (stakeholders)

#### **HOW TO DO IT?**

- Be creative in proposing game changing actions & solutions that are scalable, actionable & sustainable over time
- Be mindful of impacts on equity, particularly gender & geographic equity

#### WHY YOU?

- ✓ More than half the Arab Population is under 25 so we need your energy and innovative ideas!
- ✓ You have the right to be in control of your food system, having access to healthy and sustainable diets.
- ✓ Decisions made today will affect your future

## Agenda

11:00 – 11:05	Welcoming Remarks by ESCWA and FAO (Ms. Reem Nejdawi and Mr. Jean Marc Faures )
11:05 – 11:10	Objective of dialogue and Agenda (Ms. Julie Abouarab)
11:10 – 11:20	Brief on the 2021 Food Systems Summit and Its Five Action Tracks (Mr. Jean Marc Faures )
11:20 - 12:20	BUILDING SOLUTIONS TOGETHER (Ms. Maya Atie, Ms. Julie Abouarab)
	Interactive discussion using MURAL application, and identification of actions
	Issue 1: Transitioning to Healthy Food
	Issue 2: Advancing Equitable Livelihoods
	Issue 3: Optimizing Sustainable Production
	Issue 4: Responding to Risks
12:20 - 12:30	WRAP UP
	<ul> <li>Presenting the Video on Youth and the 2021 Food Systems Summit (Ms. Dalia Abulfotuh)</li> </ul>
	<ul> <li>Restoring degraded land in the Arab Region: A Youth Challenge (Ms. Reem Nejdawi)</li> </ul>

## **HOW TO DO IT?**











#### **RELEVANT ISSUES**

- Transitioning to Healthy Food
- Advancing Equitable Livelihoods
- Optimized Sustainable Production
- Responding to Risks

- Review facts and area for intervention
- Propose game-changing solutions and actions

Identify pathways to accelerate progress by

indicating actors to implement and stakeholders impacted

## **Transitioning to Healthy Food in the Arab Region**

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

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

Address
Obesity &
Malnutrition

**Key Intervention Areas** 

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

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

Reduce Food Loss & Waste

## Advancing Equitable Livelihoods in the Arab Region

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

16% work in Agriculture ( as a share of total employment)

20 % women unemployment rate & 26.5 % for youth

**Key Intervention Areas** 

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

Promote decent work for all

Reduce inequitable access to resources

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

## Optimized Sustainable Production in the Arab Region

Water scarcity,
renewable water
resources 600
m3/person/year (10%
of world average)

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

Integrated management of scarce resources

#### **Key Intervention Areas**

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

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

Increasing productivity with technology & investments

### Responding to Risks in the Arab Region

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

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

Reducing vulnerabilities to import dependencies

20 million people are

projected to be affected by rising sea levels and

coastal seas flooding

(Climate Change)

**Key Intervention Areas** 

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

Building resilience to risks & hazards







#### **United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia**

T. +961 1 981 301 F. +961 1 981 510



www.unescwa.org





@unescwa

## THANK YOU FOR YOUR PARTICPATION