



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

Workshop on promoting the use of green technologies for a resilient and a sustainable agricultural sector
Kempinski Hotel - Amman, Jordan, 17-18 August 2021

INFORMATION NOTE

I. Background

The agricultural sector in the Arab region faces severe challenges related to scarcity of natural resources, access to agricultural inputs, access to market, poor infrastructure, and climate change. In light of these challenges, comes the need to intensify efforts towards supporting agriculture through the introduction of green technologies to improve production efficiency, while protecting the environment through sustainable use of natural resources.

To this purpose, UN-ESCWA is implementing a Development Account project on “Enhancing resilience and sustainability of agriculture in the Arab region”, which aims at enhancing national capacities to address resilience and sustainability of the agricultural sector in three target countries, namely Jordan, Lebanon, and Palestine. Activities under this project include the development of training material and conducting capacity building workshops at national level in the three countries.

In Jordan, the national strategy of the agricultural sector (2020-2025) sets a list of priorities for development; among these priorities is the promotion of modern technologies by increasing related investments, disseminating knowledge on their use and benefits, and by developing capacities to benefit most from such technologies. Furthermore, the Jordanian national strategy prioritizes the development of the value chains of agricultural and rural production, focusing on increasing productivity of strategic local producer producing typical crops, in order to enhance food security.

In order to respond to these priorities and contribute to their achievement, UN-ESCWA is partnering with the Ministry of Agriculture in Jordan to implement awareness activities on selected green agricultural technologies. These activities involve conducting a “Workshop on promoting the use of green technologies for a resilient and a sustainable agricultural sector” that targets extension officers from the ministry and representatives from other relevant entities working in the agro-food sector. The workshop is planned to be held on 17 and 18 August 2021.

The workshop raises awareness of participants on five green technologies with a focus on the applications of solar dryers and rainwater harvesting technologies. The project aims to promote knowledge transfer of these technologies to farmers and encouraging their adoption.

II. Objectives

The workshop aims at raising awareness of participants on five green agricultural technologies that promote sustainable use of natural resources and improve agricultural production.

Technologies addressed by the workshop include small-scale food processing and associated green and sustainable practices, food bio-conservation, solar dryers, green fertilizers, and rainwater harvesting. Given their importance at a national level, solar dryers and rainwater harvesting technologies will be tackled in detail to cover technical aspects and examples on applications adapted to the Jordanian context. In fact, solar dryers are a tool that relies on renewable energy thus reducing the energy bill on their user and contributing to reducing greenhouse gas emissions. They have simple designs, come at affordable costs, and are easily adopted by rural communities, hence, providing farmers with a variety of highly quality dried products and contributing to improving their livelihood. The same is true for rainwater harvesting; it is a technology that provides farmers with an alternative source of water that helps them overcome drought periods and inconsistent supply of water. It offers a variety of systems adapted to different crops and soil conditions and is also used for the rehabilitation of rangelands and even forests.

The workshop aims at enhancing capacities of extension officers by:

- Adding to their knowledge about the five agricultural green technologies
- Empowering them to effectively transfer acquired knowledge to farmers

III. Thematic Areas

The workshop focuses on explaining the benefits of adopting five agricultural green technologies in particular solar dryers and rainwater harvesting on which practical guidance will be provided.

Thematic sessions covered by the workshop are as follow:

- **Introduction to agricultural green technologies related to pre-harvest and their on-farm applications:** Participants will be introduced to on-farm pre-harvest green technologies, which can be transferred to farmers to ensure an efficient and sustainable use of natural resources and to improve their production. Technologies covered by this thematic area include green fertilizers and rainwater harvesting. A special focus will be given to rainwater harvesting technology; the workshop will cover the technology's potential, its applicable methods in the Jordanian context, its benefits to agriculture and environment, and its economic feasibility. Furthermore, UN-ESCWA has prepared a trainer's manual to be used as a guidebook for extension officers to provide future training on rainwater harvesting to farmers. The manual will be explained and discussed with participants, and feedback will be gathered to tailor it further to the specific needs of Jordanian extension workers, as well as farmers.
- **Introduction to agricultural green technologies related to post-harvest and food production:** Extension officers will be introduced to green practices and technologies used in food production that they can transfer to farmers and cooperatives working in the agro-food sector. These technologies help farmers and cooperatives improve their production and explore new market opportunities with innovative products. Technologies covered by this thematic area include food processing and associated green practices, food bio-

conservation and solar dryers. A special focus will be given to the use of solar dryers in food processing covering all technical aspects to produce a variety of dried vegetables and fruits. Technical aspects will include, *inter alia*, optimal temperature needed for each crop, moisture percentage, size, thickness of sliced fruit. The workshop will disseminate lessons learned from a previous workshop organized by UN-ESCWA for agro-food women cooperatives in Lebanon on 6-7 and 13-14 July 2021. Finally, extension officers will be exposed to a “trainer’s manual” produced by UN-ESCWA, to be used as a guidebook for conducting similar trainings on solar dryers, in order to transfer such knowledge to farmers.

IV. Organizational issues

A. Participants

Extension officers specialized in post-harvest activities and food production will participate in the first day of the workshop, in addition to representatives from relevant entities working in the agro-food sector. The second day of the workshop will target mainly extension officers specialized in pre-harvest and on-farm applications.

B. Date and venue

The workshop will be held at the Kempinski Hotel in Amman, Jordan. The workshop will take place on 17 and 18 August 2021.

C. Language

The workshop will be conducted in Arabic language.

D. Correspondence

Correspondence related to the meeting should be directed to the following address:

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