

**Arab Regional Preparatory Meeting for the Midterm Comprehensive Review of the Water
Action Decade**

Beirut, Lebanon, 18-19 May 2022

**Side Event: Innovating for coping with water scarcity: productivity and sustainability
of water in the NENA region, adopting a nexus approach**

For virtual participation:

<https://zoom.us/meeting/register/tJAuduugpjsqHNHm0O3JFhwRCFa5DbLEoi1R>

Location: MZ conference room

Time: 15:20

Objectives and expected outcome of the session

This session focuses on the main results of the project WEPS-NENA under the NENA Water scarcity initiative focused on the implementation of the 2030 agenda and in particular productivity and sustainability of water for resilient agri-food systems.

In particular, the session seeks to:

- Report on lessons learnt and impact:
- Obtain the views of countries and stakeholders on ways to cope with water scarcity while enabling resilient agro-food systems in the countries of the region
- Discuss regional priorities to transform food systems to reduce unsustainable impacts on scarce water resources and add value per drop.

The session

The purpose of the session is to provide an overview on the issues, results and impacts of a regional project focused on implementing the 2030 agenda for efficiency, productivity and sustainability of water in the NENA region in order to build more resilient agriculture and food systems while setting sustainable limits to water allocation. The session will start with a keynote to set the scene followed by a country case study and will invite regular inputs from the audience and develop a set of concrete recommendations for the development of regional recommendations.



Agenda

Side Event: Innovating for coping with water scarcity: productivity and sustainability of water in the NENA region, adopting a nexus approach

- Moderator: Mr. Mohamed Al-Hamdi, Senior Land and Water Officer and Delivery Manager, Water Scarcity Initiative, FAO Regional Office for the Near East and North Africa
- 15:20 – 15:25 Opening remarks
- FAO representative for Lebanon
- 15:25 – 15:40 Innovating to cope with water scarcity in the NENA region with a nexus approach (learning from implementing the WEPS-NENA Project) with Q&A
- *Ms. Domitille Vallée, Chief Technical Adviser, FAO-RNE*
- 15:40 – 16:10 Innovation in Practice – learning from the case of Lebanon with exchange with audience
- *A panel representing key stakeholders from Lebanon involved in the project*
 - Ms. Maya Mhanna: Ministry of Agriculture- Sida Project focal point on Water Productivity
 - Dr. Ihab Jomaa: Lebanese Agricultural Research Institute- Water Productivity baseline Study of the SIDA project
 - Ms. Mona Fakih: Ministry of Energy and Water- Project focal point on Water Accounting and Water Auditing
 - Ms. Maya Atie: ESCWA- leading the work on “Increasing watershed resilience to climate change” in El Kalb River Basin- Sida Project
- 16:10 – 16:20 Summary, way forward and Closing remarks
- *Mr. Mohamed Al-Hamdi, FAO- RNE*