Accelerating green transformation in agrifood systems

Tania Santivanez
FAO Regional Office for Europa and Central Asia
27 March 2024
Food systems transformation is being advocated as an important priority for countries globally, and in our region.
Agri-food systems in ECA region: challenges

- Increasing resource stress overexploitation, land, water,
- Unsustainable farming practices
- Loss of forests and biodiversity (42% decline)
- Land and soil degradation, soil pollution
- Greenhouse gas emissions
- Digital and knowledge inequalities

Unsustainable agrifood systems
It is a growing threat to agricultural production and ecosystem services

Science and innovation are essential parts of finding solutions to these complex challenges

- Increased Poverty in urban and rural areas
- Lack of access to information and education
- Lack of interest among youth for agriculture

- Increased energy-intensity and ecological footprint associated with the lengthening and industrialization of food supply chains
- Wider distribution of animal diseases / plant pest / intensive use of pesticides
- Limited access of smallscale producers and Agri-enterprises to viable markets
- Food losses and waste, increased incidences of food safety, and animal and human health issues.

- Food insecurity and Malnutrition
- Poor consumers excluded.....lack access to nutritious foods
FAO SCIENCE & INNOVATION STRATEGY

REGIONAL ACTION PLAN

PILLAR 1
Strengthening science and evidence-based decision-making.
Outcome 1.1 Knowledge and evidence
Outcome 1.2 Science Policy Interfaces
Outcome 1.3 Research for Development

PILLAR 2
Supporting innovation and technology at regional and country level.
• Outcome 2.1 Access to and use of innovations and technologies
• Outcome 2.2 Capacities of national innovation systems

PILLAR 1
Serving Members better by reinforcing FAO’s capacities.
• Outcome 3.1 Knowledge management
• Outcome 3.2 Science communication
• Outcome 3.3 FAO capacities to enable S&I

Better production, better nutrition, a better environment and a better life.
KNOWLEDGE-SHARING & CAPACITY BUILDING

STAGE 1
- Lack of knowledge, capacities and policies on GA
- Interest in the region on greening food system.
- Few countries promoting and implementing GA

STAGE 2
Intra and inter Regional mechanisms, instruments, tools and networks established to scale up Green Agriculture and enhance its governance to selected regions

STAGE 3
Green Agriculture is recognized and implemented as holistic, multidisciplinary and nexus approach for agrifood systems transformation at regional and global level

GOVERNANCE AND NETWORKS

Vision: Green Agriculture is promoted and implemented as holistic, and multidisciplinary framework for greening agrifood systems, contributing to food security.
RTP on Green Agriculture - a tool for greening agrifood system

- Digital
- Open Access
- User-friendly

Intra-and inter-regional gateway

Knowledge repository

Intra- and inter-regional experts networks

Green Agriculture Platform

Knowledge sharing

https://www.fao.org/platforms/green-agriculture/en
Areas of work - A food systems approach

https://www.fao.org/platforms/green-agriculture/en
Examples from Central Asia

1. Regional LDN Decision Support System

2. Artificial glaciers Kyrgyzstan

https://projectgeffao.users.earthengine.app/view/reu-ldn-assessment

©FAO/Evgeniy Pechurin
3. Digital Villages Initiative & AgriTech Observatory Platform

Digital Villages Initiative (DVI)
AgriTech Observatory

215 initiatives in 208 countries or territories
4. Green transition in Plant Protection

- Pesticides use reduction in apple production in Türkiye
- Regional collaboration on wheat rust disease
- Biocontrol to optimize grapevine production in Georgia and minimize negative environmental impacts

5. Green Finance Platform in Uzbekistan

Hub for information, resources, and opportunities related to environmentally sustainable financial practices.
6. Soil remediation technologies in Central Asia
Thank you!

Green Agriculture TEAM
FAO Regional Office for Europa and Central Asia