

Knowledge Sharing Workshop on “Food Security and Resilient Food Systems in Africa”

Concept Note

Overview

In a world characterised by unprecedented economic and geopolitical challenges, food insecurity comes at the forefront, intensified by the repercussions of climate change and a series of disruptions in global value chains on the regional and global levels.

Shedding the light on the African context; despite having the lowest levels of GHG emissions, Africa is one of the most heavily impacted continents by climate change, as 60% of its countries are facing severe climate repercussions. This is particularly sensitive as 85% of Africans rely on natural resources to meet their basic needs, and 65% depend on subsistence agriculture.

Climate change is projected to have significant impacts on agricultural productivity, including changes in crop yields and cultivation areas, specifically in Africa. These changes are likely to result in increased food prices, making food less affordable for vulnerable communities. In this context, and according to the Africa Regional Overview of Food Security and Nutrition (2023), nearly 282 million people in Africa are undernourished, and over 1 billion Africans unable to afford a healthy diet.

Therefore, creating and supporting sustainable food systems in Africa comes as a priority at this important juncture, through expanding successful practices in sustainable farming practices, efficient storage management and diversified and resilient food production.

Against this backdrop, the knowledge-sharing workshop on “Food Security and Resilient Food Systems in Africa” sheds light on the repercussions of climate change on food security in the African continent and navigates the pathways to mitigate and adapt to such a challenge, in addition to exploring ways to enhance the resilience of food systems. Nonetheless, the session seeks to discuss the economic dimension of promoting sustainable food systems to ensure its commercial viability, the social dimension through equitable allocation and distribution of economic value-added, and the environmental facet of the food systems through reducing greenhouse gas emissions and conserving water resources.

Furthermore, a shift towards sustainable food systems requires developing an enabling environment reflecting country commitment and ownership. Creating inclusive food systems necessitates adopting a multi-stakeholder approach, where the private sector plays a crucial role in driving innovation, strengthening value chains, promoting sustainable practices, and mobilising financial resources.

To that end, and capitalising on the importance of country platforms to accelerate national development efforts, the session will also explore Egypt's efforts in achieving food security and building resilient food systems, through the Food Pillar of Egypt's Country Platform for the Nexus of Water, Food and Energy (NWFE), and its overarching integrated programmes CRAFT and CROWN. Additionally, innovative partnerships deployed in NWFE Platform, will be illustrated, which serves as a viable example in mobilising development finance from governments, private sector and multilateral and bilateral development partners.

Nonetheless, building on the Sharm El Sheikh Guidebook for Just Financing, the session will reflect on the innovative financing mechanisms highlighted, such as blended finance which

seeks to de-risk climate projects, including sustainable and resilient food systems, to leverage private capital.

Objective:

The workshop aims to:

- Promote knowledge exchange with regards to Food Security and Agricultural Innovation Strategies, and the role of different stakeholders to support the African government's efforts through financing projects aligning with the national strategies.
- Highlight the importance of country platforms in achieving complementarity between various stakeholders to advance the agricultural sector and address food security concerns
- Discuss and explore innovative financing mechanisms such as impact investing, blended finance, and public-private partnerships to mobilise resources for food security initiatives in light of the principles of just financing of the Sharm El Sheikh Guidebook.
- Identify opportunities for leveraging private sector investment and philanthropic support to scale up successful models.

Attendance

- Government officials from Egypt and Africa
- Development partners
- Private sector companies
- Philanthropies
- Think tanks

Potential Speakers:

Representatives from the following organisations:

- Ministry of International Cooperation, Egypt
- Ministry of Agriculture and Land Reclamation, Egypt
- International Islamic Trade Finance Corporation (ITFC)
- International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD)
- World Bank (WB)
- African Development Bank (AFDB)
- European union (EU)