

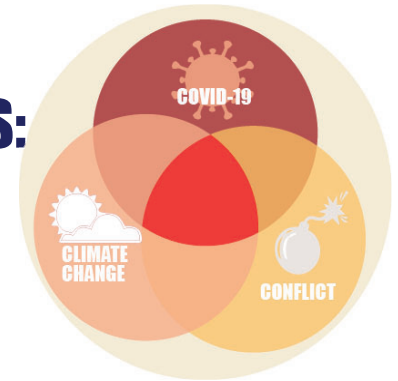


A SIDE EVENT

ON THE MARGINS OF THE 7TH AFRICA REGIONAL FORUM FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT (ARFSD7)

CONFLICT-CLIMATE CHANGE-COVID-19 NEXUS: A FOOD SYSTEMS APPROACH

01 March 2021 – 12.00-13.30 PM (East Africa Time)



BACKGROUND

Building on the overall theme of the 7th ARFSD, “Building forward better: towards a resilient and green Africa to achieve the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063”, the proposed side event attempts to highlight the combined impact of three disruptive events, namely: conflicts, climate (extreme weather events), and the COVID-19 pandemic in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and Africa Union’s Agenda 2063.

The background paper on SDG2 confirms the profound impact of these three factors on the agriculture sector and food systems in Africa, impeding the path to food security and nutrition and accelerating agricultural transformation.

Like climate change and COVID-19, conflict is also increasingly becoming a major driver of food insecurity and malnutrition, as it causes population displacement, disrupting food production and food systems

The side event is built on the findings and recommendations of the 6th ARFSD, which focused on food security-poverty nexus. The deliberation of this event and the background documents will enrich the discussions on the subject matter, with pertinent policy recommendations.



ABSTRACT

Recent reports and analyses suggest that Africa has witnessed a significant deterioration in food security and nutrition in 2020. In addition to economic slowdown and transboundary plant pests (Desert Locust and Fall Armyworm), key drivers of food insecurity and malnutrition include, conflicts, extreme weather conditions and the COVID-19 pandemic. Considering this, the side event aims at exploring the interplay of these three factors, their implications and impacts on the African food systems. The side event is also expected to provide a platform for sharing experiences and best practices and, come up with some actionable measures towards enhancing the resilience of African food systems in the face of these three re-enforcing crises.



KEY ISSUES

African Food systems: 2020, was 2020 a particular year?

Topics to be discussed:

The state of African food systems in 2020 | the state of food security and nutrition | agricultural production and food consumption | agricultural trade, agribusiness and agri-processing |, structural challenges rural households, and community resilience.

Effects of the CCC on food security and nutrition in Africa

Topics to be discussed:

Trends and impacts of CCC on food security and nutrition in Africa | implications on the food systems and rural livelihoods | policy measures to avert these crises.

The interplay of the CCC and its implications on food systems in Africa

Topics to be discussed:

The interlinkage among the CCC and their potential impact on African food system | how COVID-19 compounded the impact of conflict and drought/floods on farming/fishing/herding and related activities | how it directly impacts food production, marketing/food supply/price and consumption | The effects of conflict and extreme weather events on COVID-19 and, consequently, on food systems at large | The combined/reinforcing effects of CCC on African food systems, with special focus on farming activities and rural livelihoods.

Key messages and recommendations to policy makers and development partners in Africa

Topics to be discussed:

Actionable measures to address the multiple challenges of the CCCs to African food systems will be proposed for further discussion and elaboration with a view to reduce their impact on African food systems, thereby accelerate the implementation of the SDGs and the AU Agenda 2063.

OBJECTIVES OF THE EVENT

The ultimate goal of the event is to highlight the impact of conflict, climate change and COVID-19 (CCC) on food security and nutrition and seek bold actions to reduce their impact. It specifically aims at:

- Highlighting the interplay and interlinkages of the CCC on food security and nutrition within the context of African food systems.
- Examining the impact of the three shocks on the progress towards achieving the UN Sustainable Development Goals and the African Union's Agenda 2063.
- Recommending strategic policy options, contributing to the efforts to minimize the impacts of the CCC in the short and medium terms and enhance the resilience of the African food systems

Organizing Institutions



United Nations
Economic Commission for Africa



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations

