



Food Systems Transformation as Accelerator for SDGs Implementation and Climate Action in Asia and the Pacific

Side Event: 11th Asia-Pacific Forum for Sustainable Development

Wednesday, February 21, 11.30-12.45

UNCC- Theater, Bangkok and online

Organizer

UN Food Systems Coordination Hub

Co-organizers

- Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP)
- Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)

Registration

To register for this side event **either virtually or in person**, please use the following link <https://forms.gle/f5TkNCqkG6UnsJcSA>.

Furthermore, please note that to participate in person in the side event, all registrants must **also register** on Indico to attend the APFSD by **February 6** using the link here: <https://indico.un.org/event/1007683/> Please register using the option “Registration for Others” and choose your side event. Those who do not register on Indico will not be able to access the United Nations Conference Center.

Background

The UN Food Systems Summit Stocktaking Moment (UNFSS+2) in 2023 leveraged sustainable, inclusive, and resilient food systems as pivotal drivers for advancing the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

The 2023 Global Sustainable Development Report recognizes food systems as crucial transformers for sustainability across individuals, the environment, and economics. Recent ESCAP analysis shows that Asia-Pacific Region is not on track to achieve any of the SDGs, in particular, progress toward SDG 13 on climate action is regressing. Food systems can and should

play a bigger role in climate action. Food systems contribute to over one-third of global greenhouse gas emissions, while at the same being increasingly threatened by climate change. The most vulnerable populations, including rural communities, smallholder farmers, urban poor, Indigenous People, women and children and bearing the brunt of impacts.

The Convergence Initiative, developed by the Hub and 4SD Foundation, under the Partnership with the UAE COP28 Presidency, aims to synergize food systems transformation and climate action. It supports countries in achieving their SDGs and Paris Agreement objectives while contributing to the realization of the Right to Food and a sustainable and resilient future. The initiative encourages national convergence processes, orientation sessions, resources, and guidance, fostering cross-sectoral collaboration and stakeholder engagement.

Key Questions and Outcomes

This side event will examine the following key guiding questions:

1. Based on the available data on the SDGs implementation, what are some notable takeaways or experiences for food systems transformation?
2. What concrete strategies could be employed to reverse the negative trend and accelerate the achievement of the SDGs?
3. What are the most important opportunities for harnessing food system transformation to accelerate SDGs achievement?
4. What are some opportunities and challenges in climate-smart food system transformation?
5. What are the successful examples of multi-stakeholder collaboration resulting in coordinated actions leading to food systems transformation and impactful climate action? (Enablers/Barriers)
6. How can financing be mobilized to transform food systems?

Bringing together a **diverse panel,*** The event will focus on the challenges and opportunities facing food systems transformation aligned with climate action, building on the outcomes of the UNFSS+2 STM, the SDGs Summit, and COP28. It will look into policy coherence and synergizing the food and climate commitments taken by national governments.

Aligned with the priorities to transform the region's food systems from the 2023 Asia and the Pacific regional preparatory meeting that took place at APFSD in March 2023, this event builds on the discussion to identify the key steps and considerations needed at the national and regional levels to transform food systems and align to climate action, whilst ensuring no one is left behind.

Furthermore, it will serve as a platform for government officials and the wider stakeholder ecosystem to spotlight the strides they've taken in this regard.

Programme

Opening and Welcoming	15 min 11:30 – 11:45
<u>Mr. Stefanos Fotiou</u> Director of the UN Food Systems Coordination Hub	5 min
<u>Dr. Sangmin Nam</u> Director, Environment and Development Division, ESCAP	5 min
<u>Mr. Jong-jin Kim</u> Assistant Director-General and FAO Regional Representative for Asia and the Pacific (video message)	5 min
Panel 1: SDG acceleration Moderator: Ms. Hitomi Rankine, Chief, Environment, and Development Policy Section, Environment and Development Division, ESCAP	30 min 11:45 – 12:15
<u>Ms. Rebeca Leonard</u> TEEBAgriFood Initiative, Thailand	5 min
<u>Dr. Jay Kant Raut</u> Member of National Planning Commission, and National Food Systems Convenor for Nepal	5 min
<u>Mr. Vijay Kumar</u> Advisor to the State Government of Andhra Pradesh for Agriculture & Cooperation, India and Co-Vice Chairman; Rythu Sadhikara Samstha <u>Mr. Sudhakar Yerrakonda</u> , Learning and Academics Lead, Rythu Sadhikara Samstha, State Government of Andhra Pradesh, India Andhra Pradesh Community managed Natural Farming programme	5 min
Opening of the floor for Q&A	15 min
Panel 2: Climate action Moderator: Ms. Michelle Seck, Food Systems Coordination Hub	25 min 12:15-12:40
<u>H.E. Mr. Sok Silo</u> Secretary General for the Council for Agricultural and Rural Development and National Food Systems Convenor for Cambodia	5 min
<u>Mr. Thongdam Phongphichith</u> Co-Director, Sustainable Agriculture and Environment Development Association (SAEDA)-Lao PDR	5 min
<u>Mr. Jidan Fikri</u> Terra Grow, Indonesia	5 min
Opening of the floor for Q&A	10 min
Closing	12:40-12:45
<u>Mr. Stefanos Fotiou</u> , Director of the UN Food Systems Coordination Hub.	5 min

For information, please contact Ms. Michelle Seck, Food Systems Coordination Hub at michelle.seck@fao.org.