



REGIONAL FORUM

ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT FOR THE UNECE REGION

13 – 14 MARCH 2024 | HYBRID EVENT | GENEVA & ONLINE

SIDE EVENT CONCEPT NOTE

Event title

Breaking Down Barriers and Driving Finance for SDG 2 in the ECA Region: Policies, Partnerships and Innovations for the Final Push Towards 2030

Background and Rationale

Just under 7 years remain to achieve the Sustainable Development Goal 2 commitments in the Europe and Central Asia (ECA) Region. While progress has been made, substantial gaps in finance and investment remain and recent multiple crises and effects of climate-change have beset agri-food systems in the region threatening their resilience, impeding their growth, and disrupting the pathways to finance SDG2.

In the final push towards 2030, more and better sustainable financing is required to promote inclusive and resilient agrifood system development pathways that are structurally capable of delivering durable food security and nutrition through economically, socially and environmentally sustainable approaches that are good for people and good for the planet.

Doing so will require an ambitious, holistic approach that takes a financial system perspective; leverages all possible sources of public and private finance; coordinates public and private stakeholders for identifying, prioritizing, structuring and timing investments that are consistent with Principles of Responsible Investment in Agricultural and Food Systems (RAI). Moreover, financing needs to be smarter in design and targeting, catalytic in nature, incremental and at significant scale. Finally, it must be done in a way that anticipates synergies and possible trade-offs, clearly measures impact, all the while ensuring that the economic, social and environmental bases to generate food security and nutrition are not compromised.



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Session objectives and expected outcomes

Against this background, FAO is organizing the side event that will bring together stakeholders from the public and private sector to reflect on:

- the status quo of SDG2 financing in the region – volumes, trends, gaps in data
- key bottlenecks in the current agri-food system financing architecture at the level of the enabling environment, the meso-level financial infrastructure, and at the retail level where supply and demand dynamics for financial services and investment capital play out
- How can governments approach planning and integrating national policy and financing frameworks to mobilize and channel finance and investment towards SDG2 as well as SDGs more broadly speaking?
- what are low-hanging, high impact investments in nutrition-sensitive, sustainable agrifood systems that can accelerate progress on achieving SDG2 in the region?
- What are roles, responsibilities and experiences of different stakeholders (public institutions, development finance institutions, donors, private sector) and practical actions they can take?
- What are good practices, innovative financing approaches and emerging ideas including through strategic partnerships and blended finance?

Organizers

Lead organizers: FAO

Agenda and Structure

1:15pm – 1:20pm	<i>Introductory remarks on the event's theme, objectives, structure, bios</i>	<i>Pedro Arias, FAO</i>
1:20pm – 1:30pm	<i>overview presentation of key considerations in financing SDG2 in the region to set the tone and frame for the panel</i>	<i>A'kos Szebeni</i>
1:30pm – 2:10pm	<i>Panel discussion – 3 questions per panellist, ~12 minutes for responses; 4 minutes buffer</i>	<i>Pedro Arias, FAO All panellists</i>
2:10pm – 2:25pm	<i>Q&A – 15 minutes</i>	<i>Pedro Arias, All panellists and presenter</i>
2:25pm – 2:30pm	<i>summary of proceedings and closing remarks</i>	<i>Pedro Arias, FAO</i>



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List of Panellists

Moderator: Pedro Arias, Economist, FAO Regional Office for Europe and Central Asia

Intro Presentation: A'kos Szebeni, Sr. Rural Finance and Investment Expert

Panelists:

- **Alexander Kauffman**, Agribusiness Finance Officer; FAO Investment Centre, FAO HQ
- **Kirthisri Rajatha Wijeweera**, Senior Advisor, Finance for Development; UNDP Sustainable Finance Hub
- **Chris Clubb**, Managing Director; Convergence – The Network for Blended

Sign-up / Registration Link

Register in advance for this webinar:

https://fao.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_cVmwrtJ2QjqmirW_Wj8jwg