

MULTI-STAKEHOLDER COLLABORATION FOR MORE SUSTAINABLE FOOD SYSTEMS IN THE MEDITERRANEAN

26 APRIL 2023 | 13.00 – 14.30 (CEST) | 18.00 – 19.30 (GMT+7)

BACKGROUND

Food systems transformation is a key entry point to achieve peace, prosperity and sustainability, attaining the goals of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. In 2021, the **United Nations Food Systems Summit (UNFSS)** set the stage for actors across the globe to explore the interconnections between food systems and today's pressing challenges to identify ways to make food systems more sustainable. The UN Secretary-General has committed to convene a global stocktaking meeting every two years to review progress in implementing the outcomes of this process and its contributions to the achievement of the 2030 Agenda.

The first [UN Food Systems Stocktaking Moment](#) will take place in July 2023, and will aim at creating a conducive space for countries to review commitments to action that were made during the UNFSS, share success stories and early signs of transformation, maintain the momentum for bold acceleration and action to further the resilience of food systems, advocate for their adaptation to climate change, ensure they contribute to communities' resilience to shocks and crises, and boost the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

In view of the Stocktaking Moment, the [4th Global Conference](#) of the One Planet's Network's Sustainable Food Systems Programme is looking at main barriers and bottlenecks in relation to food systems transformation, providing a space for National Convenors, UNFSS Coalitions and other relevant multi-stakeholder initiatives to present transformational actions that promote a food systems approach and to **build capacities and deepen collective efforts towards sustainable food systems pathways.**

CONTEXT

Countries and populations across the Mediterranean are facing interdependent challenges linked to cascading effects of conflict, climate emergencies, and demographic pressures. Several countries are net food importers, in particular for cereals, which expose livelihoods to trade disruptions, market fluctuations and a double burden of undernutrition and obesity trends. At the same time, climate change affects the Mediterranean region significantly more than the world average, leading to competing demands for land, water and energy, in a region already deeply impacted by shrinking natural resources.

The **global high-level momentum for boosting collaboration to transform agrifood systems** is thriving also in the Mediterranean region, including through:

- policy dialogue to respond to the ongoing food crisis, by identifying common approaches to address shared food systems related challenges;
- enhanced technical cooperation through multi-stakeholder mechanisms at regional level, as urged by the UNFSS;
- engagement of countries in the [UNFSS process and follow-up](#), through the development and implementation of their National Pathways.

4th Global Conference of the One Planet network's Sustainable Food Systems Programme

THE TRANSFORMATION WE NEED

Towards the 1st Stocktaking Moment:

Emerging from global crises by shaping sustainable, resilient, healthy, and inclusive food systems

24 – 27 April, 2023
Ha Noi, Viet Nam



To this effect, the International Centre for Advanced Mediterranean Agronomic Studies (CIHEAM), the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the Secretariat of the Union for the Mediterranean (UfM) and the Partnership for Research and Innovation in the Mediterranean Area (PRIMA) have joined forces in a **multi-stakeholder initiative for Sustainable Food Systems in the Mediterranean (SFS-MED Platform)**, as an affiliated project of the One Planet Network's Sustainable Food Systems Programme. The SFS-MED Platform offers a forum for multi-stakeholder dialogue and collaboration, a network for strengthening knowledge sharing and capacity building around the sustainable food systems approach, and opportunities for regional cooperation among Mediterranean countries and public/private actors for a transformation towards more sustainable food systems in the Mediterranean.

OBJECTIVES OF THE SIDE EVENT

The main objective of this side event is to showcase food systems transformation processes and pathways in the Mediterranean, as a direct contribution to the UNFSS follow-up process, by fostering more knowledge sharing, leveraging new collaborations and partnerships, as well as, mobilizing more resources to further consolidate the joint SFS-MED Platform's effort. Echoing the global objectives and efforts of the One Planet Network's SFS Programme at regional level, the work conducted by the SFS-MED Platform focuses on leveraging **cross-country and multi-stakeholder collaboration to advance sustainable food systems transformation in the Mediterranean region.**

The side event builds on the outcomes of previous [dialogues](#) and events co-organized by the SFS-MED Platform in the framework of the UNFSS and the [3rd World Conference on the Revitalization of the Mediterranean Diet](#), which saw the participation of UNFSS National Convenors from several Mediterranean countries. This process allowed to identify key priorities, areas of work, and potential levers of change that are now at the core of the SFS-MED Platform activities aimed at transforming food systems in the Mediterranean. The UfM Ministerial Declarations on Sustainable Blue Economy, Environment and Climate Change and Research and Innovation have further consolidated the political support around the process.

The expected outcome is the **consolidation of a Mediterranean collaborative way forward**, embracing the concepts of blue, green and circular economy, fostering research and innovation, and leveraging the Mediterranean diet to bring about more sustainable consumption and production patterns, all key for achieving progress towards the 2030 Agenda in the region.



This document was produced with financial assistance from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of Italy. The contents of this publication are the sole responsibility of FAO and can in no way be taken to reflect the views of the Italian Government.

AGENDA

Interpretation will be provided in English, French and Arabic

13.00 – 13.03	Welcome	<p>Sandro Dernini <i>Coordinator, SFS-MED Platform Coordination Desk & Senior Advisor, CIHEAM-Bari</i></p>
13.03 – 13.25	<p>High-level keynotes Setting the scene</p>	<p>Teodoro Miano <i>Secretary-General, CIHEAM</i></p> <p>Nasser Kamel <i>Secretary-General, UfM</i></p> <p>Corinna Hawkes <i>Director, Food Systems and Food Safety Division, FAO</i></p> <p>Angelo Riccaboni <i>Co-Chair, PRIMA Foundation</i></p>
13.25 – 13.55	<p>Panel 1 Mediterranean national pathways towards food systems transformation for the 2030 Agenda</p>	<p><i>Moderator:</i> José Valls Bedeau <i>Policy Officer, Food Systems and Food Safety Division, FAO</i></p> <p><i>Keynote address:</i> Sylvia Lopez-Ekra <i>Deputy Director, UN Food Systems Coordination Hub</i></p> <p><i>Panellists:</i> ALBANIA Marko Kolaci <i>Director, Directorate of Policies and Programs of Agriculture and Rural Development, Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development</i> EGYPT Ehab Badawy <i>Assistant Minister for Multilateral Affairs and International Security, Ministry of Foreign Affairs</i> JORDAN Mahmoud Rabei <i>Secretary-General Assistant for Projects and Rural Development, Ministry of Agriculture</i> MOROCCO Redouane Arrach <i>Secretary-General, Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries, Rural Development, Water and Forests</i></p>
13.55 – 14.20	<p>Panel 2 Priorities and entry points for mobilizing resources towards sustainable food systems transformation in the Mediterranean</p>	<p><i>Moderator:</i> Alessandra Sensi <i>Head of Sector Environment Green and Blue Economy, Water, Environment and Blue Economy Division, UfM</i></p> <p><i>Panellists:</i> Heba Gaber <i>Research and Innovation Officer, Delegation of the European Union to Egypt</i></p> <p>Maroun El Moujabber <i>Senior Officer, CIHEAM-Bari & Chair, Scientific Advisory Committee, PRIMA Foundation</i></p> <p>Antonella Giglio <i>Acting Director-General, ENI CBC Med Programme</i></p> <p>Massimo Iannetta <i>Chair, Technical Scientific Committee, National Agrifood Cluster (CLAN) & Head of Biotechnologies and Agroindustry Division, Italian National Agency for New Technologies, Energy and Sustainable Economic Development (ENEA)</i></p>
14.20 – 14.30	Closing remarks	<p>Amb. Álvaro Albacete Perea <i>Deputy Secretary-General (Higher Education and Research), UfM</i></p> <p>Amb. Stefano Gatti <i>Special Envoy for Food Security, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of Italy</i></p>

REGISTER HERE



Some rights reserved. This work is available under a CC BY-NC-SA 3.0 IGO licence