

## ***154th Session of the FAO Council (CL 154)***

***Side Event:  
Greening Food Value Chains:  
Lessons from Ireland and Kenya  
Organized by Kenya and Ireland in collaboration with the  
Agricultural Development Economics Division (ESA)***

***Tuesday 31st May 2016, 13.00-14:30, Sheikh Zayed Centre***  
*A light lunch will be served from 12.30 PM in the Sheikh Zayed Lounge (located  
behind the Sheikh Zayed Centre)*

The greening of food value chains is a vital strategy in the achievement of food security and the response to climate change. Growth in the agriculture sector has the potential to lift millions out of poverty; however, food production and agriculture have a significant environmental impact. This session explores the business case for sustainability in food value chains. The discussion will leverage industry and country case studies, where the successful implementation of green value chain strategies has demonstrated reduced costs, and improved yields and livelihoods.

**Responsible office:** ESA

**Panel:**

- **Sinéad McPhillips**, Chief Economist, Department of Agriculture Food and the Marine, Ireland
- **Alison Cairns**, Global Advocacy Director, Unilever
- **David Bright**, Head of Economic Justice programming, Oxfam Great Britain, and Oxfam International coordinator
- Principal Secretary, State Department of Agriculture, Kenya

**Moderator: Kostas Stamoulis**, Assistant Director-General, a.i., Economic and Social Development Department, FAO

**Welcome address: Maria Helena Semedo**, Deputy Director-General, FAO

**Overview:** The ambition of the Sustainable Development Goals requires tackling complex, interwoven issues, with food and agriculture lying at the core of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Food production and agriculture have a major environmental impact, but at the same time, growth in this sector is recognised as an effective enabler of poverty reduction. The greening of food value chains is thus essential in achieving food security, eliminating poverty and addressing environmental degradation.

Leveraging country, industry and civil society experiences, this session explores the business case for sustainability in food and agriculture. It will consider how green growth policies and strategies can cultivate more inclusive farming systems and improve food security while simultaneously increasing the environmental sustainability of food production.

Kenya's Vision 2030, is a long term development blue print aiming to transform Kenya into "newly industrializing, middle income country which is globally competitive and prosperous". Anchored on three pillars Economic, Social, and Political Governance, an average GDP growth rate of 10% per annum is targeted, with inclusive investment by all key stakeholders. Kenya's Medium Term Plan for 2013-2017 is committed to developing an economy that embeds green growth initiatives in national development and across the Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries sectors.

In 2012, Ireland became the first country in the world to embark on a nation-wide sustainability programme for its food and drink sector. Entitled [Origin Green](#), the programme is central to Ireland's strategy to grow food exports, while engaging all farm and factory producers on a journey of continuous improvement in the sustainability of food and drink production.

At the industry level, [Unilever's Sustainable Living Plan](#) aims to half its environmental footprint and improve food security, through growth in its inclusive business strategy. This includes over 500,000 smallholder farmers, 5 million small-scale retailers, and the participation of young entrepreneurs along its value chains.

Oxfam's livelihoods programme work seeks to more widely promote gender-equitable value chains and market systems. It focuses on poverty reduction through investment in smallholder production linked to climate change adaptation and sustainable agriculture.

**Twitter hashtag:** #CL154

**Other Related Links:**

- [Climate-Smart Agriculture](#)
- Energy-Smart Food for People and Climate
- [EX-ACT: EX-Ante Carbon Balance Tool](#)
- Inclusive Business Models
- [Sustainability Assessment of Food and Agriculture Systems](#)
- [Sustainable Food Value Chains](#)
- Sustainable Food Production and Consumption

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