

Informal Consultation for Europe and Central Asia

4–5 May 2023

Background Note

Session 4

Priority areas for the work programme in the region for 2024–2025 in light of the key challenges and opportunities

Breakout session 4.2

Priority 2: Food system transformation promoting nutrition-sensitive value chains and healthy diets through the alignment of trade, food safety and sanitary and phytosanitary policies, facilitating One Health

Objective

The main objective is to exchange views and collect inputs on the key challenges and opportunities in Europe and Central Asia and to provide recommendations related to the main areas of response as key inputs for the formulation of the FAO work programme 2024–2025 for the Europe and Central Asia region.

Methodology

Country representatives exchange their views on the main challenges and opportunities in the region and explore potential recommendations. The discussions focus on three questions, and the debate is facilitated by FAO staff directly involved in the design and implementation of this regional priority.

The presentation and background note of *“Session 3 - Key challenges and opportunities in the region that might affect the regional priority areas and should be addressed by the FAO work programme 2024–2025”* and of *“Session 2 - Update on FAO’s response to the multiple crises in the region”* serve as a basis for the discussion in the breakout session. The challenges and proposed response areas under Priority 2 have been summarized in Annex I.

Time: 35 minutes

Structure

1. **Introduction by the group facilitator** (3 min)
2. **Round-table discussion** (30 min)

Guiding questions:

- What do you consider as key challenges related to Priority 2 in the context of your country or the region?
- What emphasis would you give regarding the main areas of response identified under Priority 2 in the context of your country or the region?
- Do you agree with the challenges/areas of response that are proposed in Annex I, or is there any challenge/area of response already included that you suggest de-emphasizing?

3. **Wrap-up by the group facilitator** (2 min)

Annex I

Priority 2: Food system transformation promoting nutrition-sensitive value chains and healthy diets through the alignment of trade, food safety and sanitary and phytosanitary policies, facilitating One Health

Challenges	Main areas of response
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Trade disruptions caused by the war in Ukraine, impacting markets and value chains, which drew attention to high food export and import dependency and the need for reliable data.• Difficulties in aligning national trade policies and requirements with international standards and agreements.• Insufficient responsible investment in agrifood systems in the region due to poorly developed financial ecosystems has resulted in limitations for the development of sustainable and inclusive value chains.• Food loss and waste.• Limited changes in mindset and behaviour among food systems actors to lead to agrifood systems transformation.• Risks in the food chain threatening the health of people, animals, plants and the environment.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Engage policymakers to keep trading routes open; increase the diversification of trade and markets; and invest in short value chains, market access and value addition by means of market monitoring and analysis, digitalization and data- and evidence-based decision-making.• Follow up to the UNFSS, including active participation in the United Nations Food Systems Stocktaking Moment 2023.• Support in mainstreaming food systems sustainability and nutrition-sensitive value chains in national policies, strengthening consumer perspectives.• Align national standards and controls with global food safety and build related capacities in the public and private sectors.• Encourage Members to take the ownership of One Health approach.• Strengthen political and legislative frameworks for all risks in the food chain to address plant pests and diseases and animal diseases and zoonoses, and develop mechanisms of control.• Support the implementation of food loss and waste strategies.