

Talking points for Thouraya Triki, PMI Director, for the opening of the agroecology webinar

Dear colleagues, it is my pleasure to welcome you to the Webinar on *Applying agroecology in IFAD operations*, organized by IFAD's Environment, Climate, Gender and Social Inclusion Division (ECG) and Sustainable Production, Markets and Institutions Division (PMI).

This event is linked to the multiagency initiative for scaling up agroecology, launched in 2018 by FAO jointly with UNDP, WFP, CBD, UN-Environment, WHO, and IFAD. We are happy to welcome our FAO colleague **Emma Siliprandi, who is the lead focal point for the Scaling up Agroecology Initiative in FAO**. She will tell us about the initiative and the 10 key element of agroecology that FAO has identified with partners as the basis for working on agroecology.

The focus on achieving the **Sustainable Development Goals** under the ever-increasing challenges from climate change and a still growing global population has led to increased attention to the social and ecological sustainability of our food systems. On one hand, agriculture contributes with about a third to the global greenhouse gas emissions and on the other hand, it is also one of the sectors most affected by the impacts of climate change. Droughts, floods, storms, increasing temperatures are causing smallholder farmers and their families to fall back into poverty and food insecurity. This double role agriculture has as contributor and victim of the problem can also be found in the degradation of land and water resources. It is increasingly recognized, that changes in what we eat and how we produce our food are needed to make nutritious food available for every one within the boundaries of nature. Agroecology practices are one tool in the tool box increasingly mentioned as part of the solution by high level panels, experts, development agencies and donors(*). We are happy to welcome **Emile Frison, the former Director General of Bioversity International and member of the International Panel of Experts on Sustainable Food Systems (IPES-Food)**. He will take us through some of the reasons why agroecology can or should be part of the solution for achieving the sustainable development goals, and also some of the barriers that need to be addressed to achieve transition in farming and food systems.

With the focus of agroecology practices on diversification and integration of various crops, animals, fish and tree species in farming systems, agroecology seems to be very relevant for supporting and integrating IFAD's mainstreaming priorities in particular climate change resilience and nutrition security. Because of the agroecology elements of co-creation, cultural sensitivity and equity agroecology is also prone to foster participation and benefits for women and youth. In IFAD we need to explore how and in which context IFAD can be doing more in supporting the adoption of agroecology approaches. Where, and under which conditions is it more relevant for our different target groups? As a first step, PMI has, in collaboration with ECG, started a stock take exercise on the IFAD portfolio to get a better understanding of what we are currently doing and how we can eventually increase our support for agroecology in the Future. **Rikke Olivera, Senior Technical Specialist in Natural Resources Management in PMI**, will present the work on developing the methodology for the stock take to which we welcome feedback from all of you.

Finally, we are also happy to present to you two concrete and interesting examples on how IFAD projects are supporting farmers in adopting agroecology practices in two very different contexts. **Sebastien Subsol, climate change and environment specialist supporting IFAD's ASAP portfolio in ECG**, will present the Projetde développementde l'agriculture familialeau Niger (PRODAF) and **Karan Seghal, Renewable Energy Technologies Officer in IFAD**, will present the Cambodia project Scaling Up Climate Resilient Agriculture (SUCRA).

Again a warm welcome to all of you following on-line and here in the room to this session that we hope will be a starting point in a lasting process towards evidence and knowledge generation that can guide us in further innovation in IFAD's investments with our partners in the transformation of farming and food systems. I would now like to give the word to **Emma Siliprandi** from FAO

(*) Agroecology has been introduced in the CFS agenda, with the High Level Panel of Experts in Food Security and Nutrition (HLPE) releasing a report on *Agroecological and other innovative approaches for sustainable agriculture and food systems that enhance food security and nutrition*. The outcome of this report will be discussed during the 46th CFS annual Plenary session this month, and is expected to be a step forward towards the adoption of these innovative approaches by member countries.