



REGIONAL FORUM

ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT FOR THE UNECE REGION

Grassroots hand in hand: Working with farmers through FFS as a way to achieve the SDGs

CONCEPT NOTE

Background and rationale

Accomplishing the SDGs in the agriculture sector is especially challenging due to remote location of many of the farmers and poverty conditions, which have been exacerbated due to the pandemic. In order to reach an impact, it is necessary to work almost individually with farmers. The famous quote "Tell Me and I Forget; Teach Me and I May Remember; Involve Me and I Learn" is the essence of FFS. Each FFS group comprises 20-30 livestock producers from the same locality who are interested in learning about how to solve specific husbandry issues or how to improve the profitability of their production. Each FFS group is supported by a trained facilitator using non-formal education methods to support group learning. FFS members meet regularly during a determined period of time often on a bi weekly basis. During each session, the FFS group carries out experiments: farmers identify

production problems, brainstorm potential solutions, then compare local practices and improved practices and then assess which solution works best in their specific context. By working in groups and working on locally adapted solutions, this process promotes empowerment beyond the field and fosters social capital building at community level (<https://sdgs.un.org/partnerships/farmer-field-schools-ffs>). Concerns have been expressed as how to mainstream and scale up the FFS local success to have a larger impact on the sector as a whole. Hence, this issues must be raised and discussed in different technical and non-technical events not only to raise awareness on FFS, its advantages , potential capacities and limitations but also to come up with potential solutions that can contribute to the achievements of the SDGs

Session objectives and expected outcomes

The main objective of this side event is to raise awareness about the importance of grassroots work with farmers as a pre-condition to achieve the SDGs by 2030 (rather 2230...) in addition to high level commitment at the policy level, and FFS as a mean to execute this grassroots work.

The side event also aims to present some concerns that have been raised as a result of the accumulated experience on this approach worldwide and its implication to the region.

Finally, the side event aims to ignite a discussion on the practicality and feasibility of this approach in the region under its current socio and geopolitical circumstances.

Organizers

Lead organizers: FAO Regional Office for Europe and Central Asia (REU)

Focal points: Eran Raizman- Senior Animal Health and Production Officer

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Agenda and Structure

Date : 6th of April 2022 13.15-14.45 CET

13.15: Objectives- moderator – Eran Raizman – FAO regional office for Europe and Central Asia

13.20-13.30: Introduction to FFS- Jurjen Draaijer – FAO livestock expert

13.30-13.40: FAO global view on FFS – Giacomo DeBesi- FAO headquarter

13.40-13.50: Experiences on livestock FFS from Ecuador – Javier Jimenez – FAO livestock expert

13.50- 14.00: Experiences from poultry FFS in Zimbabwe – Mark Caudell – FAO livestock expert

14.00- 14.10: Experiences from livestock FFS in Turkey – Kerem Demirel – FAO livestock expert

14.10- 14.40: Question and Answers

14. 40-14.45: Conclusions and final remarks – Moderator- Eran Raizman

List of Panellists

Eran Raizman- Moderator

Jurjen Draaijer – presenter/panellist (FAO)

Giacomo Debesi – Presenter /Panellist (FAO)

Javier Jimenez – Presenter/Panellist (FAO)

Mark Caudell – Presenter/panellist (FAO)

Demirel Kerem – Presenter/ Panellist (FAO)