



UN FOOD SUMMIT SCIENCE DAYS SIDE EVENT

SOLAW21:

SUSTAINABLE, SCALABLE AND DYNAMIC SOLUTIONS IN LAND AND WATER MANAGEMENT TOWARDS FOOD SYSTEM TRANSFORMATION

WEDNESDAY 7 JUNE 2021

SUMMARY AND HIGHLIGHTS

FAO, with the support of Griffith University, Australia, organized a UN Food Summit Science Days side event to discuss the upcoming FAO flagship report on the State of the World's Land and Water Resources for Food and Agriculture (SOLAW21).

In this side event contributing to the UN-Food system Summit, the focus was on the DPSIR (driver, pressure, state, impact and responses) assessment framework that was used for SOLAW 2021, and on how SOLAW 2021 data and information can bring new knowledge and focus on priority response actions, and whether they need to be scaled up for further investments.

Partners from the Philippines, including high-level representatives from the Department of Agriculture, Academia, Funding agency, and FAO Regional Officers, contributed to the lively discussion on the relevance of SOLAW21 and the DPSIR Regional framework in the reflection of regional and country challenges in land degradation and water scarcity, the added value of SOLAW21 in policy-making, the crucial role of data and information on land, water and soil as well as partnerships to support Sustainable Food Systems. The side event was attended by more than 100 people from different parts of world. This was the first in a series of events to present key components of SOLAW until the launch in December 2021.

KEY OUTCOME AND DISCUSSION POINTS

SOLAW allows the dynamic assessment of challenges and solutions. SOLAW as a systematic, harmonized, authoritative and up-to-date reference informs policy making with the actual state of land and water resources, guides how they are being impacted by different driving forces such as population growth and mobility, economic development, social change, technology, and climate change. SOLAW provides a glimpse into the possible pathways into the future of food security, natural resource availability and degradation, and tells us what response options we have to deal with these, what actions decision makers can take in sustainably managing land, water and soil in an integrated manner; in making agriculture and food systems sustainable; and in being good stewards of our planet. It has something for everyone: governments, businesses, investors, civil society, communities, farmers, consumers, citizens.

The DPSIR (Driver -Pressure-State-Impact-Response) framework used in SOLAW21 allows us to understand the challenges unique for each region and prioritize solutions at global, regional, country levels. With the inputs of FAO Regional and Country offices, several results of Regional DPSIR survey was showcased during the side event. It includes ranking of key drives, pressure, state, impacts as well as ranking of different responses connected to key elements of state of land, water and soil. The use of DPSIR over the "theory of change" is relevant to describe causal interactions between society and the environment and based on successful applications in similar assessments such as LADA and the GEO.

KEY MESSAGES

The discussion highlighted the need for updated, accurate, standardized data and information to support sustainable management and ensure food security and resilient livelihoods. SOLAW allows dynamic assessment of challenges and solutions. The DPSIR framework allows us to understand the challenges unique for each region and prioritize solutions at global, regional, country levels. Partnerships are key to join forces and enhance synergies across sectors and stakeholders and for setting investment priorities. Effective and integrated land-use planning supported by suitability analysis is needed at various levels to implement innovative solutions with the participation of relevant stakeholders and to consider climate change and variability. Examples highlighted the need for capacity enhancement and scaling out of sustainable land and water management options to support sustainable food systems. The discussion highlighted various opportunities to reverse the current trends and enhance sustainable management; this requires the integration of technical solutions with enabling environment and governance to support sustainability and transformation of our food systems.

Discussions in the side event suggested that immediate and complementing next steps following SOLAW 21 launch could be to anchor it to a near-real-time system of SOLAW (tentatively called SOLAW-Live), of dynamic compilation and incorporation of updates to the state of the resources, policy responses, implications of technological change and innovation, and bring in the regional and local perspectives in coherence with the global.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, VISIT THE EVENT WEBPAGE:
WWW.FAO.ORG/LAND-WATER/EVENTS/SOLAW21

THIS SIDE EVENT ON SOLAW21 WAS
PRESENTED WITH THE SUPPORT OF:



Queensland, Australia