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FAO REGIONAL CONFERENCE FOR EUROPE

Thirty-third Session

Łódź, Poland, 10–13 May 2022

Report from the outcome of the debate of the 42nd Session of the European Commission on Agriculture (ECA)

Executive Summary

The 42nd Session of the European Commission on Agriculture (ECA) was held – in virtual modality – from 19 to 21 January 2022 and was graciously hosted by Hungary.

As recommended in the assessment of the ECA undertaken in 2017, the Session focused on one main technical theme. The theme for the 42nd Session of the ECA was “Transforming food systems to address all forms of malnutrition in Europe and Central Asia.”

Under the main technical theme, the Commission discussed the following subtopics relating to food systems and malnutrition in the region:

1. Transforming food systems in Europe and Central Asia for improved nutritional outcomes.
2. Better production to increase access to diverse, nutritious foods.
3. Territorial approaches and community development to drive local change and prevent all forms of malnutrition.

The 42nd Session of the ECA adopted a number of recommendations relating to each of the subtopics.

Apart from items directly relating to the main technical theme, the agenda of the Session included a report on gender equality in the region and a report on the implementation of recommendations from the 41st Session of the ECA, which was held in Budapest, Hungary, from 1 to 2 October 2019 under the main technical theme “plant health in Europe and Central Asia.”

At the end of the Session, the Commission elected its new Executive Committee.

This document contains the text of the Report of the 42nd Session of the ECA. Additional material, including background documents used to support the discussions, can be found on the ECA website (<https://www.fao.org/events/detail/eca-42/en>).

Suggested action by the Regional Conference

The Regional Conference is invited to review and endorse the report and the recommendations of the 42nd Session of the ECA.

Queries on the content of this document may be addressed to:

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Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations

ECA/42/21/REPORT

REPORT

Forty-second Session of the European Commission on Agriculture

Budapest, Hungary

19-21 January 2022

Previous sessions of the European Commission on Agriculture (known as the European Committee on Agricultural Technology from 1949 to 1952 and as the European Committee on Agriculture until 1956) are as follows:

1.	Preparatory Meeting	Paris, 27-28 June 1949
2.	First Session	Rome, 26-30 September 1949
3.	Second Session	Geneva, 27-30 March 1950
4.	Third Session	Rome, 25-28 June 1951
5.	Fourth Session	Rome, 3-6 June 1952
6.	Fifth Session	Rome, 26-29 May 1953
7.	Sixth Session	Rome, 14-18 June 1954
8.	Seventh Session	Rome, 20-24 June 1955
9.	Eighth Session	Rome, 7-11 May 1956
10.	Ninth Session	Rome, 17-21 June 1957
11.	Tenth Session	Rome, 19-23 May 1958
12.	Eleventh Session	Rome, 25-29 May 1959
13.	Twelfth Session	Rome, 15-19 May 1961
14.	Thirteenth Session	Rome, 13-18 May 1963
15.	Fourteenth Session	Rome, 17-21 May 1965
16.	Fifteenth Session	Rome, 15-20 May 1967
17.	Sixteenth Session	Rome, 23-26 October 1968
18.	Seventeenth Session	Rome, 7-11 September 1970
19.	Eighteenth Session	Rome, 8-12 May 1972
20.	Nineteenth Session	Rome, 17-21 June 1974
21.	Twentieth Session	Rome, 17-23 June 1976
22.	Twenty-first Session	Rome, 19-23 June 1978
23.	Twenty-second Session	Rome, 23-27 June 1980
24.	Twenty-third Session	Rome, 21-25 June 1982
25.	Twenty-fourth Session	Innsbruck, Austria, 18-22 June 1984
26.	Twenty-fifth Session	Chania, Greece, 8-12 June 1987
27.	Twenty-sixth Session	Porto, Portugal, 23-26 May 1989
28.	Twenty-seventh Session	Herrsching, Germany, 1-5 July 1991
29.	Twenty-eighth Session	Valletta, Malta, 27 September-1 October 1993
30.	Twenty-ninth Session	Bled, Slovenia, 2-6 October 1995
31.	Thirtieth Session	Nitra, Slovakia, 8-11 October 1997
32.	Thirty-first Session	Rome, 12-14 October 1999
33.	Thirty-second Session	Rome, 7-8 March 2002
34.	Thirty-third Session	Rome, 1-2 March 2004
35.	Thirty-fourth Session	Riga, Latvia, 7 June 2006
36.	Thirty-fifth Session	Innsbruck, Austria, 25 June 2008
37.	Thirty-sixth Session	Yerevan, Armenia, 11-12 May 2010
38.	Thirty-seventh Session	Baku, Azerbaijan, 17-18 April 2012
39.	Thirty-eighth Session	Bucharest, Romania, 1-2 April 2014
40.	Thirty-ninth Session	Budapest, Hungary, 22-23 September 2015
41.	Fortieth Session	Budapest, Hungary, 27-28 September 2017
42.	Forty-first Session	Budapest, Hungary, 1-2 October 2019
43.	Forty-second Session	Budapest, Hungary, 19-21 January 2022

FAO. 2022. Report of the 42nd Session of the European Commission on Agriculture (ECA), Budapest, Hungary

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INTRODUCTION

1. The Forty-second Session of the European Commission on Agriculture (ECA) was held from 19 to 21 January 2022. In light of the global COVID-19 pandemic and associated public health concerns, the Session was convened virtually on an exceptional basis, after a formal written consultation with the ECA Members.
2. The ECA Session was attended by 165 delegates from 45 Member Countries and one Member Organization (European Union). Observers from seven international non-governmental organizations were in attendance, along with six representatives from civil society, twelve representatives from the private sector and ten representatives from the research and academia sector.

OPENING OF THE SESSION

3. Mr Paul Kiernan, Chairperson of the European Commission on Agriculture, opened the Forty-second Session of the ECA and welcomed the delegates and observers to the session. The Chairperson highlighted, that the first ever virtual Session recorded the highest participation, both among the Members of the Europe and Central Asia region and the Observers.
4. Dr David Bencsik, Deputy State Secretary for International Affairs at the Ministry of Agriculture of Hungary, welcomed the delegates to the Forty-second Session of the ECA and reiterated the readiness of the Government of Hungary to host and support future sessions, in either virtual or physical formats. Dr Bencsik emphasised high relevance of the meeting's agenda for countries in the region, including Hungary.
5. On behalf of FAO, Mr Vladimir Rakhmanin, Assistant Director-General and Regional Representative for Europe and Central Asia, welcomed the participants and emphasized the importance of the work of the Commission in producing practical results to common problems in the region. Mr Rakhmanin mentioned that the subject of this ECA session, transforming food systems to address all forms of malnutrition in Europe and Central Asia, is at the very heart of FAO's mandate and is essential to achieving the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Mr Rakhmanin expressed gratitude to the Government of Hungary for hosting the FAO Regional Office and this event, even if virtual, and expressed hope that this meeting would help discuss and identify the regional perspective for the most relevant issues related to food systems and to addressing nutritional challenges in the region.
6. He invited all the Members to attend the Regional Conference for Europe, which will take place from 10 to 13 May 2022 in Łódź, Poland, at the ministerial level.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA AND TIMETABLE

7. The Commission adopted the Agenda as given in Appendix A of this report. Upon the proposal of Mr Rakhmanin, the Commission agreed to include under "any other business" a presentation on FAO's role in supporting SDG monitoring in the Europe and Central Asia region.

APPOINTMENT OF THE RAPPORTEUR

8. Mr Andreas Fabian, State Advisor at the Ministry of Agriculture of Slovakia, was appointed as Rapporteur of the ECA session.

Main technical theme: Transforming food systems to address all forms of malnutrition in Europe and Central Asia

TRANSFORMING FOOD SYSTEMS IN EUROPE AND CENTRAL ASIA FOR IMPROVED NUTRITIONAL OUTCOMES

9. The Commission discussed the document ECA/42/21/3¹.
10. The Commission recommended to:
- a) **Maintain** the political will to work coherently and holistically on food systems, including promoting a new dimension of collaboration, creating stakeholder partnerships and including all the food systems' actors, to (re)build sustainable food systems and strong, transparent and accountable institutions and governance taking into account the recommendations of the United Nations Food Systems Summit (UNFSS).
 - b) **Support** an appropriate enabling food environment for consumers, including setting standards and national guidelines for healthy diets, regulating the marketing of foods, and taking into account the Voluntary Guidelines on Food Systems and Nutrition endorsed by the Committee on World Food Security (CFS). The promotion of healthy diets and sustainable agricultural production should be harmonized with other issues of concern, such as climate change and environmental protection.
 - c) **Continue** to deepen cross-sectoral dialogue among ministries and other stakeholders working on agriculture, health, social issues and employment, environment and trade portfolios.
 - d) **Address** equitability when transforming food systems, including promoting the livelihoods and nutritional status of the most vulnerable in both urban and rural areas (including smallholders, children, youth and women), and promote the development and implementation of the transparent and accountable governance with participatory mechanism across food systems.
 - e) **Support** livelihoods and community development for inclusive food systems and promote local and territorial approaches, including landscape and agroecology, and recognize the role and importance of smallholders and family farmers in producing sustainable and healthy food.
 - f) **Leverage** accelerators to maximize food systems transformation, including technology, innovation, data, governance, human capital and institutions.
 - g) **Monitor** and take account of the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic on food security and nutrition and the livelihoods of those engaged in food production.

¹ <https://www.fao.org/3/nh926en/nh926en.pdf>

- h) **Invest** in responsible agrifood systems that make nutrient-rich foods available from diverse sources, at affordable prices, through better production and value addition, and promote culturally appropriate and locally based school feeding programmes, including the strengthening of public–private cooperation.
- i) **Improve** regional cooperation on important issues that affect food security and nutrition integral to sustainable food systems, including land and water management, intraregional value chains and food trade, and research and development.
- j) **Create** a cultural mindset change for a circular economy of food to achieve economic, environmental and social sustainability and use the position of FAO to facilitate the discussion and the conceptualization of circular economy.
- k) **Improve** food literacy for healthy diets, including access to information, in particular through transparent labelling systems, nutrition education and the protection of consumers against food fraud, unfair practices and misleading claims and against the promotion of foods with high salt, sugar and/or certain fat content.
- l) **Create** an enabling environment for the discussion of True Cost Accounting and the True Value of Food, in line with the report of the Thirty-second Session of the FAO Regional Conference for Europe (ERC/20/REP)².
- m) **Strengthen** the coordination among FAO, the International Fund for Agricultural Development, the World Food Programme, the United Nations Development Programme, the World Health Organization and other relevant bodies and agencies including the Issue-Based Coalition on Sustainable Food Systems (IBC-SFS) to support countries in following up on Members’ dialogues and the recommendations of the United Nations Food Systems Summit.
- n) **Support** the sustainable management of natural resources, emphasize the role of fisheries and aquaculture; reduce pesticides’ use, soil degradation and wastewater; and promote more resilient food systems.
- o) **Promote** the One Health approach, taking into account the close relationships among animal, human and environmental health, and emphasize the importance of food safety as key to assuring a healthy diet.

² <https://www.fao.org/3/ne289en/ne289en.pdf>

BETTER PRODUCTION TO INCREASE ACCESS TO DIVERSE, NUTRITIOUS FOODS

11. The Commission discussed the document ECA/42/21/4³.
12. The Commission endorsed the recommendation in the document in paragraphs 31 and 32 and added:
 - a) **Enable** an adequate environment for innovations to thrive, including taking into account the precautionary principle (evidence-based approach) to avoid risks and challenges as to continue to improve sustainability.
 - b) **Promote** digital platforms for the dissemination of technologies that deliver green agriculture and improve the connectivity of players of agrifood supply chains, leaving no one behind.
 - c) **Support** the development of financial systems where financial instruments and service providers proliferate and diversify while enabling the environment for financial bottom-up approaches able to promote diversification and reduce the traditional approach of assigning funds to existing service providers for specific credit loans to agriculture.
 - d) **Join forces** to continue promoting the One Health approach, taking into account the close relationships among animal health, human health and environmental health while promoting animal welfare.
 - e) **Develop** knowledge products, including on policy advice, that enhance sustainable natural resources management and environmental sustainability in diverse, inclusive and resilient agrifood systems, including the promotion of technical assistance for the development of sustainable food value chains such as geographical indications, organic certification and Globally Important Agricultural Heritage Systems.
 - f) **Promote nature-based solutions**, including the CFS policy recommendations on agroecological and other innovative approaches on the basis of a clear understanding of the problems they seek to address and of the additional benefits they would deliver to protect, sustainably manage and restore ecosystems.
 - g) **Review** and analyse agricultural policies and market trends to strengthen the capacities of central and local governments and relevant experts for evidence-based policymaking, monitoring and impact assessments.
 - h) **Strengthen** the role of participatory multi-stakeholder mechanisms (e.g. citizens' food councils) in food systems governance and policymaking to promote better production to increase access to diverse and nutritious foods.
 - i) **Promote and support** the implementation of the CFS Voluntary Guidelines on Food Systems and Nutrition as well as the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)–FAO Guidance for Responsible Agricultural Supply Chains and the CFS Principles for Responsible Investment in Agriculture and Food Systems, as appropriate.

³ <https://www.fao.org/3/ni011en/ni011en.pdf>

- j) **Continue** to implement the United Nations Decade of Family Farming 2019–2028 while creating coherent public policies aligned with the United Nations Declaration for the Rights of Peasants.⁴
- k) **Encouraged** FAO to continue developing methodologies to assess the sustainability of food systems, giving due consideration in this context to externalities and hidden costs in food systems.

TERRITORIAL APPROACHES AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT TO DRIVE LOCAL CHANGE AND PREVENT ALL FORMS OF MALNUTRITION

13. The Commission discussed the document ECA/42/21/5.⁵
14. The Commission endorsed the recommendation in the document in paragraph 38 and added:
- a) **Mainstream** territorial approaches to development in global, national and local policies, aimed at a sustainable and socially inclusive transformation of local food systems and addressing the issues of malnutrition, including mechanisms to scale up new and innovative ways of problem-solving into national rural development, food and nutrition policies.
 - b) **Encourage** application of Committee on World Food Security (CFS) guidelines, particularly the Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests (VGGT) and the Declaration on the Rights of Peasants,⁶ and building on the OECD Rural Policy-related work.
 - c) **Encourage** countries to apply territorial approaches for the sustainable and socially inclusive transformation of local food systems, taking into account specific territorial needs, constraints and opportunities, ensuring inclusivity and evidence-informed decision-making.
 - d) **Recognize** the role of integrated approaches as key to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) at the national level.
 - e) **Apply** more strategic, inclusive and participatory approaches to policymaking by enhancing the capacities of all stakeholders in territorial development – particularly of smallholders, rural women, youth, and their organizations with the aim of empowering them to engage at all stages of the policy circle and ensure that their voices and needs are properly addressed.
 - f) **Build** capacities for evidence-based decision-making for territorial development at different governance levels, including the collection of appropriate and disaggregated data, and promote cooperation with academia and research institutions.

⁴ As far as it relevant and applicable and as far as it has been agreed, acknowledged and/or endorsed by respective Member States.

⁵ <https://www.fao.org/3/nh846en/nh846en.pdf>

⁶ As far as it relevant and applicable and as far as it has been agreed, acknowledged and/or endorsed by respective Member States.

- g) **Enhance** multilevel governance, cross-sectoral cooperation and the coordination of policies for sustainable local food systems.
- h) **Facilitate** investment and funding to support territorial development, including the decentralization of funding and initiatives aimed at sustainable food systems and improved nutrition for all, taking into account the Responsible Agriculture Investment principles and the CFS Voluntary Guidelines on Food Systems and Nutrition.
- i) **Support** rural and urban interlinkages to scale up the contribution of territorial approaches towards more sustainable food systems.

Other matters

ADVANCING GENDER EQUALITY IN THE REGION: UPDATE ON THE PROGRESS MADE

15. The Commission discussed the document ECA/42/21/6.⁷

16. The Commission recommended to:

- a) **Pursue a gender transformative approach**, going beyond merely improving rural women's access to sustainable livelihoods to also highlighting and challenging the very stereotypes that perpetuate inequalities and support actions from policy to community levels.
- b) **Strengthen** evidence and collect a wide range of gender statistics relevant to agriculture and rural development so that policymaking, programme implementation, monitoring and evaluation are gender-transformative and, thus, effective and sustainable at all levels.
- c) **Conduct** thorough analyses of gender gaps and their origins so that interventions address structural barriers that rural women face in accessing resources (including inputs, knowledge and skills) that are critical for agricultural production.
- d) **Implement** targeted economic, social and environmental programmes that empower rural women by providing them with diverse and viable opportunities for generating income, enabling them to participate in decent work and entrepreneurship, and reducing the gender pay gap and women's unpaid workload.
- e) **Continue to support** the empowering of rural women as leaders in their households, as farmers, and as stakeholders in rural development and governance at all levels and encouraging them to take on more leadership roles and be more involved in leading groups, communities, associations and businesses, including training and improving skills to reduce and close gender gaps.
- f) **Make** visible the contributions of rural women to agrifood value chains as household members and farmers. Policy frameworks should more persistently reflect a gender perspective and include the collective views and priorities of rural women.

⁷ <https://www.fao.org/3/ni034en/ni034en.pdf>

- g) **Stress** the crucial role of men in achieving gender equality and recognize and address gender-based violence and precarious working conditions in the agriculture sector.
- h) **Recognize** the role of women in influencing the behaviour of consumers and choices of healthy food, which will eventually impact the transformation of food systems, and advocate for capacity and knowledge building among women from that perspective.
- i) **Invest** in physical and social infrastructure and recognize women's role in unpaid domestic and care work to reduce this burden; support social protection tailored to women.
- j) **Strengthen** the coordination among FAO and other stakeholders in supporting the concrete actions of countries to end persistent inequalities that are holding back progress towards sustainable agriculture, food security and an end to poverty in line with national legislation and universally agreed human rights instruments.
- k) **Create** an enabling policy environment that allows women and men to have equitable access and rights to land, water and other natural resources.
- l) The Commission also welcomed the Committee on World Food Security's initiative regarding the establishment of voluntary guidelines for gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls in the context of food security and nutrition.

PROGRESS MADE BY THE FAO REGIONAL OFFICE FOR EUROPE AND CENTRAL ASIA ON THE MAIN RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE FORTY-FIRST SESSION OF THE ECA

- 17. The Commission discussed the document ECA/42/21/7.⁸
- 18. The Commission took note of the progress made by the FAO Regional Office for Europe and Central Asia on the main recommendations of the Forty-first Session of the ECA.

ELECTION OF THE ECA CHAIRPERSON, THE VICE- CHAIRPERSONS AND THE OTHER MEMBERS OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

- 19. The Commission elected Mr Marios Georgiades (Cyprus) as Chairperson of the European Commission on Agriculture, and Ms Lidija Popandonova (North Macedonia) and Mr Kirill Antyukhin (Russian Federation) as Vice-Chairpersons of the ECA, taking note of the objection of Turkey to the election of Mr Georgiades.

⁸ <https://www.fao.org/3/ng796en/ng796en.pdf>

20. The Commission elected Mr Jiří Jílek (Czechia), Mr Serkos A. Haroutounian (Greece), Ms Lilla Egri (Hungary), Ms Vedrana Ilic (Serbia), Mr Andreas Fabian (Slovakia), and Mr Nuriddin Kushnazarov (Uzbekistan) as members of the Executive Committee.
21. The newly elected Chairperson thanked Mr Paul Kiernan, the outgoing Chairperson, for his dedication and efforts made in his respective capacity, and Ms Zora Weberova (Slovakia), Ms Lorena Pullumbi (Albania), Ms Ekaterina Zviadadze (Georgia), and Ms Graziella Romito (Italy), the outgoing members of the Executive Committee, for their contribution to the work of the Executive Committee over the past years.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

22. The Secretariat informed Members on FAO's role in supporting Sustainable Development Goals monitoring in Europe and Central Asia.

DATE AND PLACE OF THE FORTY-THIRD SESSION OF THE ECA

23. The Commission welcomed the offer of Hungary to host the Forty-third Session of the ECA in Budapest in 2023. The Session should be held at least six months prior to the 34th Regional Conference for Europe, in compliance with the ECA Rules of Procedure. Tentatively, the Forty-third Session of ECA has been planned to be held in Budapest, Hungary, 26–28 September 2023.

REVIEW AND ENDORSEMENT OF THE REPORT OF THE COMMISSION

24. The report was endorsed *en bloc*, with changes in paragraph 10 in bullet points a, b, d and m, in paragraph 12 in points a, i, and j, in paragraph 14 in point b, in paragraph 16 in point a, in paragraph 19, and with some further editorial changes by the Commission according to the comments made by Members.

Appendix A**ANNOTATED AGENDA****I. Introductory Items**

- 1. Adoption of the Agenda and Timetable**
- 2. Appointment of the Rapporteurs**

II. Main technical theme: Transforming food systems to address all forms of malnutrition in Europe and Central Asia**3. Transforming food systems in Europe and Central Asia for improved nutritional outcomes**

This agenda item will provide the opportunity to highlight specific aspects of food systems in Europe and Central Asia in which action is needed in order to attain better nutrition and ensure food security for all. The food choices people face and the choices they make are profoundly determined by the food system of which they are part. Demonstrating the linkages between food systems and nutrition, a discussion will be facilitated on how to adopt a holistic food systems approach to provide affordable and accessible healthy diets, which in the current context includes, among other challenges, the impacts of COVID-19 and of recovery efforts. The discussion also will cover how a food systems approach promotes and improves resilient livelihoods; reduces poverty and vulnerabilities in food security and nutrition for urban and rural women, men, girls and boys; and protects the planet's natural resources.

In the context of addressing all forms of malnutrition, attention will be given to the role played by consumers, through their food choices and actions, in driving sustainability and influencing food systems. Attention also will be given to consumers' "access" to healthy, diverse diets and to the role of policy measures (e.g. subsidies, food prices, education and social norms) in diets and dietary patterns.

Members will be invited to discuss how food systems can be sustainably transformed to balance economic, environmental and social dimensions; what needs to be done differently (and by whom and how it can be done sustainably); and how nutrition influences our food systems. Furthermore, the agenda item will provide the opportunity to agree on policy recommendations for the region.

4. Better production to increase access to diverse, nutritious foods

Better production means investing in agriculture for sustainable, inclusive and resilient food systems. The entry point on nutrition is inclusiveness – and the actions that strengthen it. At the farm level, support may need to be diversified, with an angle on smallholders/family farms, who are mostly net food buyers. Connecting smallholders/family farms to markets should come into the picture (in-country and export markets, direct-to-consumer sales, value-addition processing sector, rural–urban linkages), but the emphasis should remain on primary production to increase diversification at the farm level. Protecting the environment and natural resources is central – through climate-smart agriculture and agroecology, for example, in addition to policy decisions on biodiversity management and greenhouse gas emissions. There also is a

need to refer to better production at the national level (room for commercial farmers) and the importance of trade.

Members will be invited to discuss how sustainable agriculture production could facilitate the availability of and access to diverse and nutritious food – both by large-scale, specialized agriculture and by smaller-scale, diversified production at regional, national and local levels – and how it could facilitate the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

5. Territorial approaches and community development to drive local change and prevent all forms of malnutrition

Territorial approaches are key instruments to achieving sustainable food security and nutrition, targeting multisectoral local development and investment in the increase of both competitiveness and social protection. Input from multiple stakeholder groups is central to shaping local food systems, including aspects of production, markets and agribusiness opportunities. The various development pathways outlined in the paper on family farming and youth from the Thirty-second Session of the FAO Regional Conference for Europe (<http://www.fao.org/3/nc486en/nc486en.pdf>) will be further discussed. The background paper will put a spotlight on addressing inequalities – including those related to gender and the need to implement the principle of leaving no one behind – in order to achieve improved and resilient livelihoods and an inclusive, socially just and sustainable transformative change, connecting with Action Track 4 (“advance equitable livelihoods”) of the Food Systems Summit. The paper also will emphasize the importance of dialogue and participatory collective action at the community level, built on evidence and an analysis of local needs, constraints and opportunities. This also includes the need for support for a broader range of diverse economic opportunities for rural groups, including on-farm and off-farm diversification activities (e.g. extension services targeting the needs of small farms and rural business, start-ups, etc.), targeting vulnerable groups such as women and, particularly, young women and men.

Members will discuss how to include territorial approaches in their national development pathways in support of transforming the local food systems and will use the opportunity to learn from each other on successful entry points.

III. Other matters

6. Advancing gender equality in the region: update on the progress made

The agenda item is a standing item for all sessions of the ECA. The FAO Regional Office for Europe and Central Asia Gender Team will provide an update on the work of the Regional Office in meeting its commitments in mainstreaming gender equality concerns in its development interventions, as well as in specific activities aimed at advancing rural gender equality in the region through knowledge building, dialogue and policy advice. A background paper will be presented to the Members that summarizes key gender and agriculture issues and findings of the review of the country gender assessments conducted in the countries of the region over the past two years, reflecting regional trends and the situation of rural women due to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. Members will be invited to review the document and present their views and share country practices and cases regarding the mainstreaming of gender concerns in agriculture, food security and addressing malnutrition in their respective countries.

7. Progress made by the FAO Regional Office for Europe and Central Asia on the main recommendations of the Forty-first Session of the ECA

Following the recommendations on plant health adopted by the Forty-first Session of the ECA (1–2 October 2019), a REU agricultural officer will present an update on recent plant health-related activities carried out by FAO REU in the region. The Commission will be invited to note the report and provide comments as deemed appropriate.

8. Election of the ECA Chairperson, the Vice-Chairpersons and the other members of the Executive Committee

9. Any other business

10. Date and place of the Forty-third Session

11. Review and endorsement of the Report of the Commission

Closing of the Session

Information item

ECA Executive Committee Information Document

The purpose of the document is to describe and clarify the arrangements and working modalities relating to the Executive Committee of the ECA (ExCom) and therefore serve as a reference document, aiming at assisting current and future ExCom members in fulfilling their mandate, as well as the Secretariat of ECA in providing support to the ExCom activities.

The document also serves transparency purposes, providing information on working procedures relating to the ExCom to the Members of the Europe and Central Asia region.

The ExCom Information Document is intended to be a living document, which may be updated by the ExCom, if needed.

Appendix B**LIST OF DOCUMENTS**

ECA/42/21/1	Provisional Annotated Agenda
ECA/42/21/2	Provisional Timetable
ECA/42/21/3	Transforming food systems in Europe and Central Asia for improved nutritional outcomes
ECA/42/21/4	Better production to increase access to diverse, nutritious foods
ECA/42/21/5	Territorial approaches and community development to drive local change and prevent all forms of malnutrition
ECA/42/21/6	Advancing gender equality in the region: update on the progress made
ECA/42/21/7	Progress made by the FAO Regional Office for Europe and Central Asia on the main recommendations of the Forty-first Session of the ECA
INF SERIES	
ECA/42/21/INF/1	Provisional List of Documents
ECA/42/21/INF/2	Information Note
ECA/42/21/INF/3	ECA Executive Committee Information Document
ECA/42/21/INF/4	Statement of Competence and Voting Rights by the European Union (EU) and its Member States