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FAO REGIONAL CONFERENCE FOR AFRICA

Thirty-second Session

Malabo, Equatorial Guinea, 11-14 April 2022

Experience sharing session among member countries on *better production, better nutrition, a better environment and a better life, leaving no one behind*

Executive Summary

The FAO Strategic Framework 2022-31 places the 2030 Agenda at its centre and uses key Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and their indicators to track progress, grouped by the *four betters*. FAO's contributions span across all SDGs, and are guided by the pledge of SDG 1, SDG 2 and SDG 10. FAO will use an agrifood systems approach linking different aspects of FAO's work across the agriculture sector including crops, livestock, forestry, fisheries, aquaculture, land, sustainable use of water, poverty reduction, and improved access to investment and finance, in supporting agrifood systems transformation to accelerate progress towards the achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The Regional Office for Africa has taken significant steps towards reorienting its programme of work within the continent to strengthen and contribute to agrifood systems transformation and the SDG targets related to food security and agriculture. This includes the focus on 15 interconnected regional priorities, the introduction of new working modalities and innovative solutions for the achievement of results at the regional, sub-regional and country levels.

The objective of the session is to provide a platform for Members to share country-led experiences on the four betters, engage the audience and discuss short- to medium-term strategies towards realizing the vision of promoting and impacting agrifood systems transformation and achieving the SDGs. The expected outcome is to create a better understanding and appreciation of the best practices and improve sharing of existing solutions amongst Members, which can be scaled up and adapted to other local contexts.

Documents can be consulted at www.fao.org

Suggested action by the Regional Conference

The Regional Conference is invited to:

- Take note of the progress made and challenges faced in the implementation of agrifood systems transformation, and how they relate to the *four betters*;
- Identify possible solutions to foster the adoption of the *four betters* at regional, sub-regional and country level;
- Commit to more efficient, inclusive, resilient and sustainable agrifood systems for *better production, better nutrition, a better environment, and a better life*, leaving no one behind, particularly its interconnected approach through the *four betters* toward transforming agrifood systems, reversing the hunger trend, investing in rural transformation and empowering vulnerable and marginalised populations, and to acknowledge the organizing principles as well as progress accelerators behind the strategy; and
- Provide suggestions and guidance on financing options and technical requirements from FAO to support country-level actions to implement the FAO Strategic Framework 2022-31.

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

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I. Background

1. The narrative guiding the FAO Strategic Framework 2022-31 is the transformation to MORE efficient, inclusive, resilient and sustainable agrifood systems for *better production, better nutrition, a better environment and a better life*, leaving no one behind.
2. The *four betters* represent an organizing principle for how FAO directly intends to support the achievement of Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 1 (No Poverty), SDG 2 (Zero Hunger), SDG 10 (Reduced Inequalities), as well as the broader SDG Agenda and encourage a strategic and systems-oriented approach. For each of the *four betters*, the corresponding Programme Priority Areas (PPAs) are identified, as follows:
 - a) *Better production*: ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns, through efficient and inclusive food and agriculture supply chains at local, regional and global levels, ensuring resilient and sustainable agrifood systems in a changing climate and environment. The PPAs related to *better production* are: Innovation for Sustainable Agriculture production; Blue transformation; One Health; Small-scale producers' equitable access to resources; and Digital agriculture.
 - b) *Better nutrition*: end hunger, achieve food security and improve nutrition in all its forms, including promoting nutritious food and increasing access to healthy diets. The PPAs are: Healthy diets for all; Nutrition for the most vulnerable; Safe food for everyone; Reducing food loss and waste; and Transparent markets and trade.
 - c) *Better environment*: protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial and marine ecosystems, and combat climate change (reduce, reuse, recycle, residual management) through more efficient, inclusive, resilient and sustainable agrifood systems. The PPAs are: Climate change mitigating and adapted agrifood systems; Bioeconomy for sustainable food and agriculture; Biodiversity and ecosystem services for food and agriculture; and Achieving sustainable urban food systems
 - d) *Better life*: promote inclusive economic growth by reducing inequalities (urban/rural areas, rich/poor countries, men/women). The PPAs are: Gender equality and rural women's empowerment; Inclusive rural transformation; Agriculture and food emergencies; Resilient agrifood systems; Hand-in-Hand (HIH) Initiative; and Scaling up investment.
3. This session is aimed at facilitating experience sharing among Members on the *four betters*. It is intended to provide a platform to highlight how experiences and best practices in agrifood systems transformation can achieve SDG 1 (No Poverty), SDG 2 (Zero Hunger) and SDG 10 (Reduced Inequalities) while supporting achievement of the broader SDG agenda. The session is interactive and engaging with adequate time allocated for experience sharing and discussion. The expected outcome is a better understanding and appreciation of various best practices and existing solutions from Members, which can be scaled up or adapted and contextualised to other countries.
4. The experience sharing session on the *four betters* will start with a short Ted-Talk-style intervention to set the stage. It will be a moderated session to ensure interactive and engaging participation. Members and stakeholders will share best practices and success stories aimed at shaping and transforming agrifood systems. It will also feature short video clips (2-3 minutes) throughout the session demonstrating how Members have successfully implemented programmes and policies in their countries, in relation to *better production, better nutrition, a better environment, and a better life*, leaving no one behind.

II. Objectives of experience sharing session on the four betters

- The objective is to provide a platform for Members to share experiences on the *four betters*. It aims to bring various best practices to the table that can be useful to enhance their efforts in transforming agrifood systems, thus achieving the objectives set by the SDGs. It is further intended to discuss short- and medium-term strategies towards realizing the vision of promoting and impacting agrifood systems transformation.

III. Expected Outcomes

- Best practices drawn out from the experiences of the *four betters* are shared to support and inform the efforts of Members in transforming agrifood systems and achieving the SDGs;
- Short to medium-term action plans that will guide the programmes to be implemented to achieve agrifood systems transformation are defined;
- Countries have a better understanding of resource levels, partnerships and collaboration needed to support national implementation of the PPAs linked to the achievement of the SDGs; and
- Members identify programmes that best articulate FAO's value-added and comparative advantage for them to adapt and request technical support in order to implement the PPAs in their countries.

IV. Agenda and participants

- The target audience includes Members, the African Union Commission (AUC), Regional Economic Communities (RECs), United Nations Agencies, Funds and Programmes as well as development partners, resource partners, civil society organizations and relevant national and regional stakeholders contributing to agrifood systems transformation in Africa.

Agenda

Activity	Who	Time
Introduction	Moderator	5 minutes
Ted-Talk Style intervention on agrifood systems transformation	FAO / expert	5 minutes
Video 1 Brief presentation of a best practice	Moderator	4 minutes
Experience sharing and powerful actions supporting the <i>four betters</i>	Ministers from selected countries will intervene; followed by a moderated discussion	1 hour and 10 minutes
2 videos on best practices will be shown as intermission	FAO team	6 minutes (3 minutes each video)
Q&A	All participants	20 minutes
Synthesis (takeaways and road ahead)	Moderator	10 minutes

