

Launch webinar of the “Stock-take Report on Agroecology in IFAD Operations: An Integrated Approach to Sustainable Food Systems”

**8 September 2021
13:30-15:00 (CEST)**

Registration link:

<https://ifad.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJcvdu-tqDgqGt3O6CeTOYIRWCBgRsuwvVQJ>

Interpretation: English, French and Spanish

Description of the event:

The webinar is launching the “Stock-take Report on Agroecology in IFAD Operations: an integrated approach to sustainable food systems” – the first comprehensive report on a holistic approach to sustainable production and food systems in IFAD. The report is based on an assessment of recent IFAD-supported projects examining IFAD’s support to agroecology in its portfolio, conducted in 2020. The learning session will discuss the key findings and the guidance they provide for more effective investments in holistic approaches that support small-scale producers’ active participation in, benefits from, and contributions to sustainable production and food systems. Using agroecology as an example, the session will invite for an enriching exchange with IFAD partners on opportunities to scale up holistic and territorial grounded approaches to sustainable food systems.

Food systems and their sustainability is high on the global agenda and Agroecology is one of the innovative approaches that can support a transition to sustainable food systems. As a holistic approach, it not only applies ecology-based principles in farming systems conserving biodiversity. It also promotes social values around benefit sharing and inclusion of women, youth and vulnerable groups in circular and solidarity economies, responsible governance, and innovations through co-creation of knowledge. As a practice, a science and a movement, agroecology aims at increasing and diversifying agricultural production, while seeking to efficiently use and recycle resources in farming and food systems. Agroecology seeks to promote linkages between producers and consumers around the value of sustainably produced food, increase small-scale producers’ access to secure and differentiated markets, and enhance communities’ nutritional security and resilience to climate change.

IFAD has a long history in supporting sustainable natural resources management in farming systems and landscapes including agroecology-based practices, applied in different agro-ecological and socio-economic contexts, involving small-scale producers and their organizations including Indigenous Peoples, while empowering women, men and rural youth. As part of the agreed activities under the FAO-led multi agency [Scaling up Agroecology Initiative](#), and in line with the Ten Elements of Agroecology approved by the FAO Council in 2019¹, IFAD’s Sustainable Production, Markets and Institutions Division (PMI) has developed a framework for assessing agroecology in the IFAD portfolio as an important activity for identifying opportunities for learning, improving and scaling up. The framework addresses interventions at four levels: i) farming system agroecological practices; ii) landscape level natural resources governance and nature based solutions to sustain and enhance ecosystem services and secure equitable access to resources for vulnerable groups; iii) markets supporting agroecology-based value chains and innovations in

¹ <http://www.fao.org/3/ca7173en/ca7173en.pdf>

connecting consumers and small-scale producers around values of sustainable and healthy food; and iv) policies, instruments and services enabling agroecology and sustainable food systems.

Using this framework, IFAD conducted a stock-take on its portfolio of all 207 projects completed or to be completed between 2018 and 2023, representing a total investment of USD 15.5 billion including leveraged co-financing. Through the application of ecological principles in integrated farming systems, IFAD supports small-scale producers to produce safe, nutritious and healthy food and to build resilient food and income streams from a diversity of farm outputs, improving their capacities to withstand climate and other shocks and stresses. However, the stock-take also provides interesting findings on areas where IFAD can do more with all its development partners to achieve the full benefits for sustainable food systems and small-scale producers, their organisations and families.

Objectives:

- Present the findings and exchange on enhancing support for small-scale producers adoption of agroecology practices in integrated farming systems with IFAD partners and interested stakeholders, including IFAD Member States, Country Governments and Project Management Units, UN agencies and international organizations, the Private Sector, Farmers' Organizations, Civil Society Organizations and Indigenous Peoples;
- Stimulate discussion around recommendations and opportunities to do more in the support of innovative agroecological and other holistic approaches benefitting small-scale producers in connecting to markets and enhancing their contribution to sustainably produced, safe and healthy food; and
- Strengthen learning and partnerships (e.g. with member states, FAO and other UN agencies, international financing institutions and the private sector) to scale up agroecology and other holistic approaches and contribute to the transition to sustainable food systems and the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals, in particular SDG1 and SDG2 on ending poverty and hunger.

Speakers:

Moderator: Rossana Polastri, Regional Director, Latin America and the Caribbean Division (LAC), IFAD

Opening remarks: Jyotsna Puri, Associate Vice-President, Knowledge and Strategy Department (SKD), IFAD

Recap and closure: Donal Brown, Associate Vice-President, Programme Management Department (PMD), IFAD

Presentation of methodological framework and findings:

- Rikke Olivera, Senior Global Technical Specialist, Natural Resources Management, PMI, IFAD
- Doina Popusoi, Agroecology-Natural Resources Management Consultant, PMI, IFAD

Remarks on the importance of the Stock-take Report in informing the development of the IFAD Biodiversity Strategy:

- Mena Grossman, Junior Professional Officer - Environment and Climate / Agroecology, Environment, Climate, Gender and Social Inclusion Division (ECG), IFAD

Agenda:

- Opening remarks (5 minutes)

- Presentation of the framework and key findings from the stock-take by Rikke Olivera and Doina Popusoi (35 minutes)
- Points on how the agroecology stock-take has informed the development of IFAD's new Biodiversity strategy by Mena Grossman (5 minutes)
- Open floor feedback insights from audience (35 minutes)
- Recap and closure (10 minutes)