



Renewable Energy for Agri-food Systems: Towards the Sustainable Development Goals and the Paris Agreement

04 November 2021 | 13:00 – 14:30 CET | Virtual

Context

Energy and agri-food systems are deeply connected. While energy is needed at every stage of agri-food systems, its current use in their development is unsustainable. On the one hand, about 30% of the world's energy is consumed within agri-food systems, mainly in the form of fossil fuels, and this energy is responsible for a third of their greenhouse gas emissions. On the other hand, energy poverty affects many food chains in developing countries, causing significant food losses and impeding improvements in yields and value addition. Moreover, hundreds of millions of people still do not have access to clean cooking fuels; they use traditional wood energy; which contributes to significant health and environmental costs.

The challenge is to decouple food systems' transformation from the use of fossil fuels to support stimulate socio-economic make them more inclusive, and contribute to climate action without hampering food security. Both the energy and food systems must be transformed to meet current and future demand for food and energy in an inclusive and environmentally sustainable manner. A joint approach to the energy transition and the transformation of agri-food systems is crucial to meet the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the Paris Agreement targets.

Objective

Renewable energy solutions and integrated food-energy systems can directly advance both energy and food security, while contributing to job creation, gender equality and climate action. Recognizing this important link, as illustrated by its coverage at international fora including the UN Food Systems Summit and the High Level Dialogue on Energy, IRENA and the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) have signed a Memorandum of Understanding in 2021 to strengthen their collaboration regarding the deployment of renewable energy in agri-food, fisheries and forestry chains, and sustainable bioenergy. As a concrete output of this collaboration, IRENA and FAO have produced a joint report on *'Renewable Energy for Agri-food Systems: Towards Sustainable Development Goals and the Paris Agreement'*. Another concrete example concerns the FAO-IRENA proposed action on *'Energising Agri-food Systems with Renewable Energy'* that was showcased in the *'Celebrating Ambitions: Energy Compacts'* session of the High-Level Dialogue on Energy.

IRENA and FAO are convening this meeting with two objectives:

- To present findings from the joint FAO-IRENA report *'Renewable Energy for Agri-food Systems: Towards Sustainable Development Goals and the Paris Agreement'* and highlight the compelling case it makes for decision makers across sectors to devise policies and measures to accelerate the adoption of renewable energy in agri-food systems; and
- To present and discuss the FAO-IRENA proposed actions on *'Energising Agri-food systems with Renewable Energy'* showcased at the High-Level Dialogue on Energy, and solicit feedback and gather interest in partnerships with key stakeholders from both sectors.

Under the wider 2030 Agenda for sustainable development and the Paris Agreement, both propositions will help to achieve inclusive, resilient and sustainable agri-food and energy systems.



Agenda

13:00 – 13:20 High-level Segment

Moderator: Zitouni Ould-Dada, Deputy Director, Office of Climate Change, Biodiversity and Environment, FAO

Statements:

- Qu Dongyu, Director-General, FAO
- Francesco La Camera, Director-General, IRENA
- Veronica Mwiche, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Energy, Zambia

13:20 – 13:30 Presentation of findings from FAO-IRENA report on *Renewable Energy for Agri-food Systems: Towards Sustainable Development Goals and the Paris Agreement* (FAO/Irini Maltsoglou and IRENA/Divyam Nagpal)

13:30 -14:15 Technical Segment

Moderator: Rabia Ferroukhi, Director, Knowledge, Policy and Finance Centre, IRENA

13:30-13:35 Presentation of proposed actions under FAO-IRENA Energy Compact on *'Energising Agri-food systems with Renewable Energy'* (FAO/Olivier Dubois)

13:35 – 13:40 Presentation of IRENA Coalition for Action Joint Statement on Advancing Renewables in Agriculture (Subrahmanyam Pulipaka, CEO, National Solar Energy Federation of India)

13:40 – 14:15 Discussion: Scaling-up renewable energy deployment in agri-food systems

Panelists:

- Anshuman Lath, Co-Founder, Gram Oorja, India
- Claudia Schwartz, Energy Access Advisor, Power Africa, USAID
- Fiona Hoffman-Harland, Business Development Adviser - Agriculture and Energy, Shell Foundation
- Heike Herden, Green Innovation Centers for Agriculture and Food Security, GIZ
- Henok Assefa, Managing Partner, Precise Consult, Ethiopia
- Raluca Golumbeanu, Senior Energy Specialist/Lead – Improving Livelihoods and Human Capital Development, ESMAP
- Samir Ibrahim, CEO & Co-Founder, SunCulture, Kenya

14:15 – 14:30 Closing remarks

- Hon. Flavien Joubert, Minister of Agriculture, Climate Change and the Environment, Seychelles
- Ute Collier, Deputy Director, Knowledge, Policy and Finance Centre, IRENA