



Side Event no.94

Strengthening Agricultural Innovation Systems for Family Farming

Multi-stakeholder processes to develop capacities to innovate for food and nutrition security

17 OCTOBER 2019
Iraq Room (A-235)

8.30-9.50

A light breakfast will be offered before the event



SPEAKERS

- **Selvaraju Ramasamy**, Head, Research and Extension Unit, FAO
Overview of FAO's role in strengthening agricultural innovation systems for family farmers
- **Theo De Jager**, President, World Farmers' Organization
Farmers in the global political processes on climate change and agriculture: The Climakers Initiative
- **Judith Francis**, Chair of the Tropical Agriculture Platform (TAP)
The TAP Common Framework on Capacity Development for Agriculture Innovation System
- **Etienne Coyette**, Policy officer for Agriculture and Climate change, DG DEVCO, European Commission
EU approach in support to innovation and research for agricultural and rural transformation
- **Teresa Pinto-Correia**, Coordinator, Horizon 2020 SALSA project, University of Évora
Understanding the role of small farms in Europe and Africa: the transdisciplinary research approach of the SALSA project

MODERATOR

Hlamalani Ngwenya, Lecturer, Center for Sustainable Development, University of Free State

Innovation is the driving force that can transform food systems and lift family farmers out of poverty to help the world achieve the Sustainable Development Goals.

Multi-stakeholder processes which revolve around family farmers, the major producers of the food we eat, are crucial for fostering innovation at the local, national and global levels. Farmers are at the center of the transformative change agenda for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals, specifically zero hunger and poverty alleviation.

This side event will showcase and discuss evidence from **success stories**, emphasizing the contributions of research and extension and rural advisory services among other innovation actors. It will highlight **strategies** for assessing and strengthening capacities to innovate and engage in multi-stakeholder processes for agricultural innovation.

For more information about this event, please contact AGDR-Chief@fao.org



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations



Further information

The first International Symposium on Agricultural Innovation for Family Farmers

[\[http://www.fao.org/about/meetings/agricultural-innovation-family-farmers-symposium/en/\]](http://www.fao.org/about/meetings/agricultural-innovation-family-farmers-symposium/en/): In November 2018, FAO convened this symposium in Rome which was attended by 540 participants, including 286 delegates from 92 member countries. The symposium recognized the central role of family farmers in agricultural innovation. It recommended that there is a need, inter alia, to strengthen the capacity of family farmers to innovate; to strengthen bridging institutions to enable their role as facilitators; for inclusive research and education systems that facilitate innovation for family farmers; for integrated policies, increased investments and a holistic approach; for multi-stakeholder governance; and for assessment of agricultural innovation systems to inform the need for increased investments. The symposium also recognized the unique role and potential of youth in agricultural innovation.

The Climakers Initiative [\[https://www.theclimakers.org\]](https://www.theclimakers.org): In May 2018 the General Assembly of the World Farmers' Organization (WFO) adopted a new agenda to enhance the position of farmers in the global political debate on climate change. The initiative was born under the name of Farmers Driven Climate Change Agenda and through it, WFO intends to promote a completely reverted paradigm applying an authentic bottom-up approach, where farmers play a leading role in the global political processes on climate change and agriculture, together with other relevant stakeholders. This agenda is based on the best practices that farmers are already implementing as practical solutions to climate change mitigation and adaptation. It is intended to be farmers-driven, science-based and result oriented.

The Tropical Agriculture Platform (TAP) [\[http://www.fao.org/in-action/tropical-agriculture-platform\]](http://www.fao.org/in-action/tropical-agriculture-platform): The TAP partnership, which now has over 45 members, was launched in Mexico in 2012 as a G20 Initiative. Its goal is to strengthen agricultural innovation systems (AIS) in developing countries through coordinated multi-stakeholder interventions. Through collaboration among TAP's network of experts, TAP has developed the Common Framework (CF) on Capacity Development for Agricultural Innovation Systems (CDAIS). The CF has been tested in 8 countries in Africa, Asia and Latin America through [the CDAIS Project](#), funded by the European Commission and jointly implemented by AGRINATURA and FAO in partnership with national governments and organisations. Valuable lessons have been learned. In particular, the CDAIS Project demonstrated that to successfully innovate together, stakeholders need technical as well as functional capacities, like the ability to link with others, negotiate, and engage in political processes. The project strengthened functional capacities of key actors of the AIS, emphasizing the important role of facilitation through national innovation facilitators who accompanied the entire capacity development process, starting from the identification of a common vision, problems to be overcome, and reflection and learning events as well as joint tracking of progress.

The Directorate-General for International Cooperation and Development of the European Commission (DG DEVCO) [\[https://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/about-development-and-cooperation-europeaid_en\]](https://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/about-development-and-cooperation-europeaid_en): DG DEVCO is responsible for designing European international cooperation and development policy and delivering aid throughout the world. DG DEVCO is in charge of development cooperation policy in a wider framework of international cooperation, adapting to the evolving needs of partner countries. Since 2014 the sector of Food and Nutrition Security and Sustainable Agriculture has been a major area of cooperation in more than 60 countries for about €9 billion. Support to innovation, including through research, and specific attention to strengthening innovation systems have been considered as part of the responses to enhance development impact with a long term perspective.

The SALSA project [\[http://www.salsa.uevora.pt/en/\]](http://www.salsa.uevora.pt/en/): Small farms, small food businesses and sustainable food security (SALSA) is a four-year research project financed by the EU-H2020 programme which started in April 2016 bringing together 16 European and African partners. The SALSA project's principal aim has been to understand the main characteristics of regional food systems and the role and conditions of small farms in these. SALSA adopts a territorial food systems approach at the regional level along with a methodology based on a multistakeholder engagement with a transdisciplinary and participatory approach. The participation and involvement of stakeholders and practitioners has significantly enhanced the quality of the research.