



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations

Advancing Innovation in Agrifood systems

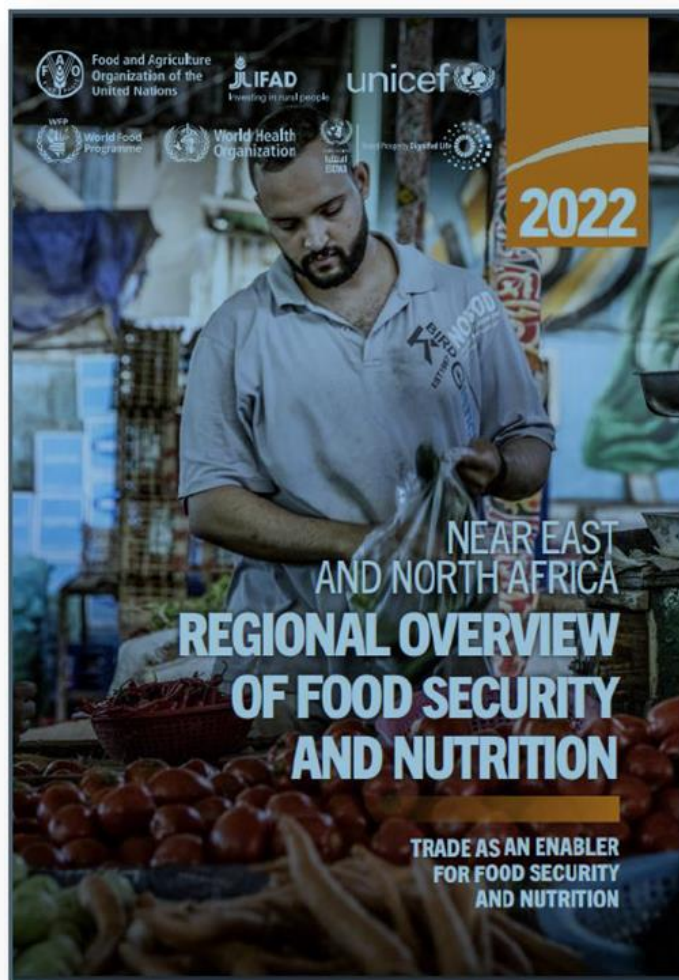
Outline

- Challenging situation
- FAO Strategic Framework 22-31
- FAO STRATEGY ON CLIMATE CHANGE 2022–2031
- FAO Science and Innovation Strategy
- FAO Science and Innovation Forum 2023
- Enabling environment
- NENA Innovation platform
- Agrination Startup Cup

Regional Overview of Food Security and Nutrition in NENA – Challenging situation



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Hunger in the Arab region has continued to increase since 2014.

54.3 Million undernourished (2021). 55% increase since 2010.

Severe food insecurity affecting an estimated 154.3 million people in 2021, up from 142.7 million in 2020 – *an increase of 11.6 million*

Trends in hunger and food insecurity suggest that the region is not on track to achieve Zero Hunger (SDG 2) by 2030

Recent food supply chain challenges coupled with increasing food prices may cause the situation to deteriorate further.

COVID induced food prices increase inevitably affects the cost of a healthy diet. prevalence of anemia in women aged 15 to 49 was estimated at 33.2% (2019).

Water scarcity, climate induced challenges, conflicts and economic crisis



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Transforming food systems to achieve the SDGs

- **Priority 1:** Rural transformation and inclusive value chains
- **Priority 2:** Food security and healthy diets for all
- **Priority 3:** Greening agriculture, water, scarcity, and climate action
- **Priority 4:** Building resilience to multiple shocks



Transformation to more efficient, inclusive, resilient and sustainable, agri-food systems



FAO Strategic Framework 2022-31

- Supporting the Agenda 2030 through 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”.
- As we navigate our path towards sustainable agriculture and rural transformation, it becomes increasingly evident that **INNOVATION** is instrumental.

FAO STRATEGY ON CLIMATE CHANGE 2022–2031

The Strategy on Climate Change action is organized under three Pillars focusing on action at:

- GLOBAL AND REGIONAL LEVELS:

Strengthening global and regional climate policy and governance;

- COUNTRY LEVEL:

Developing countries' capacities for climate action; and

- LOCAL LEVEL:

Scaling up climate action on the ground.

Harnessing good practices and innovative solutions

To respond to climate challenges, good practices and innovative solutions should be harnessed, tailored and piloted in the diverse range of regional, country and community contexts.



COP27 Egypt Presidency, FAO Launch FAST Initiative

Food and Agriculture for Sustainable Transformation Initiative – FAST

The FAST initiative will be a multi-stakeholder partnership acting as an accelerator to transform agrifood systems to deliver triple wins: for people, for climate and for nature.

FAST is designed as a catalyst, building on ongoing global and regional initiatives and coalitions to drive effective actions, and avoiding duplication.



FAO Science and Innovation Strategy:

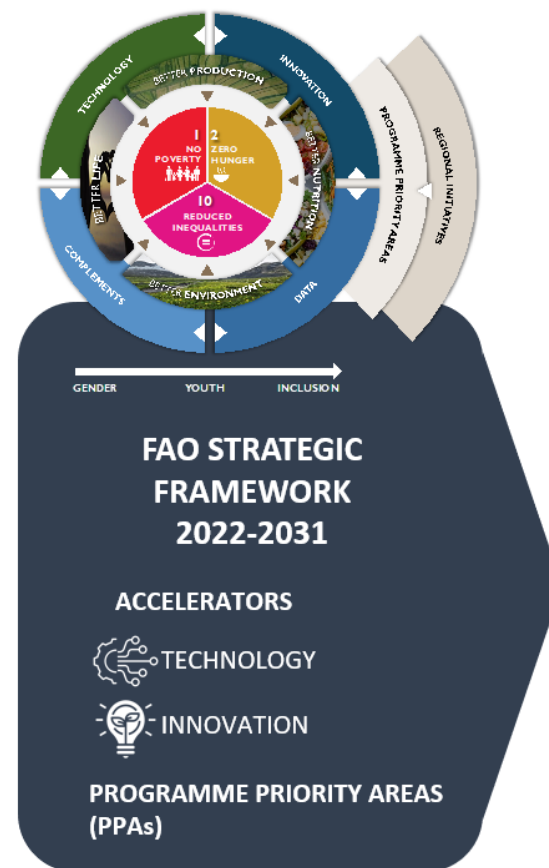
A tool to support Members accelerating support to SDGs achievement

FAO's Science and Innovation strategy

Three pillars: 1)strengthening science- and evidence-based decision-making; 2)supporting innovation and technology at the country level; and 3)reinforcing FAO's capacities to better serve countries.

FAO SCIENCE AND INNOVATION STRATEGY GOAL

Members harness **science and innovation** to realize context-specific and systemic solutions for MORE efficient, inclusive, resilient and sustainable agrifood systems for *better production, better nutrition, a better environment and a better life*, leaving no one behind.



FAO Science and Innovation Forum 2023

16–20 OCTOBER 2023



SCIENCE AND INNOVATION FOR CLIMATE ACTION

Check out the SIF 2023 Programme

<https://www.fao.org/science-technology-and-innovation/science-innovation-forum-2023/programme/en>

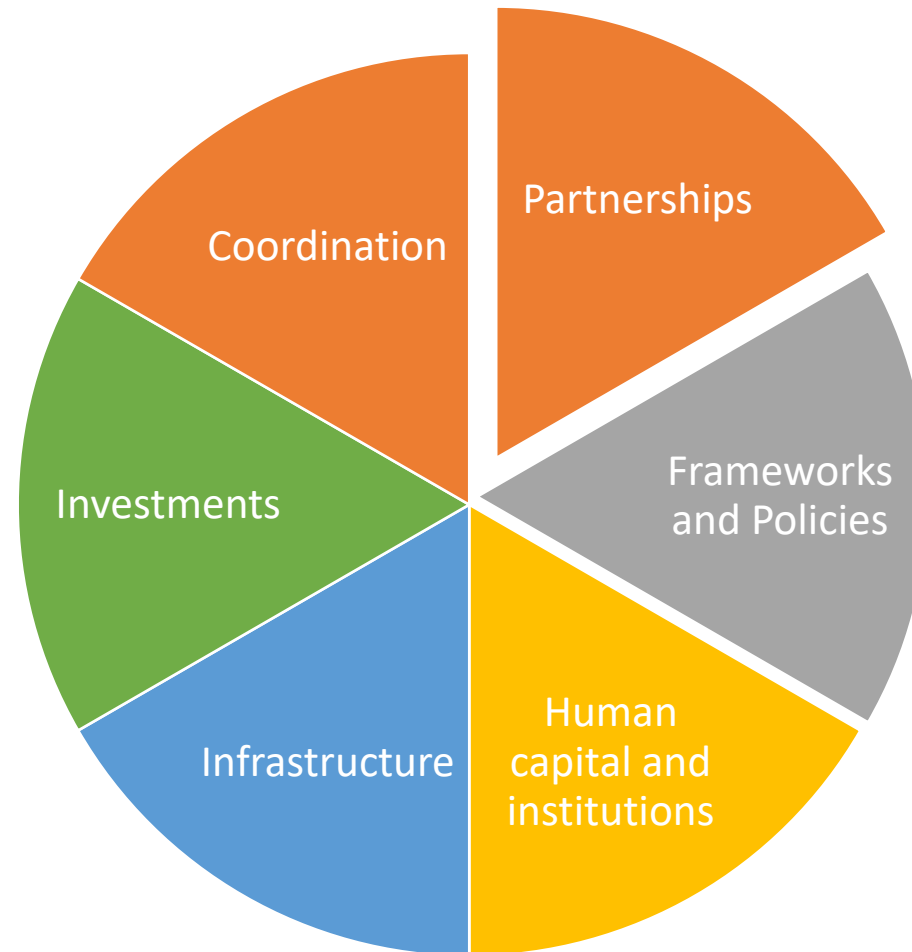
Closing: key recommendations and takeaways

20 October 2023 | 11:00 – 12:30 (CEST)

[**REGISTER**](#)

Creating an “INNOVATION” enabling environment and effective ecosystem

With targeted support to countries, entrepreneurs, actors and stakeholders, the adoption of innovative practices in agriculture can pave the way for improved productivity, profitability, and better livelihoods for rural communities.



Social inclusion and gender equality

LEAVING NO ONE BEHIND

NENA Agrifood innovation platform - [Link](#) to register

Go through the
NENA AgriFood
innovation platform

Become a member



As a member of the NENA Agri-food Innovation Platform, you can benefit from and contribute to ongoing discussions, periodically receive news, updates, and invitations to webinars and engage with fellow members

REGISTER

New Topic



Suggest a Topic for the next discussion

SUGGEST

Agri-Food Innovation Platform

Home About Networking News & Events Resources Get involved Members

Register

All fields are mandatory

Email

The email address is not made public. It will only be used if you need to be contacted about your account or for opted-in notifications.

Password

Confirm password

Provide a password for the new account in both fields.

First Name

Last Name

Age

Gender

Country

Suggest a Topic

Name *

Organization


E-mail *

Proposal

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View more on Twitter

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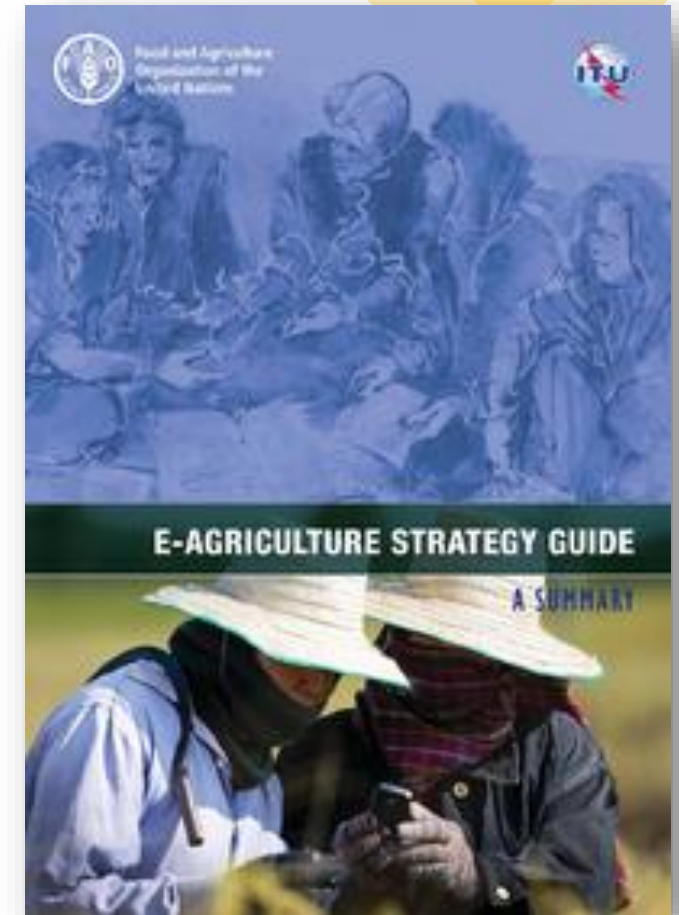


Advancing innovation in agrifood systems in the region

POLICY SUPPORT

Partnership with ITU to accelerate digital transformation and assist countries to develop **national digital agricultural strategy**.

Organization of a joint [FAO-ITU Digital Agriculture Solutions Forum 2023](#)



[E-agriculture Strategy Guide](#)



Advancing innovation in agrifood systems in the region

FAO's WORK ON INNOVATION FOR SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE PRODUCTION

Farmer field schools focused on **water productivity improvement**, potential of **non-conventional water resources**, **climate-smart agriculture** solutions for farming systems

And the [inter-regional technical platform on water scarcity](#)

ENHANCE ACCESS TO DIGITAL AGRICULTURE

Promoting **digital innovations**, including **mobile applications** for irrigation and for control of Fall Armyworm, electronic phytosanitary certificates, **digital technologies** to improve traceability across the food value chains, and blockchain and other technologies for food safety, trade and information.

BUILDING CAPACITIES

AGRINATION

And raising awareness and capacities on **digital technologies** in the rural areas, including **digital literacy trainings for youth**.

Those initiatives support the implementation of the **Digital Village Initiative (DVI)** activities in countries of the region.

The Agrination Startup Cup - A startup competition launched in 2022 by



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Berytech
powering potential



The initiative strives to foster innovation, decent employment and youth inclusion in agrifood systems
Focusing on 3 catalytic drivers:

Innovation

Entrepreneurship

Youth & Women

Objectives

- Support **idea-stage startups** to achieve market entry using an **inclusive approach**
- **Strengthen agrifood innovation and entrepreneurship ecosystems**



Regional awareness campaign



Website, social media campaign and info sessions:

- +250,000 saw our social media posts
- +20,275 directly engaged
- +2000 registered on the website

Network of impact makers

#Tek2Hub
SILENCO

wehub


HASSAD
AgriFoodTech Accelerator

JCI 
Damascus

 **HADINA RIMTIC**

ITPO
INVESTMENT AND TECHNOLOGY
PROMOTION OFFICE
MANAMA, BAHRAIN


مسرعة المشاريع الزراعية الريادية
Agribusiness Accelerator

 **ORANGE
CORNERS** | **ERBIL**
AN INITIATIVE OF THE KINGDOM OF THE NETHERLANDS

 **CEED**
TUNISIA

Berytech 
powering potential

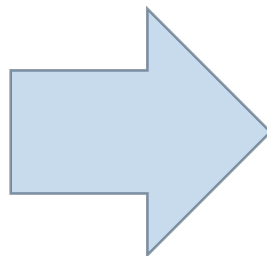

smeps

Startup support - [AGRINATION Start-ups portfolio](#)



للصناعة و التكنولوجيا

LESSONS LEARNED



- Still reaching certain segments of youth more than others
- Effective incubation remains a challenge
- High variability among impact makers

Agrination 2.0 was launched this year with 5 more startups that have joined the program.

And we are planning for the 3rd Cohort of Agrination and we are looking forward to have you onboard as our partners!

Key priorities over the next 3 years



INSTITUTIONAL
STRENGTHENING
FOR IMPACT MAKERS



ENGAGEMENT IN
POLICY PROCESSES



INCENTIVIZE AND
SUPPORT AGRIFOOD
STARTUPS



ENGAGE RURAL
YOUTH AND WOMEN



ACCESS TO FINANCE