



Background and objectives:

Water scarcity is one of the most pressing challenges facing the Arab region, where per capita freshwater availability has fallen to critically low levels due to population growth, climate change, and increasing competition across sectors. Agriculture remains the largest water user in the region and is central to food security, rural livelihoods, and economic stability. Improving water governance, efficiency, and productivity through effective capacity building is therefore indispensable for achieving SDG 6. The session aims to:

- Showcase regional trends on water scarcity and SDG 6-related indicators.
- Promote cross-sector cooperation and knowledge-sharing on water efficiency, governance, and climate adaptation
- Highlight the role of the UN-Water SDG 6 Capacity Development Initiative (CDI) in supporting institutional coordination and national capacity development processes.

Questions to be addressed include:

- How is water scarcity evolving in the Arab region, and what do the latest SDG 6 indicators reveal?
- Which policy measures and innovations can enhance water efficiency and productivity in agriculture?
- How can countries strengthen governance and cross-sectoral coordination to reduce water stress?
- How can capacity development offer the right platform to accelerate action towards SDG 6?
- What lessons can be drawn from Jordan's engagement in the UN-Water SDG 6 Capacity Development Initiative (CDI)?

Moderators:

- **Mohamed Al-Hamdi**
Senior Land and Water Officer, FAO
- **Rahmah Elfithri**
Chief of Section Capacity Development & Water Family Coordination, UNESCO

Presenters:

- **Mr. Kamel Amer**
Head of the Middle Regional Office, AOAD
- **Ms. Patricia MejiasMoreno**
Land and Water Officer, FAO
- **Ms. Rahmah Elfithri**
Chief of Section Capacity Development & Water Family Coordination, UNESCO

Panelists:

- **Mr. Walid Hakiki**
Head of Planning Sector, Ministry of Water Resources and Irrigation, Egypt
- **Mr. Basim Hasan**
Strategic Planning Expert, Ministry of Water and Irrigation, Jordan
- **Mr. Vinay Nangia**
Research Team Leader - Soils, Waters and Agronomy, ICARDA
- **Mr. Youssef Brouziyne**
Country and Regional Representative, IWMI
- **Mr. Ziad Khayat**
Senior Sustainable Development Officer (Water), ESCWA

This Special Session is organized as an online event. To participate, please register [here](#).

