



Water–Energy–Food–Ecosystems Nexus: Local Solutions for Global Impact

Tuesday 19 May 2026, 15:30 – 17:30, Beirut time

Background and objectives:

Food systems are central to the interlinkages between water, energy, ecosystems and urban sustainability in the Arab region. Persistent food insecurity, acute water scarcity, climate vulnerability and rapid urbanization are placing increasing pressure on natural resources, while also underscoring the need for more integrated and systemic responses. Cities concentrate demand for food, water, and energy and generate significant waste and emissions, yet they also offer strategic entry points for localized solutions, circular approaches and strengthened urban–rural linkages. By bringing the food dimension more explicitly into water, energy and ecosystems discussions, this side event illustrates how a Water-Energy-Food-Ecosystem (WEFE) nexus approach can support more coherent, resilient and sustainable development pathways.

This Special Session brings together policymakers, development organizations, experts, and civil society with the following objective:

- Illustrating how transforming food systems can simultaneously advance SDG 6 (water), SDG 7 (energy), SDG 9 (innovation and infrastructure), SDG 11 (sustainable cities), and SDG 17 (partnerships).
- Showcasing policy, institutional, technological and social innovations—including localized WEFE solutions and regional coordination mechanisms—that enable more coherent, cross-sectoral action.

Questions to be addressed:

- How can transforming food systems accelerate progress across SDGs 6, 7, 9, 11 and 17?
- What innovations – technological, policy, financial – hold the greatest potential for food–water–energy–ecosystems at the local level?
- How can urban–rural linkages contribute to efficient, resilient and inclusive agrifood systems?
- What partnership and governance models can effectively enable integrated solutions, and how policy coordination be strengthened at the regional level?

Moderator:

- **Mr. Khaled Eltaweel**, Senior Programme Coordinator, UN Food Systems Coordination Hub

Welcoming Notes:

- **Mr. Mahmoud Fathallah**, Director, Department of Environmental & Meteorological affairs, LAS
- **Mr. Carol Chouchani Cherfane**, Leader of Climate Change and Natural Resources Sustainability Cluster, ESCWA

Setting the Scene:

- **Ms. Reem Nejdawi**, Chief of Food and Environmental Policies, ESCWA
- **Ms. Heba Al Hariry**, Land and Water Officer, FAO

Examples of localized food systems solutions:

- **Ms. Lynn Chaaban and Ms. Amina Kamari**, Students, Lebanese American University
- **Mr. Messaoud Lazereg**, Team Leader: Agricultural Production Systems Dynamics (DySPA), Research Center for Applied Economics for Development (CREAD).

Panel Discussion:

- **Mr. Mahmoud Fathallah**, Director, Department of Environmental & Meteorological affairs, LAS
- **Mr. Kamel Mostafa al Sayed**, Head of the Regional Office in the Central Region, Arab Organization for Agricultural Development, AOAD
- **Ms. Jaquelin Pinat**, Programme Officer, FAO
- **Ms. Karima Ahmed Al-Hada'a**, Planning and Liaison Specialist at Scaling-Up Nutrition Secretariat, Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation, Yemen; Executive Committee Member, Global SUN Movement
- **Mr. Nada Al Frihat**, Secretary of the Higher Food Security Council & Director of the Food Security Unit, Jordan
- **Mr. Mohamed Wageih**, Project Officer, PRIMA Foundation

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