



Environment, Social and Governance (ESG) Nexus with Agriculture under Climate Change

13th – 14th March 2023

Location: ICBA Headquarters , Dubai, UAE

Primary leads

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Acknowledgement

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Overview

Industry and government now unequivocally realise the need to imbed environmental sustainability, particularly climate change, at the heart of their policy and commercial operational base, respectively. Whist this takes many forms, given the breadth of policy and commercial aims, ESG is widely used to convey the direction of travel. Agriculture and food occupy a significant position in the debate on global sustainability. Directly in terms of agricultural productivity, and indirectly in context of a dependency and impact on the environment. Moreover, non-agricultural industries are increasingly looking to offset their environmental footprint by investing in economies of Natural Capital, such as carbon or biodiversity, by means that impact on agriculture and the environment. The imperative of global environmental sustainability, that mitigates and adapts to climate change, requires significant research, centred on a perspective of 10 to 30+ years. To secure our future, we need to increasingly invest in a next generation of researchers and research infrastructure.

In the run-up to COP28, the International Center for Biosaline Agriculture (ICBA) in collaboration with Rothamsted Research, the UK, are organizing a 2-day Workshop on "**Environment, Social and Governance (ESG) nexus with Agriculture under climate change**" on the 13th and 14th of March 2023, at ICBA's headquarters in Dubai, UAE.

The workshop will bring together various stakeholders from government, research, academia, and industry to form a consensus on the need for applied and fundamental research to develop solutions for sustainable agriculture in the face of climate change. In this context, the workshop will explore the nexus between environment, social and governance (ESG) and agriculture under climate change. This nexus can serve as a platform for agriculture-related climate change research.

The two-day workshop agenda will explore the following questions:

- I. Why ESG matters in the lead-up to COP28?
- II. Why should corporates care about environmental sustainability? How are they addressing it through ESG?
- III. How agri-tech research is addressing "Agriculture under climate change" and measuring sustainability? The discussion will include examples from soil, water, crop health, plant breeding, sustainable protein, and value chains.
- IV. Theory of Change: Embracing ESG to realise scale, structure, and a long-term commitment for agriculture research for innovation to address the challenges of "Agriculture under Climate Change".

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FINAL AGENDA

Day 1: Monday, March 13 th		
Time	Session	Speaker
Registration and Opening		
9:00 – 9:50	Registration, Networking	
9:50 – 10:15	Inaugural Session Welcome Remarks	Dr. Tarifa A. AlZaabi, Director General, ICBA, UAE His Majesty's Consul General to Dubai and the Northern Emirates, and His Majesty's Trade Commissioner for the Middle East and Pakistan Simon Penney Dr. Julian Smith, Director of Science, Rothamsted Research, UK
Why Environment, Social and Governance (ESG)? Chair: Dr. Khalid Mahmood, Rothamsted Research, UK		
10:15 – 11:30	Plenary Talks on Why is ESG Prominent in the Lead-up to COP28?	Mr. Cassian Drew, Managing Partner, Acclimate Partners, Australia Mr. Jonathan Scott Keyes, Sustainable Finance Lead, HBSC, UAE Mr. Christophe Christiaen, Innovation and Impact Lead, Oxford Sustainable Finance Group, UK
11:30 – 12:00	Coffee Break	
Environment, Social and Governance Overviews Chair: Mr. Cassian Drew, Managing Partner, Acclimate Partners, Australia		
Questions: Environmental Sustainability, why do corporates care? How are institutions in different sectors addressing ESGs?		
12:00 – 1:00	Plenary Talks on ESG and Corporate Perspectives	Ms. Sharon Ditchburn, Managing Director, Capital Advantage, UAE Mr. Samin Khan, Global Director of Enterprise Risk and ESG, Al-Dahra, UAE Mr. Hassan Halawy, General Manager, Elite Agro, UAE Dr. Khalid Al-Rohily, Research Facilities Manager, Estedama, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia
	Q&A	
1:00 – 2:00	Lunch Break	

Day 1: Monday, March 13th

Time	Session	Speaker
Resilient Agri-Food Systems Chair: Dr. Julian Smith, Rothamsted Research, UK		
Questions: How agri-tech systems address environmental sustainability? What new innovations are needed? Research examples taken from soil, water, crop health, plant breeding and sustainable protein and value chains.		
2:00 – 3:30	Plenary I: Soil (Soil health)	Dr. Cathy Thomas, Rothamsted Research, UK Dr. Munir Zia, Head R&D, Fauji Fertilizer Company, Pakistan
	Plenary II: Water (Water productivity)	Dr. Khalil Ammar, Program Leader, Sustainable Management of Natural Resources, ICBA, UAE
	Plenary II: Crop Health (IPM of cereals and legumes)	Prof. Mustapha El Bouhssini, UM6P, Morocco
	Plenary III: Plant Breeding (Drought, heat, salt tolerant crops, better nutrition)	Dr. Rakesh Kumar Singh, Program Leader on Crop Diversification and Genetics and Principal Scientist on Plant Breeding, ICBA, UAE
	Plenary IV: Sustainable Protein (Sustainable sources of protein, plants vs livestock)	Dr. Phil Le Grice, Rothamsted Research, UK
	Plenary V: Value Chains (Pests)	Mr. John Caufield, Rothamsted Research, UK
	Q&A	
3:30 – 4:00	Coffee Break	
7:00 – 9:00	Workshop Dinner (Arabian Park Hotel, Al Jadaf, Dubai)	

Day 2: Tuesday, March 14th

Discussions & Consensus

Time	Session	Speaker
Introduction to Day 2		
Chair: Dr. Khalid Mahmood, Rothamsted Research, UK		
9:00—11:00	ICBA Farm Visit	All Participants
11:00 —11:20	Coffee Break	
Plenary Talks and Breakout Sessions		
Chair: Dr. Julian Smith, Rothamsted Research, UK & Dr. Luis Augusto Becerra Lopez-Lavalle, Chief Scientist, ICBA, UAE		
11:20 – 12:00	Climate Smart Agriculture for Resilient Agri-Food Systems	Dr. Heba Alhariry, Water Scarcity Advisor, FAO, Egypt
	Building Resilient Cropping Systems in a Changing Climate	Prof. Mumtaz Cheema, Memorial University, Canada Prof. Muhammad Farooq, Sultan Qaboos University
	The Role of Women Entrepreneurs in Sustainability	Ms. Hiba El Jardali, Program Lead Entrepreneurship & Gender responsive procurement UN Women, UAE
	Q&A	
12:00—1:00	Recap — Day 1	Dr. Khalid Mahmood, Rothamsted Research UK
	Breakout sessions on “Intersection between Agri-tech and ESG” and developing “Theory of Change”	Unstructured thoughts propagated by the discussion centred on need, opportunity and how? Theory of Change Valuing ESG to realise a bigger scale and structure over expanded timeframes, in address of ‘Agriculture under climate change, and investing in the next generation of researchers and infrastructure, engaged in multisector collaborations.
1:00 – 2:00	Lunch Break	
Outcomes		
Recommendations in the lead-up to COP28		
2:00 – 2:30	Discussion on COP28 in the UAE	Dr. Khalid Mahmood, Rothamsted, UK Mr. Cassian Drew, Acclimate Partners, Australia
2:30 – 3:30	Recommendations and the Way Forward	Dr. Luis Augusto Becerra Lopez-Lavalle, Chief Scientist, ICBA, UAE Dr. Julian Smith, Director of Science, Rothamsted Research, UK
3:30 – 4:00	Coffee Break	