Virtual Training Program

Knowledge exchange and virtual capacity development for women:
Climate-smart approaches to sustainable agricultural production

Date: 23, 24 and 25 November 2020
Time: 13:00-15:00 hrs (UAE time)
Venue: Zoom

Background

Smallholders and family farmers are at the heart of transition to more sustainable and productive agriculture as they produce a large share of the world’s food and play a key role in contributing to food security and nutrition, managing natural resources and ensuring sustainable livelihoods of rural communities. For example, smallholder family farming accounts for around 80 percent of agricultural production in the Near East and North Africa. Food security and livelihoods of these farmers largely depend on agricultural activities, making them extremely vulnerable to current challenges affecting agriculture, including rapid depletion of natural resources, adverse effects of climate change and loss of biodiversity.

In small-scale family farming, women play an essential role through their labor, skills and knowledge of agricultural practices and as primary supporters of nutrition and livelihoods of their families. Despite their central role in agricultural production, women often have a disadvantaged position due to the lack of access to resources and opportunities, including extension services, education and training which limit their capacities to adopt innovative practices and technologies. Strengthening capacities of women farmers to adopt innovative approaches to boost agricultural productivity and to better cope with climate extremes and limited natural resources is essential in the context of the Sustainable Development Goals, in particular SDG 1 on ending poverty, SDG 2 on ending hunger, SDG 5 on achieving gender equality and SDG 13 on combatting climate change.

Objectives

The main objective of the training program is to facilitate knowledge exchange on climate-smart approaches to sustainable agricultural production and equip women smallholders and family farmers from the NENA region with necessary skills and tools. Other specific objectives include:

1. Providing knowledge on climate-smart crops and their value chains in marginal environments;
2. Explaining best farming practices, including water, land and amendments;
3. Sharing information on modern technologies to enhance crop production and monitoring;
Agenda

Monday, 23 November 2020

Webinar 1: Climate-smart alternative crops and value chain approaches for climate change adaptation

Moderator: Dr. Henda Mahmoudi, Plant Physiologist, ICBA

13:00-13:10  Welcome remarks by the moderator
  Dr. Hirich Abdelaziz, Biosaline Agriculture Specialist, Morocco
13:20-13:50  Climate-smart crops: Role of biodiversification as a strategy for climate change adaptation
  Dr. Hirich Abdelaziz, Biosaline Agriculture Specialist, Morocco
13:50-14:20  Value chain approaches: Example of new resilient crop valorization as a lever for women empowerment
  Mr. Rafik Sifeddine, Value Chain Specialist, Morocco
14:20-15:00  Q & A

Tuesday, 24 November 2020

Webinar 2: Sustainable and climate-smart practices for crop production and efficient use of natural resources to achieve food security

Moderator: Ms. Mai Shalaby, Emirates Soil Museum Curator, ICBA

13:00-13:10  Welcome remarks by the moderator
13:10-13:40  On-farm sustainable management of soil and water
  Dr. Redouane Choukr-Allah, Biosaline Agriculture Specialist, Morocco
13:40-14:10  Crop management for improved sustainable food production
  Dr. Henda Mahmoudi, Plant Physiologist, ICBA
14:10-15:00  Q & A

Wednesday, 25 November 2020

Webinar 3: Artificial intelligence technologies for food security and sustainable agricultural production

Moderator: Mr. Ghazi Al-Jabri, Capacity Development Specialist, ICBA

13:00-13:10  Welcome remarks by the moderator
13:10-13:40  How to improve agriculture to ensure food security and sustainable production?
  Mr. Rashyd Zaaboul, Modeler - Climate Change, ICBA
13:40-14:10  Artificial intelligence for drone-based agricultural intelligence
  Dr. Ali El Battay, Senior Scientist - Remote Sensing and Drone Technology, ICBA and Chief Innovation Officer of FEDS
14:10-15:00  Q & A