COP27 Official Side Event - Concept Note

# Can New Science and Technologies Alone Build Climate-Resilient Food Systems in Africa and The Middle East?

**WHEN**: Wednesday, 9 November 2022 (18:30-20:00 Cairo time)

**WHERE**: Side event room 1 (Akhenaten), Area B, SHICC

**THEMATIC DAY**: Finance

**CO-HOSTS:** ICARDA and Alliance of Bioversity/CIAT (CGIAR)

# Event Summary

Science-based approaches and technology for climate resilience are well ahead in Africa and the Middle East. But are they enough? The audience and speakers at this event discuss key components that are often overlooked but vital for fully comprehensive and effective climate-resilient food systems, including enabling policies and financial incentives that drive the adoption of innovative approaches and technology.

# Background

Time is running out as the grip of the climate crisis tightens. Water scarcity, high temperatures, desertification, hunger, and instability make some regions across Africa and the Middle East the most globally vulnerable to climate change. Yet diversely, they also lead the globe in many areas of food systems climate adaptation through their head start in innovative climate-smart solutions and technology, an abundance of fertile and hardy biodiversity, and a plethora of renewable energy sources.

But while food-system innovation can help to systemically transform agri-food systems for better resilience in regions where most people, especially the poorest, rely on agriculture, is science and technology alone enough?

This side event reflects on the key, often overlooked elements to support the integration of new science, technologies, and approaches needed for fully comprehensive climate-resilient agri-food systems within resource-strained cultural and socio-economic environments.

The audience and speakers at the event will discuss the importance of enabling policy environments, capacity building, finance mechanisms, and farmers’ empowerment to ensure that technologies and innovations for climate-resilient food systems are adopted at scale and reach their full potential. The session will also discuss the value of inclusive and ongoing agri-food systems research carried out in partnership with country stakeholders, the private sector, and farmers to address context-specific challenges, market demands, and needs.

# Agenda

**Moderator**: Roula Majdalani, Senior Climate Change Advisor, ICARDA

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| **Duration  (90 min tot)** | **Agenda item** |
| 3 minutes | **Introduction and welcoming remarks**  Roula Majdalani, Senior Climate Change Advisor, ICARDA |
| 5 minutes | **Setting the stage**  Mr Aly Abousabaa, CGIAR Regional Director CWANA & DG, ICARDA |
| 5 minutes | **Farmers’ testimonial**  Esther Zulu, Farmer, Zambia |
| 10 minutes | **Keynote Speeches**   * H. E. Ambassador Ayman Ibrahim Amin Tharwat - MOFA - FAST Initiative Egypt * Dr. Owusu Afriyie Akoto, Minister of Agriculture, Ghana – **tbc** * Dr. Mohammed Sadiki, Minister of Agriculture, Morocco - **tbc** |
| 3 minutes | **Introduction of the panel, Slido question**  Roula Majdalani, Senior Climate Change Advisor, ICARDA |
| 12 minutes | **Reaction from the panelists** |
| 30 minutes | **Panel discussion**   * Ana Maria Loboguerrero, CGIAR * Ayat Soliman, World Bank * Ambassador Mohamad Khalil, GCF * Zitouni Ould-Dada, FAO * Motsomi Maletjane, UNFCCC |
| 15 minutes | **Q&A** |
| 5 minutes | **Summary of key messages and closing**  Roula Majdalani, Senior Climate Change Advisor, ICARDA |