COP26 Official Side-Event hosted by CGIAR with ICARDA and AfDB

**Taking Action for a Brighter Future:**

**Transforming Food, Land and Water Systems in a Climate Crisis**

**Saturday, November 6, 15:00–16:15**

# About COP26

Six years after the Paris Agreement was signed, Parties to the UNFCCC are expected to gather this November at the UN Climate Change Conference of the Parties (COP26) in Glasgow, UK to step up their commitments to reduce emissions by 2030 through updated pledges on their National Determined Contributions (NDCs), and further deploy climate adaptation actions. Without a deep transformation of food, land, and water systems, the prospect of keeping global warming well below

2˚C above pre-industrial levels is unlikely to materialize. Two critical issues that parties will consider during COP26 to achieve this goal are the incorporation of nature-based solutions (NBS) and climate-resilience actions in the Paris implementation strategy, and the delivery of $100 billion per year in climate finance, both of which will be part of the official negotiations.

# About the side-event

Research and innovation in food, land and water systems are crucial elements of the efforts needed to achieve global climate goals. This side-event will outline demand-side perspectives on the challenges and opportunities for climate adaption in these interlinked systems, and present innovative solutions at different geopolitical levels. Panelists from a wide range of backgrounds will weigh in on the solutions presented in an engaging “talk show”-format discussion.

**Objectives for the side-event include:**

1. Engage key stakeholders to discuss ways to enhance ambition for climate action in food, land and water systems, mobilizing leaders from business, tech and innovation, civil society and farming, and highlighting challenges and opportunities.
2. Raise awareness of the essential role of research, innovation and action in food, land and water systems in helping countries achieve their commitments to the Paris Agreement and other global climate-related goals, with reference to specific examples, including:
   1. The CGIAR portfolio, with select Initiatives as examples of CGIAR’s approach; and
   2. Technologies for African Agricultural Transformation (TAAT), showcasing its activities and key achievements related to the deployment of climate and nutrition smart agricultural technologies that increase agricultural productivity in Africa.
3. Set the stage for unlocking increased climate R&D investments from traditional and new funders toward meaningful transformation of food, land and water systems, in light of the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on vulnerable communities and farmers.

# Proposed agenda and speakers

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| **Speaker** | **Agenda** | **Duration** |
| **Opening and welcome remarks** | |  |
| **Claudia Sadoff**  *Managing Director, Research Delivery and Impact, CGIAR*  and  **Beth Dunford**  *Vice President, Agriculture, Human and Social Development, African Development Bank (AfDB)* | | **10 minutes** |
| **Presentation of climate solutions** | |  |
| **Martin Fregene**  *Director, Agriculture and Agro-Industry, AfDB*    **Aly Abousabaa**  *Regional Director for CWANA, CGIAR and*  *Director General, ICARDA*    **Ana Maria Loboguerrero**  *Research Director for Climate Action,*  *Alliance of Bioversity International and CIAT* | **Climate solutions:**   * Technologies for African Agricultural Transformation (TAAT) * “From Fragility to Resilience in Central and West Asia and North Africa” * “Building Systemic Resilience Against Climate Variability and Extremes” | **15 minutes**    (5 minutes each) |
| **Panel discussion** | |  |
| Moderator: **Fermin Koop**, *Freelance* *Journalist and Editor, Diálogo Chino*  Discussion: Do these solutions fill the gaps? How can they be improved?  Panelists:   * **Theresa Wong**, *Natural Resources Officer, Regional Office for Near East & North Africa, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)* * **Ishmael Sunga**, *Chief Executive Officer, SACAU* * **Kunal Pranad**, *COO and CoFounder, CropIn* | | **20 minutes** |
| **Moderated Q&A with the audience** | |  |
| With solution representatives and panelists. | | **15 minutes** |
| **Summary and closing remarks** | |  |
| **Claudia Sadoff**  *Managing Director, Research Delivery and Impact, CGIAR* | | **5 minutes** |

# Event partners

**CGIAR**, the largest public global research partnership for a food-secure future, whose mission is to deliver science and innovation that advances the transformation of food, land and water systems in a climate crisis, has a remarkable 50-year record of accomplishments collaborating with partners to translate groundbreaking research into tangible development outcomes and impact. Climate adaptation and mitigation actions are central to CGIAR’s research-for-development agenda. Now, in the context of One CGIAR, and CGIAR’s new 2030 Research Strategy and portfolio of climate Initiatives, the opportunity to shape a stronger, more relevant and well-funded science agenda to address the impacts of climate change and other interconnected challenges is greater than ever.

**ICARDA** is a CGIAR Research Center providing innovative, science-based solutions that improve and develop resilient and climate-smart livelihoods in dryland rural communities. With over four decades headquartered in the non-tropical drylands, ICARDA possesses a unique understanding of regional critical issues, and the scientific knowledge, country agreements, and research networks required to advance scientific knowledge, shape practice, and inform policy in the region.

**The African Development Bank (AfDB) Group** is a multilateral development bank whose overarching objective is to spur sustainable economic development and social progress in its regional member countries (RMCs), thus contributing to poverty reduction. The Bank Group achieves this objective by mobilizing and allocating resources for investment in RMCs; and providing policy advice and technical assistance to support development efforts. The agricultural sector is one of the sectors receiving investments from the Bank. The Feed Africa strategy: 2016 – 2025 is the current strategy that the Bank uses to focus its work in the agriculture sector. The Technologies for African Agricultural

Transformation (TAAT) is one of the flagship programs that the Bank is using to implement the Feed

Africa strategy. Under the aegis of TAAT, the Bank is working with numerous organizations, including CGIAR, advanced research institutions, the regional economic communities, and the national agricultural research and extension systems to deploy climate and nutrition smart agricultural and food production technologies to reach 40 million smallholder farmers (40% women) across Africa.