

United Nations  
UN DESA

**AGENDA**  
**Capacity Development Workshop on**  
**Improving Agricultural Productivity, Water Use Efficiency and Rural Livelihoods**  
**28-30 January 2008**  
**UNESCAP, Bangkok**

Day 1: 28 January 2009

**Registration**

**Opening Session**

(9:00 – 9:45)

Welcome/Opening Remarks

- Ms. Noeleen Heyzer, Executive Secretary, UN ESCAP
- Mr. Tariq Banuri, Director DSD, UN DESA
- Mr. Luc Gnacadja, Executive Secretary, UNCCD
- Mr. Ralf Klingbeil, Senior Programme Officer, UNW-DPC
- Mr. Javad Amin-Mansour, Vice-Chair of CSD-17

**Session 1: Agricultural Development and Food Security**

(09:50 - 12:45 hrs)

Co-Chairs: Dr. Kaire Munionganga Mbuende, Vice Chair of CSD-17 (Republic of Namibia) and Mr. M. Aslam Chaudhry, UN DESA

More recently, the world has witnessed unprecedented rise in food prices, leading to social tensions in many countries. Estimates suggest that the total number of malnourished people worldwide could rise to 967 million in 2008, up from 923 million in 2007. In addition, a large number of developing countries are struggling to address the macroeconomic impact of high domestic food prices and inflationary pressure, as well as increased import expenditure. The food security challenges facing Africa particularly threatens the progress on achieving the Millennium Development Goals. In the 21st century agriculture will continue to be a fundamental sector for sustainable development and poverty reduction, since it remains the main source of income for most of the world's poor. In most developing countries, agriculture and rural development issues form the core of sustainable development agenda.

*Part 1: Thematic Presentations (15-20 minutes each presentation)*

1. Food security, rural development and poverty reduction (Amitava Mukherjee, UN ESCAP)
2. Agriculture development and adaptation to climate change (Lisa Schipper, SEI)
3. Sustaining Smallholder farming systems: constraints and opportunities (Ms. Estrella Penunia, AFA)

Tea/Coffee breaks (1030-1045 hrs.)

*Part 2: Country Studies (15-20 minutes each presentation)*

Country Presentations on: Assessment of policy reforms in enhancing agricultural productivity

Country Presentation 1: Malawi; Dr. Andrew Daudi, Ministry of Agriculture

Country Presentation 2: Bangladesh; Mr. Maakmall Hossain Azad, Ministry of Agriculture

Discussion (45 minutes)

Lunch (12:45—14:00 hrs)

## **Session 2: Improving Agricultural Water Management**

(14:00—16:45 hrs)

Co-Chairs: Mr. Javad Amin-Mansour, Vice Chair of CSD-17 (Islamic Republic of Iran) and Ralf Klingbeil, UNW-DPC

Water is a crucial resource in developing the productivity and resilience of the agricultural sector. Many countries are confronted with the challenge of water scarcity. The climate change is adding further compounding this problem. At the same time, water use efficiencies are quite low in many of the large irrigation systems. The concept of ‘more crop per drop’ has often been the guiding concept, but available evidence does not support progress on this front. The idea of ‘virtual water’ and the ‘water footprint’ are recently receiving more attention, while countries face difficulties in implementing the principles of Integrated Water Resources Management. Future sustainability of agriculture largely depends upon how water management in this sector is dealt with. In this regard, introducing technological innovations and implementing demand management measures are critical to enhance agricultural production and to alleviate water poverty in water using sectors other than agriculture.

*Part 1: Thematic Presentations (15-20 minutes each presentation)*

1. Comprehensive Assessment of Water Management in Agriculture (Deborah Bossio, IWMI)
2. Integrated land and water management for achieving food security: lessons learned (Brett Ballard, AusAID Cambodia)
3. Technological and management innovations in irrigation water management and their impact on agricultural production (Thierry Facon, FAO)

*Part 2: Country Studies (15-20 minutes each presentation)*

Country Presentations on: Institutionalizing agricultural water management at local level: what have we learnt?

Country Presentation 1: Yemen; Mr. Bashuaib Salem, Chairman of National Water Resources Authority

Country Presentation 2: Sri Lanka; Ms. K.R.S. Perera, Ministry of Agricultural Development and Agrarian Services

Country Presentation 3: Tanzania; Mr. Gabriel M. Lainga, Assistant Director for Irrigation, Ministry of Water and Irrigation

Discussion (45 minutes)

Tea/Coffee Break (1630-1645 hrs.)

**Round Table 1:** Water management and food security (55 minutes)

(17:05 – 18:00)

Deborah Bossio, IWMI; Thierry Facon, FAO; LeHuu Ti, ESCAP; Ralf Klingbeil, UNW-DPC; country delegate (tbc)

Moderator: Mr. M. Aslam Chaudhry (UN DESA)

**Reception hosted by the organizers of the Workshop**

(18:15 – 20:00) The reception will be held at the conference venue

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Day 2: 29 January 2009

**Session 3: Strengthening Rural Livelihoods**

(09:30—12:30 hrs)

Co-Chairs: Ms. Ana Bianchi, Vice Chair of CSD-17 (Argentina) and Tariq Banuri, Director DSD, UN DESA

Reducing rural poverty is an important development challenge, since over one billion people live in rural areas and many of them do not have access to basic social services such as health, education, water, sanitation and modern energy sources. Markets remain underdeveloped, and infrastructure development has not kept pace with population growth. Countries have gained experience in implementing different rural development models with mixed experience. In addition to enhancing productivity of agriculture sector, addressing rural poverty requires: tapping the potential of the rural non-farm sector, enhancing the management of natural resources and improving the quality of rural infrastructure. Moreover, providing access to rural finance, local markets, technology, education and other social services are important building blocks for achieving sustainable rural development. Participation of stakeholders in the development and implementation of rural development programmes will strengthen the sense of ownership at the implementation level.

*Part 1: Thematic Presentations (15-20 minutes each presentation)*

1. Non-farm interventions for strengthening rural livelihoods (Dr. Mechai Viravaidya, PDA)
2. Reducing rural poverty by investing in rural infrastructure: lessons learned (Amitava Mukherjee, UN ESCAP)
3. Linking small farmers to markets: Opportunities for rural development and challenges (Marlene Ramirez, AsiaDHRRA)

Tea/Coffee Break (10.45-11.00 hr.)

*Part 2: Country Studies (15-20 minutes each presentation)*

Country Presentations on: Rural development models: lessons learned and experience gained

Country Presentation 1: India; Dr. Kota Tirupataiah, Special Commissioner Rural Development

Country Presentation 2: Mongolia; Mr.D Bat Erdene Director of the Information and Monitoring Department of the Ministry of Food and Agriculture

Discussion (*45 minutes*)

Lunch (12:30 - 14:00 hrs)

#### **Session 4: Improving Land Use Planning and Management**

(14:00 - 16:45 hrs)

Chairs: Dr. Kaire Munionganga Mbuende, Vice Chair of CSD-17 (Republic of Namibia) and Luc Gnacadja, Executive Director, UNCCD

Land is becoming a more valuable resource than ever, Optimizing its use, while increasing access to land is often viewed as the basis for sustainable rural development. Policies and actions to provide incentives for sustainable land use and to empower land users will be central to changing land use patterns. Effective policies and institutions to manage land and related natural resources, are along with secure land rights a prerequisite for stimulating investment for sustainable rural development.

*Part 1: Thematic Presentations (15-20 minutes each presentation)*

1. Institutional and policy framework for sustainable land use planning and management to combat land degradation (Yang Youlin, UNCCD)
2. Providing access to land: challenges and solutions (Michael Taylor, ILC)
3. Adapting to climate change in managing land and other natural resources: Regional experiences (Salmah Zakaria, UN ESCAP)

*Part 2: Country Studies (15-20 minutes each presentation)*

Country Presentations on: Land management and poverty reduction

Country Presentation 1: Iran; Davood Nikkami, Soil Conservation and Watershed Management Research Institute

Country Presentation 2: Zambia; Henry Sichembe, Department of Agriculture

Country Presentation 3: Pakistan; Mr. Abdul Qaddus Malik, Director Agriculture

Discussion

Tea/Coffee Break (*16.30-1645 hrs.*)

**Round Table 2:** Climate Change and Rural Development (55 minutes)

(17:05 – 18:00)

Mr. Tariq Banuri (UN DESA, DSD), Mr. Luc Gnacadja (UNCCD); tbc Dr. Mechai Viravaidya (PDA); Mr. Michael Taylor (ILC); country delegate (tbc)

Moderator: Prof. Randy Stringer, University of Adelaide

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Day 3: 30 January 2009

**Session 5: Scaling up of good practices in Agriculture and Resources Management**  
(09:00—10:45 hrs)

Co-Chairs: Ms. Ana Bianchi, Vice Chair of CSD-17 (Argentina) and Mr. M. Aslam Chaudhry, UN DESA

*Part 1: Thematic Presentations (20 minutes each)*

1. Agricultural Research: Challenges and opportunities in different regions (Prof. Randy Stringer, University of Adelaide)
2. Investing in watershed management: establishing a Payment for Environmental Services mechanism for water regulation and soil conservation. (Ms Hitomi Rankine, UN ESCAP)
3. Successful policy experiences and practices in Asia (LeHuu Ti, UNESCAP & Thierry Facon, FAO)

Discussion (*45 minutes*)

Tea/Coffee Break (*10.45-11.00 hrs.*)

**Session 6: Way Forward and Closing Session**

(11:05 – 13:00)

Co-Chairs: H.E. Ms. Gerda Verburg, Chair of CSD-17 (Kingdom of the Netherlands) and Tariq Banuri, CSD Secretariat

Recommendations of the Bangkok Workshop and Intersessional Meeting

Discussion on the Recommendations

Closing Remarks:

Mr. Shigeru Mochida, Deputy Executive Secretary of UN ESCAP

Mr. Tariq Banuri, CSD Secretariat

H.E. Ms. Gerda Verburg, Kingdom of the Netherlands; Chair of CSD-17

