



Third United Nations Conference on Landlocked Developing Countries

Awaza, Turkmenistan, 5-8 August 2025

High-Level Special Event

**Establishing Regional Agriculture Research
Hubs (RARH) to Support LLDCs' Agricultural
Transformation**

Wednesday, 6 August 2025, 9:00 – 10:30 AM
Awaza Conference Centre, Building 3-07.09

Run of Show

Moderator: H.E. Ms. Agnes Mary Chimbiri-Molande, *Permanent Representative of Malawi to the United Nations in New York*

Note: The moderator will open the event, briefly introduce the purpose, and then invite Ms. Fatima to deliver welcoming remarks.

For the Moderator:

- Maintain strict time management throughout the session.
- Introduce each speaker with one or two lines contextualizing their background and relevance.
- Ensure all speakers stay within their allocated time to preserve space for discussion.
- During the interactive segment, encourage panelists to briefly reflect on each other's remarks and involve the floor where time allows.

9:00 – 9:07 AM (7 minutes)

Opening Remarks

Speaker: Ms. Rabab Fatima, Under Secretary-General and High Representative for LDCs, LLDCs and SIDS and Secretary-General of the LLDC3

09:07 - 09:14 (7 minutes)

Keynote Address

Speaker: H.E. Mr. Amrit Bahadur Rai, Foreign Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Government of Nepal

Note: The moderator will introduce the keynote speaker.

For the Keynote Speaker:

- Focus on strategic priorities, political commitment, and country perspectives on the topic, if/as relevant.
- Deep dive into the topic, identify strategic priorities and emphasize the need for political commitment and the urgency of partnerships.

09:14 - 09:34 (20 minutes total / 5 minutes each)

Panel Discussion: Presentations on Experiences and Best Practices in Agricultural Research

Note: The moderator will introduce each speaker with 1–2 sentences of context before their presentation using the provided Biographies. Each speaker will have a maximum of 5 minutes.

1. 09:14 – 09:19

Speaker: H.E. Mr. Ibrokhim Yu. Abdurakhmonov, Minister of Agriculture Resources, Uzbekistan

- What steps has Uzbekistan taken, and what further actions could it pursue, to advance agricultural research and innovation both domestically and in collaboration with other Central Asian LLDCs?
- How can Uzbekistan contribute to, and support the development of, a Regional Agriculture Research Hub (RARH) that addresses shared agricultural challenges among Central Asian LLDCs?

2. 09:19 – 09:24

Speaker: H.E. Mr. Lejone Mpotjoana, Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Relations, Lesotho

- What are the main agricultural research challenges faced by Lesotho as an LLDC, and how could a regional research hub directly support Lesotho's agricultural development priorities?
- Which partnerships—including those with UN agencies and other LLDCs—are essential for advancing agricultural innovation and effectively leveraging regional collaboration for Lesotho

3. 09:24 – 09:29

Speaker: Mr. Dejene Tezera, Director of the Agribusiness and Infrastructure Development Division, UNIDO

- How can strengthened agricultural research and development (R&D) accelerate agro-industrial transformation and enhance value chains in LLDCs, considering key challenges and opportunities for innovation?
- In what ways can UNIDO support capacity building for Regional Agriculture Research Hubs for LLDCs (RARH-LLDCs), particularly in advancing agro-processing and integrating smallholders into dynamic markets?

4. 09:29 – 09:34

Speaker: Ms. Xiangjun Yao, Director, Office of SIDS, LDCs, and LLDCs (OSL),
FAO

- How can agricultural research, innovation, and the adoption of digital tools - supported by regional research Hubs - directly improve food security and nutrition outcomes in LLDCs?
- In what ways can FAO facilitate the development and operationalization of Regional Agriculture Research Hubs (RARH-LLDCs), especially to scale digital and precision agriculture solutions across LLDCs?

For the Panelists:

- Structure presentations around: key challenges, national/agency experience, and specific recommendations on the topic.
- Refer to the guiding questions and respond directly to the topic.
- Stick closely to the 5-minute limit.

09:34 - 10:23 (49 minutes)

Interactive Discussion and Audience Q&A

Note: The moderator will facilitate a short interactive exchange among the speakers and participants, focusing on cross-cutting messages and inviting brief follow-up comments. Audience members including designated Youth speakers, may be invited to make short remarks/pose 2–3 short questions, depending on the time available.

Youth speakers from the floor

- Ms. Ayana MYRZABEKOWA. Environmental researcher and advocate, PhD candidate in Biological Sciences. KYRGYZSTAN
- Mr. Joseph NIYOMUKIZA. Youth entrepreneur investing in Agritech, cleantech, and foodsystems. RWANDA

Guiding questions for the Youth speakers from the Floor:

- How could a Regional Agriculture Research Hub help address challenges facing young farmers and agri-entrepreneurs in your country?
- What role do you see for youth networks in shaping and delivering research priorities at Regional Agriculture Research Hubs?

10:23 – 10:30 (7 minutes)

Closing Remarks by the moderator

Note: The moderator will provide a concise summary of key messages and outcomes, thank participants, and highlight next steps and ongoing commitments beyond LLDC3.

Moderator:

H.E. Ms. Agnes Mary Chimbiri-Molande, Permanent Representative of Malawi to the United Nations in New York