

Special Event on STI Roadmaps: The role of digital technologies in agriculture production/consumption

Date/time: Oct. 20th 2022 (10am – 11:45am NY time / 4:00pm – 5:45pm Rome time).

Format: Mostly virtual with a small scale in-person participation

Co-organizers: DESA, FAO, UN Tech Envoy Office, EC/JRC, and UNESCO

Website: <https://sdgs.un.org/events/special-event-sti-roadmaps-role-digital-technologies-agriculture-production-and-consumption>

The special event will explore effective ways for supporting Science, Technology and Innovation (STI) capacity building, including inter-agency joint work by the UN Inter-agency Task Team (IATT) in support of STI policy frameworks, action plans and STI4SDG roadmaps. Harnessing STI, particularly digital technologies, in the agricultural sector is critical to enabling efficient, inclusive, resilient and sustainable agrifood systems. In a time of rising global food insecurity, the event will discuss the important role that digital technologies can play, national and regional approaches, including the role of the UN and designing and reviewing STI for SDG roadmaps, as well as implemented policy actions to better mobilize technologies to address global challenges, including food security, gender equality, social inclusion, etc.

The overarching objective of the Special Event is to foster an inclusive dialogue among multistakeholder groups in advancing the work related to digital technologies in agriculture production/consumption through roadmapping approach. It will support the work in the lead up to the 8th Multi-stakeholder Forum on Science, Technology and Innovation for the SDGs (STI Forum), May 2023. It will bring together key stakeholders in the field of digital technologies, agrifood systems, and STI4SDGs roadmaps, including government representatives, academia, policy institutes, international/ regional/ sub-regional organizations and civil society.

Guiding Questions:

Proactive STI policy measures are needed to stimulate research efforts, focus investments, and inspire coordination.

Are there examples/good practices of digital technologies that have emerged during the COVID-19 crisis to enable efficient, inclusive, resilient and sustainable agrifood systems? How can these be shared and scaled up?

How can your national STI roadmaps or action plans be aligned regionally -and globally- towards a more cost-effective SDGs-focused STI development, in particular for SDG 2?

How are your STI roadmaps contributing to the mitigation of global risks, including ones related to food crisis?

How to better support innovation system to advance digital technologies in agriculture production/consumption through a multi-stakeholder roadmapping approach?

How can the UN contribute to foment a more responsive STI4SDG ecosystem in your country, to design and review STI for SDG roadmaps, as well as implemented policy actions to better mobilize technologies to address global challenges, including food security?

Draft Agenda

Opening (10:00am – 10:20am New York time)

Mr. Junhua Li, Under-Secretary General, UN DESA

Mr. Amandeep Singh Gill, UN Secretary General Technology Envoy

Mr Maximo ToreroCullen, FAO Chief Economist

Panel I: Building innovation eco-system through roadmapping digital technologies in agriculture production/consumption (10:20am – 10:55am New York time)

Moderator: Dr. José Ramón López-Portillo Romano, UN Secretary General's 10 Member Group, Oxford University, the UK

Panel Discussion:

Dr Sarah Tione, Principal Economist, Ministry of Agriculture, Department of Agriculture Planning Services, Policy Unit, Lilongwe, Government of Malawi

Prof. WU Wenbin, Director General of the Institute of Agricultural Resources and Regional Planning (IARRP), Chinese Academy of Agricultural Sciences (CAAS), Beijing

Dr Wilhelmina Quaye, Director of CSIR-Science and Technology Policy Research Institute, Accra, Ghana

Dr Agnes Lutomiah, Head of Program, STI, Knowledge and Society, African Centre for Technology Studies, Nairobi, Kenya

Dr Viktor Nedović, Director of Serbia Accelerating Innovation and Entrepreneurship Project – SAIGE, Ministry of Education, Science and Technological Development, Belgrade, Serbia

Mr. Randolph B. Hackman, Application Development Analyst (Accenture), Alumni, Engineering for Change (E4C), Nantes, France

Q&A (time permits)

Panel II: STI Frontiers, Opportunities and Challenges in the Transformation of Agrifood System (10:55am – 11:35am New York time)

Moderator: Dr Ezra Clark, Director a.i Division of Science Policy and Basic Science, UNESCO, Paris, France

Panel Discussion:

Mr Alessandro Rainoldi, Head of Territorial Development Unit, Joint Research Centre, European Commission, Seville, Spain

Prof Sachin Chaturvedi, Director-General, Research and Information System for Developing Countries (RIS), New Delhi, India

Mr. Tian (Ben) Feng, Dean of Intelligent Industry Research Institute, SenseTime, Hong Kong

Dr. Vittorio Venturi, Scientific Coordinator and Head of the Bacteriology Lab, International Centre for Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology (IGCEB), Trieste, Italy

Mr. Parmesh Shah, Global Lead for Rural Livelihoods and Agricultural Jobs, Agriculture, the World Bank, Washington DC.

Mr. Dioscore Shikama, Executive Chairman at Food Bundles, Kigali, Rwanda

Q&A (time permits)

Closing and the way forward (11:35am – 11:45am New York time)

Mr. Alex Reohrl, Team Lead, Senior Economic Affairs Officer, Integrated Policy Analysis Branch, Division for Sustainable Development Goals, United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA)

Mr Maximo ToreroCullen, FAO Chief Economist