**The International Forum of Landlocked Developing Countries**

**on Food Security and the Sustainable Development Goals**

**Tashkent, Uzbekistan, 5-6 September 2024**

**Intercontinental Hotel**

**Programme**

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| **Wednesday, 4 September 2024** |
| Arrival of foreign participants and accommodation |
| **Thursday, 5 September 2024** |
| **Day 1: Setting the Stage and Charting the Course** |
| **Opening Ceremony (Ballroom, 1st floor)** *Moderator:*A local journalist (TBC) |
| 10:00-11:40 | **Welcome Remarks*** **H.E. Abdulla Aripov**, Prime Minister, Republic of Uzbekistan
* **Mr. QU Dongyu**, Director-General, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)
* **Ms. Rabab Fatima**, Under Secretary-General and High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States
* **Mr. Janusz Wojciechowski,** European Union (EU)Commissioner for Agriculture
* **Mr. Alvaro Lario,** President, International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) (video-message)

**Keynote address****Mr. Maximo Torero,**FAO Chief Economist -*Sustainable Development Goals in Landlocked Developing Countries*  |
| **High-Level Plenary Session (Ballroom, 1st floor)***Moderators:* **Mr. Viorel Gutu**, FAO Assistant Director-General, Regional Representative for Europe and Central Asia and **Ms. Munira Aminova**, Rector of International Agricultural University, Republic of Uzbekistan  |
| 11:45-13:00 | ***The urgency and opportunities for LLDCs agri-food systems development****.* Featuring government ministers, heads of international organizations, and private sector leaders discussing the challenges and opportunities facing LLDCs |
| 13:00-13:30 | **Group photo** |
| 13:30-14:30 | Lunch |
| **Thematic Sessions** |
| 14:30-16:00 | **Thematic Session 1: Agricultural Trade Facilitation in LLDCs through WTO** **Accession (Ballroom 1, 1st floor)** Lessons learned from LLDCs in enhancing agricultural trade and export through the World Trade Organization (WTO) accession.*Setting the stage*: **Mr. Otabek Mansurov**, Head of WTO Unit, Ministry of Agriculture, Republic of Uzbekistan *Moderator:* **Mr. Pedro Arias Marcelo,** Economist, FAO*Speakers*: |
| * **Ms. Georgeta Mincu**, ex-Minister of Agriculture, Regional Development and Environment, Republic of Moldova
 | Trade Facilitation Agreement: main provisions and the specific obligations of LLDCs WTO members |
| * **Mr. Aziz Urunov**, Special Representative of the President of Uzbekistan to WTO
 | WTO accession process of Uzbekistan and its impactions on agricultural trade  |
| * **Mr. Jesse Nicol,** Counsellor and Senior Dispute Settlement Lawyer at the World Trade Organization
 | TFA implementation in the region and key challenges |
| * **Mr. Dulguun Damdin-Od,** Executive Director of the International Think Tank, Mongolia
 | WTO accession issues and required technical support |
| **Thematic session 2: Investment Opportunities in Agriculture** (**Ballroom 2, 1st floor)**Challenges of LLDCs in attracting investments for agriculture, successful/available financial instruments and potential collaboration with International Financial Institutions*Setting the stage*: **Mr. Adkham Ergashev**, Senior Agri-finance expert, EU-funded “ASK Facility” Project *Moderator:* **Mr. Milos Milovanovic**, Investment Centre, FAO*Speakers:*  |
| * **Ms. Laura Mattioli**, Country Director of IFAD in Uzbekistan
 | Strengthening the agrifood systems resilience of LLDCs  |
| * **Mr. Mirzo Iskandar Gulamov**, Country Operations Head of the Asian Development Bank (ADB) in Uzbekistan
 | Role of international financial institutions in agricultural investment  |
| * **Mr. Rustamkhon Azizov**, Head of Secretariat, Foreign Investor’s Council under the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan
 | Encouraging private sector investment in sustainable agrifood systems  |
| * **Mr. Aaron Russell**, Country Representative of the Global Green Growth Institute (GGGI) in Uzbekistan
 | Enhancing the management of the natural resources – What does it take? |
| **Thematic session 3: Fostering Partnerships with the Private Sector for Agricultural Marketability (Samarkand Room 11th floor)**Comparative advantages of LLDCs, examples of public-private partnerships in agricultural value-addition, agricultural production of niche products to increase the agricultural marketability and foster exports and international trade *Setting the stage*: **Mr. Mansur Rasulev**, Deputy Head of Secretariat, Foreign Investors Council under the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan *Moderator:* **Ms.Stepanka Gallatova**, Agribusiness Officer, FAO*Speakers*: |
| * **Mr. Kail Padgitt**, Economic Growth and Environment Office Director, USAID Mission to Uzbekistan
 | Facilitating public-private dialogue and developing exit strategies for long-term sustainability of agrifood businesses  |
| * **Mr. Konstantin Kostikov**, Associate Director, Senior Banker, European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD)
 | Financing agrifood businesses; criteria for selecting businesses with the potential to grow |
| * **Ms. Elena Timusheva**, PPP Specialist, Infrastructure Finance, PPPs & Guarantees Group, World Bank (online)
 | Promoting enabling environments for public-private partnerships and risk sharing among value chain actors |
| * **Mr. Bakhodir Umirshayhov**, Chairman, Uzbekistan Food Industry Association (UFIA)
 | UFIA’s role in supporting agrifood businesses in Uzbekistan |
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| **Thematic session 4: Food Security and Nutrition (Syrdarya 2 Room, Zero floor)**Understanding the challenges of LLDCs in advancing food security and nutrition and sharing their recent experiences in addressing them in collaboration with international partners *Setting the stage*: **Mr. Orifjan Namozov**, National Expert on Agrifood Systems, Team Leader, FAO-Uzbekistan *Moderator:* **Mr. Keigo Obara**, Food Security Officer, FAO*Speakers*: |
| * **Ms. Stella Nordhagen**, Senior Technical Specialist, Food Systems Countdown Initiative, t[he Global Alliance for Improved Nutrition (](https://www.gainhealth.org/)GAIN),
 | Challenges and opportunities in enhancing access to healthy diets in LLDCs |
| * **Dr. Kanat Tilekeyev**, Senior Research Fellow, Head of the Graduate School of Development Executive Education, University of Central Asia
 | Food self-sufficiency in landlocked countries – in the case of Central Asia |
| * **Ms. Aleksandra Martinovic,** Professor, Faculty of Food Technology, Food Safety and Ecology, University of Donja Gorica Montenegro, and Director of Centre of Excellence for Food Safety Risk Assessment (online)
 | Potentials of national food systems based dietary guidelines to promote food security and nutrition |
| * **Mr Akbar Samiev**, Head, Food Security and Nutrition Department, Ministry of Agriculture, Uzbekistan
 | Experience of Uzbekistan in ensuring food security and nutrition in collaboration with international partners |
| **Thematic session 5: Enabling Environment for the Sustainable Agrifood Systems Transformation Focusing on Climate Change (Istanbul Room 11th floor)**Policy frameworks of LLDCs and collective action to support agri-food systems development*Setting the stage*: **Mr. Adkham Akbarov**, Project Coordinator, International Trade Centre (ITC) *Moderator:* **Mr. Brad Paterson**, International Land Tenure Specialist, FAO *Speakers*: |
| * **Mr. Dmitry Zvyagintsev**, Policy Officer, FAO
 | Greening agricultural policies in Europe and Central Asia: paving the way for sustainable agrifood systems in a changing climate |
| * **Mr. Zafar Makhmudov**, Executive Director, Central Asian Regional Ecological Center (CAREC)
 | Regional Cooperation for sustainable agriculture  |
| * **Dr Ihtiyor Bobojonov**, Research Associate, Agricultural Markets, Marketing and World Agricultural Trade, Leibniz Institute of Agricultural Development in Transition Economies (IAMO)
* **Mr Sherzod Muminov,** Deputy Director, Scientific Information Center (SIC) of the Interstate Commission for Water Coordination (ICWC) in Central Asia
* **Mr. Elchin Zeynalov,** Deputy Minister of Agriculture, Azerbaijan Republic
 | Modeling crop production and water availability, implications for policy and agrifood system transformation Regional information sharing and scientific collaboration for water management in the context of climate change. International Climate negotiations and COP29 |
| * **Mr. Hrvoje Ivan Horvat,** UNDP International Lead Technical Specialist
 | UN Collaboration for Climate Action  |
| **Thematic session 6: Technological Innovations (Syrdarya Room 1, Zero floor)**Best practices of adopting and promoting technological innovations, digital agriculture, water management, food value-chains and other solutions for LLDCs*Setting the stage*: **Mr. Jamshid Abduzukhurov**, Deputy Director of Department, MoA, Uzbekistan*Moderator****:* Mr. Hafiz Muminjanov**, Technical Adviser, FAO*Speakers:* |
| * **Mr. Leone Magliocchetti Lombi**, Technical Officer, FAO
 | Climate Smart Agriculture and the internet of things |
| * **Mr. Lee Ismael,** CEO,Meraque
 | Advancing Modern InnovationDriven by AI Solutions |
| * **Ms. Mahinakhon Suleymanova**, Head, NGO “Neksigol”, Republic of Tajikistan
 | Digital technologies in agricultural extension  |
| * **Mr. Murod Khusanov**, CEO, “Agromart”
 | Growz: Data-driven and AI-empowered platform for sustainable farming |
| 16:00-16:30 | Coffee break |
| **Side Events** |
| 16:30-17:30 | **One Country One Priority Product (OCOP) initiative and Sustainable Agrifood System Transformation (Syrdarya Room 1, Zero floor)***Coordinator***: Mr. Hafiz Muminjanov**, OCOP Secretariat Global Coordinator, FAO |
| * **Mr. Orifjan Namozov,** FAO-Uzbekistan
 | Opening and welcome remarks |
| * **Mr. Hafiz Muminjanov**, OCOP Global Coordinator, FAO
 | Overview of progress and achievement of the OCOP implementation worldwide*OCOP Global Video* |
| * **Mr. Pedro Marcelo Arias**, OCOP Regional Coordinaotr, FAO-REU
 | The OCOP implementation progress in Europe and Centre Asia *OCOP Regional Video* |
| * **Mr. Jamshid Abduzukhurov**, OCOP National Coordinator, Ministry of Agriculture, Uzbekistan
 | The implementation of OCOP in Uzbekistan |
| * **Ms. Jasmin Roetzer**, Value Chain Expert, FAO (online)
 | Sustainable value chain of sweet cherry and investment opportunities  |
| **Transforming Agrifood Systems in Landlocked Countries by Leaving No One Behind (Ballroom 2, 1st floor)***Setting the stage:* **Ms. Dono Abdurazakova**, REU Gender Team, FAO*Moderator***: Ms. Angela Jacome Daza.** Director, Office of Small Island Developing States, Least Developed Countries and Landlocked Developing Countries, FAO. |
| * **Ms. Dilorom Fayzieva**, Member of Parliament and Chairperson, Committee on International Affairs and Inter-parliamentary Relations, Legislative Chamber, Oliy Majilis
 | Opening and welcome remarks |
| * **Ms. Shahrbanou Tadjbakhsh**, Senior Lecturer, Researcher, Institute of Political Studies (Sciences Po), Paris, France
 | Leaving no one behind in the LLDC and transforming agrifood systems.  |
| * **Ms. Lola Saidova**, Chief Researcher, Institute for Strategic and Regional Studies under the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan.
 | Challenges and best practices in integrating the disadvantaged groups into development: the case of Uzbekistan. |
| * **Mr. Khurshid Zafari**, Director, Institute for Development of Social Protection, Republic of Uzbekistan
 | Rural population and social assistance.  |
| **Sustainable Locust Management in the Caucasus and Central Asia: Innovations and the Way Forward (Syrdarya Room 2, Zero floor)***Coordinator***:** Mr. Shoki AlDobai, Team Leader, Locusts and Transboundary Plant Pests and Diseases Plant Production and Protection Division, FAO |
| * **Mr. Ibrohim Ergashev**, Director, Agency of Plant Protection and Quarantine, Republic of Uzbekistan
 | Opening and welcome remarks |
| * **Mr. Alexandre Latchininsky**, Senior Locust Management Expert, Plant Production and Protection Division (NSP), FAO
 | Locusts in the Caucasus and Central Asia (CCA): the threat and way towards sustainable management *Video on Locust Management in CCA* |
| * **Mr. Bobur Khamraev**, Deputy Director, Agency of Plant Protection and Quarantine, Republic of Uzbekistan
 | Experience and future prospectives for locust management in Uzbekistan |
| * **Mr. Ilham Bayramov**, Chair, Organization of Crop Husbandry Sector, Agency of Agrarian Services, Ministry of Agriculture, Republic of Azerbaijan
 | Experience and future prospectives for locust management in Azerbaijan |
| * **Mr. Firdavs Kadyrov**, Deputy Head, State Entity “Locust Control Expedition”, Ministry of Agriculture, Republic of Tajikistan
 | Experience and future prospectives for locust management in Tajikistan |
| **Evidence-based policymaking for sustainable development in LLDCs (Ballroom 1, 1st floor)***Coordinator:* **Mr.Alisher Umaraliev**, Head of Institutional Development and Better Regulation Unit, Ministry of Agriculture, Republic of Uzbekistan *Setting the stage:* **Ms. Munira Aminova**, Rector of International Agricultural University, Republic of Uzbekistan*Moderator:* **Mr. Kamiljon Akramov**, Senior Research Fellow in IFPRI, Development Strategies and Governance Unit |
| * **Mr. Aly Abousabaa**, Regional Director for Central and West Asia and North Africa (CWANA) and Director General, ICARDA
 | Why is evidence-based policymaking important?  |
| * **Mrs. Ikuko Uochi**, Senior Economist, Poverty and Equity Global Practice, World Bank
 | Investment in evidence-based policies |
| * **Mr. Tarifa A. Al Zaabi**, Director General, ICBA, Dubai, UAE
 | Key challenges and bottlenecks in the development and implementation of evidence-based policymaking in LLDCs |
| * **Mr. Ihtiyor Bobojonov**, Research Associate, Leibniz Institute of Agricultural Development in Transition Economies (IAMO)
 | Involvement of the non-government and university-based research centers for facilitating evidence-based policymaking |
| * **Mr. Bekzod Zakirov**, Director, Center for Policy Research and Outreach (CPRO)
 | CPRO's Applied Research Initiatives for Sustainable development and Policy Innovation. |
| 17:30-17:45 | **Adoption of “*The Declaration on the Sustainable Transformation of Agrifood Systems in Landlocked Developing Countries*” (Ballroom 1, 1st floor)***Moderator:* **Mr. Nuriddin Kushnazarov**, Deputy Permanent Representative of Uzbekistan to Rome-based UN Agencies  |
| **Closure** |
| 17:45-18:30 | **Concluding remarks** | * **H.E. Mr. I. Abdurakhmanov,** Minister for Agriculture,Republic of Uzbekistan
* **Mr. QU Dongyu**, Director-General, FAO
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| 19:00 | Reception hosted by the Government of Uzbekistan |
| **Friday, 6 September 2024** |
| **Day 2: Partnerships and Investment Forum (Ballroom 1, 1st floor)** |
| 9:30-10:30 | **Opening and Welcome Remarks*** **Mr. I. Abdurakhmanov,** Minister for Agriculture,Republic of Uzbekistan
* **Mr. QU Dongyu**, Director-General, FAO
* **Ms. Rabab Fatima**, Under Secretary-General and High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States
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| **Agrifood Promotion, Business to Business and Bilateral Negotiations (Ballroom 1, 1st floor)** |
| 10:30-11:00 | **Agrifood Investment and Export Potential of Uzbekistan,** Presentations by leading agri-business companies in Uzbekistan* **Mr. Zafar Khashimov**, Founder and Chairman of the Board “Korzinka”, Agrifood Products Retail in Uzbekistan (TBC)
* Mr./Ms, Lactalis Central Asia (TBC)
* Mr./Ms, FE Indorama Agro LLC (TBC)
 |
| 11:00-12:15 | **Business to Business (B2B) Session**Matchmaking session to facilitate collaboration for business development between the LCCDs*Coordinator:* Mr. Sunnatilla Rashidov, Head of Agribusiness Department, MoA Uzbekistan  |
| 12:15-12:30 | **Signing Ceremony of Agreements Reached During the Forum (Ballroom 1, 1st floor)** |
| 12:30-14:00 | **Lunch** |
| **Field Trip** |
| 14:00-18:00 | Field visits showcasing cutting-edge agribusiness models and market * Food City Tashkent (the largest agrifood storage and wholesale facilities)
* Sublimation (TBC)
* Grapevine Farm “UzumFermer”

Coordinator: **Shokhrukh Tolipov**, Deputy Head of Strategy and Investment Department, MoA Uzbekistan |
| 19:00 | **Dinner**  |