



Information Note

Virtual technical workshop on Improved Water Allocation for Agriculture in the Arab Region

Implementation of the resolution of the Second Joint Ministerial Council on the Guidelines on Improved Water Allocation for Agriculture in the Arab region

Date: 3-4 October 2022

Time:

- Day 1: 9:00 – 12:45
- Day 2: 9:30 – 12:30

Participants (by Invitation): Government Officials - Development Partners - Donors - Civil Society - Private sector – Academia, etc.

Modality: Virtual (Zoom)

Language: Arabic, English and French, with simultaneous translation.

Background

The High-Level Joint Water-Agriculture Technical Committee (HLJTC), in its first meeting held in October 2019, requested the Joint Technical Secretariat of the Joint Water-Agriculture Arab Ministerial Council and partner organizations, FAO and UNESCWA, to assist in developing Guidelines on Improved Allocation of Water Resources for Agriculture in the Arab region. As a result, FAO and UNESCWA, in collaboration with the Joint Technical Secretariat, established a working group to prepare the requested guidelines. The guidelines were presented and discussed during the second and third meetings of the HLJTC, and endorsed by Ministers of Water and Agriculture during the second Joint Ministerial Meeting on January 27, 2022.

In a context of increasing water scarcity, associated with depleting groundwater aquifers, declining water quality, climate change, and increasing agricultural and drinking water demand, the Guidelines aim to provide a structured framework to support Stakeholders involved in water governance to improve water allocation practices to increase water use efficiency, social equity and environmental sustainability at the regional and national levels. The guidelines provide the necessary arrangements and processes to support optimized water allocation.

In addition to the endorsement of the presented version of the Guidelines, the resolution of the Joint Ministerial Council states the voluntary implementation of the Guidelines at the country level and invites FAO and ESCWA to support this process at the level of pilot projects.



In this framework, The Joint Technical Secretariat, FAO and ESCWA are co-organizing a virtual technical workshop to promote the guidelines and raise the awareness of stakeholders on approaches and tools to improve water allocation in support of food security in the Arab region.

Objectives

- Refresh on the outcomes of the Second Joint Ministerial Meeting held in January 2022.
- Refresh and promote the Guidelines on improved Water Allocation for Agriculture in the Arab region among the stakeholders and countries.
- Inform countries on the process of the voluntary implementation of the Guidelines on Water Allocation for Agriculture at a pilot scale for the countries that expressed interest to apply the guidelines.
- Organize an inclusive dialogue and exchange on the status and future of Water Allocation for Agriculture in a water scarcity context in the Arab region towards more integrated and harmonized strategies to achieve SDG 6.
- Highlight lessons learnt from international experiences on water allocation
- Develop the Water Allocation capacity of countries through promoting Water Allocation approaches and tools.

Format

The two-day virtual meeting will take place on 3-4 October 2022. Participation in the meeting is only by invitation from the League of Arab States and/or the partner agencies.

The workshop will be opened by the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (UNESCWA) and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nation (FAO), followed by Presentations and a Panel discussion. The Joint Technical Secretariat (Technical Secretariat of the Arab Ministerial Water Council and Arab Organization of Agricultural Development) will moderate and close the workshop.

Please register via the following [registration link](#) .





AGENDA

Master of Ceremony Day 1: Ambassador Shahira Wahbi, Technical Secretariat of the Arab Ministerial Water Council, the League of Arab States

Day 1: 3 October 2022		
Opening Session	9:00 – 9:10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Reem Nejdawi, Chief, Food and Environment Policies Section, Climate Change & Natural Resources Sustainability Cluster, UNESCWA (5 min) – Jean-Marc Faurès, Regional Programme Leader, FAO Regional Office for Near East and North Africa (5 min)
Session 1: Water-Agriculture Policy Coherence process in the Arab Region	9:10 – 9:25	Overview of the Water-Agriculture Policy Coherence process in the Arab Region (15 min) Ambassador Shahira Wahbi, League of Arab States
	9:25 – 9:40	Guidelines on Improved Water Allocation for Agriculture (15 min) Dr. Nadim Farajallah, UNESCWA Consultant
	9:40 – 10:00	Questions from the audience (20 min)
	10:00 – 10:10	Break
Session 2: Towards the pilot implementation of the Guidelines on improved water allocation	10:10 – 11:30	Presentation of the outline action plans to implement the guidelines on improved water allocation for agriculture: Egypt, Jordan, Palestine and Tunisia (60 min) Country teams
		Discussion (20 min)
	11:30 – 11:40	Break
Session 3: Regional policy framework for Water Allocation to cope with water scarcity and climate change	11:40 – 11:55	Water Allocation to cope with water scarcity and climate change (15 min) Ziad Khayat, Economic Affairs Officer, Climate Change and Natural Resource Sustainability Cluster, UNESCWA
	11:55 – 12:45	Panel discussion on improved water resource allocation (25 min) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Moderator: Dr. Mohamed Al-Hamdi, FAO Regional Office for Near East and Maghreb, Delivery Manager of the Water Scarcity Initiative - Panelists: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Amal Talbi or Marcus Wishart, World Bank, Lead Water Resources Specialists - Case study: China o Maysoon Al Zoubi, FAO Jordan, Project Manager - Case study: Jordan o Professor Elias Fereres, University of Cordoba - Case study: Spain Questions from the audience (20 min) Key messages (5 min)





Master of Ceremony Day 2: Dr. Kamel Amer, Arab Organization for Agricultural Development

Day 2: 4 October 2022

Session 4: Innovative approaches and tools for improved water allocation	9:30 – 11:00	Necessary requirements for the application of the Guidelines on Improved Water Allocation for Agriculture (15 min) Dr. Frank van Steenberg, FAO Consultant
		Water accounting for improved water allocation (15 min) Elga Salvadore, IHE Delft Institute for Water Education
		Remote sensing for water productivity and SDG – FAO WaPOR database (20 min) Jippe Hoozeveld, FAO
		Questions from the audience (40 min)
	11:00 – 11:15	Break
	11:15 – 12:20	The NENA evapotranspiration network (15 min) Vinay Nangia or Ajit Govind, ICARDA
Institutional, financial, and legal frameworks for improved water allocation (15 min) Dubravka Bojic, FAO		
Questions from audience (35 min)		
Closing session	12:20 – 12:30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Dr. Kamel Mostafa El-Sayed, Head of the Middle Region Office, Water Resources Expert, Arab Organization for Agricultural Development (5 min) – Ambassador Shahira Wahbi, Chief Natural Resources Sustainability, Partnerships and Disaster Risk Reduction, League of Arab States (5 min)

