

11th Asia-Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development

“Reinforcing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and eradicating poverty in times of multiple crises: The effective delivery of sustainable, resilient and innovative solutions in Asia and the Pacific”.

at the United Nations Conference Center (UNCC), in Bangkok, Thailand, 20-23 February, 2024

FAO Statement

On

Agenda Item 2: Reinforcing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and eradicating poverty in times of multiple crises: The effective delivery of sustainable, resilient and innovative solutions in Asia and the Pacific (392 words)

Food security and nutrition and efficient, inclusive, resilient and sustainable agrifood systems are critical to achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The most recent UN FAO report on the State of Food Security and Nutrition in the Asia and Pacific region for 2022 shows that progress in achieving food security and nutrition has stagnated, if not reversed, between pre- and post-COVID years.

Another FAO report has also revealed that the hidden social, economic, and environmental costs linked to current food systems reach a staggering 12.7 trillion PPP dollars worldwide, undermining decades of collective developmental achievements. For Asia and Oceania regions this cost is estimated to be around 6 trillion almost half of the global cost.

The ongoing crisis is complex and multidimensional, and those who are already poor or marginalized are the most affected and vulnerable to environmental, social and economic shocks, including rural communities, small scale family farmers and food insecure populations.

Countries should lead long-term structural transformation of agrifood systems, matching political commitment with concrete actions and adequate funding and identifying priority areas to partners.

This entails removing barriers such as inequality and the inequitable distribution of food and productive resources, engaging historically and structurally left behind populations in the framing of policies, and adopting legal protections that eliminate inequality and exclusion.

Agrifood systems need to respond to the specific needs and contexts of countries, including SIDS, LDCs and LLDCs. It also entails to address the hidden cost of our food systems.

Sustainable and resilient agrifood systems transformation is a powerful synergetic SDG accelerator that has an enormous potential to positively influence the social, economic and environmental dimensions of sustainable development. This transformation can help recover lost ground triggered by multiple crises and advance the 2030 Agenda.