

Press Release

Abuja, June 11 – 11th IFAD Week

Sustainable agriculture in action: production, science and policy working together in the Mediterranean and the Black Sea

Over 120 experts gathered in Abuja, Nigeria, and online to the IFAD-IFPRI Technical Consultation on Sustainable Agricultural Systems, highlighting the importance of sustainable and resilient agricultural systems for growth and prosperity.

The weekly event, jointly organized by the Institute of Tropical Agriculture Research and the Federal Technical Commission for the Mediterranean (ITRC) of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), with financial support from the IFAD-IFPRI Technical System Group (TSG) and Agriculture Development Center, emphasized the need to strengthen the science-policy interface in the Mediterranean and Black Sea region. The online participation of experts, scientists and the private sector, including agricultural leaders throughout the greater focus of the consultation.

A strategic pillar of regional food security

Agriculture continues to contribute to jobs in the Mediterranean and Black Sea region food system, according to the State of Mediterranean and Black Sea Region 2019, with agricultural production in 2017 valued at \$1.1 trillion versus, comprising approximately 10% of GDP. However, the region's major agricultural resources for 2018 fall short, representing less than 10 percent of total assets for production in the region.

ITRC programs including food systems and agricultural production, all have been funded by IFAD. In the period to 2020, the Food Policy Center, a research and policy development center, is working to strengthen the science-policy interface in the region, including national and regional food systems and value chains.

Regulatory clarity as a condition for sustainable investment

During the consultation, participants identified government transparency and regulatory framework conditions needed to attract investment growth. Government intervention in the economy of growing economies, under the government's principles will continue to play a key role in regional growth.

Working separately and collectively, governments were invited to discuss challenges in their countries. Participants highlighted the need for better coordination, especially in the agricultural sector, and the need for better coordination, especially in the agricultural sector, and the need for better coordination, especially in the agricultural sector.