



## Challenges and opportunities in the water-food-energy nexus

**Time and date:** 15 February 2023, 15.00 to 16.30 (CET)

### Context

Water, food and energy systems are intrinsically connected; urbanization, population growth, unsustainable agricultural practices and weak governance are just some of the factors driving increased demand and often the misuse of food, energy and water resources. These interconnected factors are critical when looking at accelerating action for food security.

Agriculture is the largest consumer of the world's fresh water resources, and more than one quarter of the energy used globally is used for food production and supply chains. Building resilience into water, food and energy systems has emerged as an important policy priority: governments must ensure integrated and sustainable management of water, food and energy to balance the needs of the population, nature and the economy. Integrated water-food-energy systems can directly advance both food and energy production and sustainable water resource management, while contributing to job creation, gender equality and climate action.

The efficient use of water resources, especially for the rural poor population, together with the transformation of energy and food systems, have become essential to meet current and future demand in an inclusive and environmentally sustainable way, and thus achieve the Sustainable Development Goals and the Paris Agreement targets. Nevertheless, little attention is being paid to this issue.

### Event objective and format

This interactive session will highlight the not yet widely recognized water-food-energy nexus as a necessary and relevant system approach to promote food, water and energy security worldwide. The focus will be on how to grow the nexus as a framework, catalyse co-financing and blended financial solutions by exploring current challenges and opportunities.



The role of the public and private sectors will be discussed in the context of geopolitical and climate challenges that have profound implications both for global supply chains and for water resources, food and energy security, especially in the most vulnerable areas.

Through a panel comprising relevant global stakeholders, the event will examine the connections between **water, food and energy resources**, together with the synergies, **conflicts** and **trade-offs** for food security that arise from how these resources are managed. **Opportunities** and pathways for **increased investment through the mobilization of development finance will also be explored**. The aim is to identify **concrete actions** and next steps.

#### BOX 1. Run of show

|          |  |                                     |
|----------|--|-------------------------------------|
| '5 mins  | <p>Setting the Stage</p> <p>The discussion will begin with an introduction to the water-energy-food nexus as a framework for achieving resource security and the strategic role of various stakeholders in view of the challenge of both integrating and sustainably financing the components of this multicentric relationship.</p> | Moderator                           |
| '50 mins | <p>The moderator will pose a series of questions to the panel, which will be composed of leading figures in the climate, food and energy arena.</p> <p>The floor will then be opened for a Q&amp;A and possible live polls.</p>  | Moderator / practitioners/ audience |
| '5 mins  | <p>The moderator will close the session by summarizing the issues raised by the speakers and participants.</p>   | Moderator                           |



## Panel composition

- 1) Her Excellency Dr Rania A. Al-Mashat, Minister for International Cooperation, Egypt (coordinating Egypt's Nexus of Water, Food and Energy (NWFE) Programme), Egypt
- 2) Dr Kevin Kariuki, Vice-President, Power, Energy, Climate and Green Growth, African Development Bank Group, Kenya
- 3) Ms Esther Penunia, Secretary-General, Asian Farmers' Association for Sustainable Rural Development (AFA), Philippines
- 4) Mr Aaron Leopold, Chief Executive Officer, Energrow, Kenya

**Moderator:** Mr René van Hell, Director, Inclusive Green Growth and Ambassador for Sustainable Development, Netherlands



International Fund for Agricultural Development  
Via Paolo di Dono, 44 - 00142 Rome, Italy  
Tel: +39 06 54591 - Fax: +39 06 5043463  
Email: [ifad@ifad.org](mailto:ifad@ifad.org)  
[www.ifad.org](http://www.ifad.org)

[facebook.com/ifad](https://www.facebook.com/ifad)  
[instagram.com/ifadnews](https://www.instagram.com/ifadnews)  
[linkedin.com/company/ifad](https://www.linkedin.com/company/ifad)  
[twitter.com/ifad](https://twitter.com/ifad)  
[youtube.com/user/ifadTV](https://www.youtube.com/user/ifadTV)