



Ministry of Agriculture  
Republic of Kazakhstan



# Blueprint for the convergence of food systems transformation and climate action: The Kazakhstan experience

19 November, 09:30 – 10:30 (Baku / GMT+4)

COP29 Kazakhstan Pavilion

[ONLINE LINK COMING SOON]

## Background

The Central Asia region, including Kazakhstan, faces significant challenges in sustainably transforming food systems, particularly due to climate change, water scarcity, and land degradation. Agriculture, a critical sector for rural employment and food security in Kazakhstan, suffers from inefficient water use—with up to 40% losses in some irrigation systems—and widespread land degradation affecting 44% of arable land. Modernizing water management and promoting climate-resilient practices are essential for sustainability.

Food systems transformation and climate action are national priorities in Kazakhstan, demonstrated by recent initiatives such as the Strategy for Achieving Carbon Neutrality until 2060 adopted in 2023, the Concept of Agro-Industrial Complex Development until 2030, the Pathways submitted by Kazakhstan to the Food Systems Summit in 2021, and the Concept for Transition of the Republic of Kazakhstan to a Green Economy until 2050, alongside its Action Plan for Implementation of the Concept for Transition to a Green Economy for 2021-2030. These initiatives address key issues crucial to sustainably transforming food systems while protecting natural resources and addressing climate challenges. Priority areas include improving water management, addressing land degradation, and fostering inclusive policies that empower vulnerable groups, such as women farmers.

In Kazakhstan, where agriculture plays a crucial role, efforts to boost productivity must also mitigate environmental impacts. Land and water resource degradation, alongside climate change-induced droughts and extreme weather events, poses serious risks to agricultural output. Addressing these challenges requires inclusive policies that prioritize sustainable water management, soil conservation, and empower women farmers to ensure an equitable transformation of Kazakhstan's agri-food system.

The UN Food Systems Coordination Hub is implementing The Convergence Initiative funded by the Government of the Netherlands and aiming at supporting national efforts to align the food systems transformation (FST) and climate action (CA) agendas, enabling governments and stakeholders to strengthen synergetic actions that simultaneously support the achievement of the SDGs and the Paris Climate Agreement. Kazakhstan has been selected as the first pilot country for the operationalization of the initiative at the country level with an inception workshop, offering an opportunity to build on the important strides made in food systems and climate action.

The pilot workshop, held on October 23–24, was implemented in close collaboration with the Ministry of Agriculture of the Republic of Kazakhstan, the National Convenor, and the UN Issue-Based Coalition on Sustainable Food Systems (IBC-SFS). This workshop brought together the Food Systems National Convenor, representatives from different ministries such as Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Ecology, Geology, and Natural



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Resources, Ministry of Trade and Integration, academia and scientific community such as the National Agrarian Scientific and Educational Center (NANO), the Kazakh Agro Technical University named after S. Seifullin, the Kazakh Research Institute of Water Management; civil society such as the Association of Environmental Organizations, Sustainable Development Fund for Rural Areas (FURST), Initiative Group Regional Environmental Center for Central Asia (RECCA) and the National Chamber of Entrepreneurs; and UN organizations and Resident Coordinator, and the World Bank.

This national inception workshop marked an important milestone for the pilot in Kazakhstan. It provided a first step toward reviewing national needs, discussing priorities, and co-designing the Convergence Action Blueprint (CAB) which outlines the steps to enhance synergetic action and policy coherence for food systems transformation and climate action.

This side event at COP29 will showcase the outcomes of the workshop, sharing Kazakhstan's experience as a pilot country of the Convergence Initiative and the process and eventual implementation of the CAB which will inform the delivery of Kazakhstan's Food Systems National Pathway, Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), and National Adaptation Plans (NAPs).

#### Event objectives:

- **Present Key Outcomes:** Share the outcomes and insights from the national inception workshop held in Kazakhstan as part of the Convergence Initiative pilot phase, development of the CAB, and emphasizing Kazakhstan's experience in aligning food systems transformation with climate action.
- **Highlight Challenges and Opportunities:** Discuss the specific challenges and opportunities for food systems transformation in Kazakhstan and the Central Asia region, particularly concerning water management, land degradation, and inclusive policies for vulnerable groups, including women farmers.
- **Showcase National-Level Synergies:** Illustrate the process and benefits of creating synergies between food systems and climate action agendas, with examples of how Kazakhstan's pilot can contribute to achieving the SDGs and the Paris Agreement targets.
- **Inform Future Actions:** Encourage cross-country learning by exploring how the Convergence Initiative's pilot in Kazakhstan can inform similar efforts in other countries, especially through the alignment of National Pathways, NDCs, and NAPs.

**Moderator:** Mr Khaled Eltaweel, Senior Programme Coordinator, UN Food Systems Coordination Hub.

#### Panellists

1. **Mr Mansur Oshurbayev**, Vice-Minister Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources and UNFCCC focal point of Kazakhstan.
2. **Mr Ermek Kenzhehanuly**, Vice-Minister of Agriculture of Kazakhstan.
3. **Mr Stefanos Fotiou**, Director, UN Food Systems Coordination Hub.
4. **Mr Raimund Jehle**, co-Chair of the IBC-SFS for Europe and Central Asia. ([online](#)).
5. **Ms Nazgul Khatepova**, Director, Department of Agrifood Markets and Agro-processing, and National Convenor for Food Systems of Kazakhstan.
6. **Ms Saule Sabieva**, Director of the Department of Climate Policy, Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources of the Republic of Kazakhstan.



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7. **Mr Jarot Indarto**, Director for Food and Agriculture, Ministry of National Development Planning and National Convenor of Indonesia ([online](#)).
8. **Ms Özge İmamoğlu**, Head of International Organizations, Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, and member of Türkiye’s national Convenor’s Support Team.

### Agenda (60 minutes)

Time	Topic	Speakers
5 mins	Welcoming	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Mr Mansur Oshurbayev</b>, Vice-Minister Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources and UNFCCC focal point of Kazakhstan.</li> <li>• <b>Mr Ermek Kenzhehanuly</b>, Vice-Minister Agriculture of Kazakhstan</li> </ul>
5 mins	Setting the scene: Introduction of the Convergence Initiative. The blueprint as a strategic framework designed to align FST with CA, promoting sustainable development, collaboration, inclusivity, and adaptability to local contexts.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Mr Stefanos Fotiou</b>. Director. UN Food Systems Coordination Hub.</li> <li>• <b>Mr Raimund Jehle</b>, co-Chair of the IBC-SFS for Europe and Central Asia. (<a href="#">online</a>).</li> </ul>
40 mins	Roundtable discussion and exchange of experiences, lessons learned and good practices: The Kazakhstan experience as the first pilot country for the operationalization of the convergence initiative and the co-creation of the blueprint, followed by pilot country to country learnings with Indonesia and Türkiye.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Ms Nazgul Khatanova</b>, Director, Department of Agrifood Markets and Agro-processing, and National Convenor for Food Systems of Kazakhstan</li> <li>• <b>Ms Saule Sabieva</b>, Director of the Department of Climate Policy, Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources of the Republic of Kazakhstan.</li> <li>• <b>Mr Jarot Indarto</b>, Director for Food and Agriculture, Ministry of National Development Planning and National Convenor of Indonesia (<a href="#">online</a>).</li> <li>• <b>Ms Özge İmamoğlu</b>, Head of International Organizations, Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, and member of Türkiye’s national Convenor’s Support Team.</li> </ul> <p><b>Moderator:</b> <b>Mr Khaled Eltaweel</b>, Senior Programme Coordinator, UN Food Systems Coordination Hub</p>
5 mins	Q&A from the audience	<b>Moderator:</b> <b>Mr Khaled Eltaweel</b> , Senior Programme Coordinator, UN Food Systems Coordination Hub.
5 mins	Closing remarks	<b>Mr Stefanos Fotiou</b> , Director, UN Food Systems Coordination Hub.