



Distr.  
LIMITED  
E/ESCWA/CL1.CCS/2024/WG.17/INF.1  
28 August 2024  
ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

## Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA)

Capacity Building Workshop on Circular Economy in Agriculture and Water Sectors  
Amman, Jordan, 28-29 October 2024

### Information Note

#### I. Background

The Arab region faces pressing challenges in both agriculture and water management, which are exacerbated by population growth, changing dietary patterns, urbanization, and climate change. Furthermore, 90% of the region's terrain is categorized as very arid, while 73% of its already limited arable land is afflicted by degradation. The need for sustainable resource management becomes an urgent matter when the majority of the regional population, nearly 362 million people, suffers from a level of water scarcity. Traditional linear models of production and consumption in these sectors have led to resource depletion, environmental degradation, and economic inefficiencies. Embracing circular practices offers a promising path for addressing resource scarcity enhancing resilience and promoting inclusive growth. Transitioning from the "take-make-dispose" model to one emphasizing resource efficiency, reuse, and regeneration is pivotal in this regard. A circular economy model that maximizes resource efficiency and minimizes waste can ensure a sustainable future for both food and water systems.

Recognizing this priority, the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) in collaboration with the International Water Management Institute (IWMI), and the Arab Organization for Agricultural Development (AOAD)/League of Arab States, and Expertise France is organizing a two-day capacity building workshop. This workshop, scheduled to take place in Amman, Jordan on 28 and 29 October 2024, aims to enhance the capacities of national stakeholders in mainstreaming circular economy principles within the agriculture and water sectors. By addressing the interlinked challenges among these vital sectors, the workshop seeks to promote innovative CE solutions, sustainable practices and resource management. Further, the participants will be able to identify areas of implementation and integration of circular economy practices, thereby contributing to the sustainable utilization of natural resources.

#### II. Objectives

The main objectives of the workshop are as follows:

- **Enhance understanding of circular economy in water and agriculture:** provide participants with a thorough understanding of circular economy concepts, principles, and drivers towards circular economy adoption and transformation in the Arab region;

- **Facilitate knowledge sharing on innovative practices:** create a platform for participants to exchange knowledge on innovative circular economy practices in water and agriculture, highlighting successful case studies, technologies, and methodologies that have improved productivity and sustainability.

### III. Expected Outcomes

The workshop is expected to result in the following outcomes:

- **Enhanced understanding of the role of circular economy in the sustainability of water and agriculture sectors:** by the end of the workshop, participants have increased knowledge on how the circular economy can enhance sustainability in agriculture and water management, and address critical challenges including resource scarcity, low productivity, and environmental degradation;
- **Strengthened skills to identify opportunities for transition:** by the end of the workshop, participants are able to identify key subsectors and value chains in water and agricultural sectors that present opportunities for a transition to a circular economy in the Arab region.

### IV. Agenda Outline

Below is a draft agenda and description of the modules to be used.

#### DAY 1: MONDAY 28 OCTOBER 2024

- **Module 1: An introduction to Circular Economy.** Tackling the main concepts, principles, relation of circular economy to SDGs, the Paris Agreement, and national strategies. It will also describe circular economy relevance to agriculture and water sectors, and drivers towards circular economy adoption in the region.
- **Module 2: Circular Economy in Water Sector.** Exploring governance structures for driving the transition to circular economy in the water sector, such as enabling policies and strategies. Further, the module will focus on four key pillars: infrastructure, policy and regulation, stakeholders' engagement, and economic development.

#### DAY 2: TUESDAY 29 OCTOBER 2024

- **Module 3: Circular Economy in Agricultural Sector.** Investigating mechanisms, concepts, case studies, and success stories. The module will also focus on four key pillars: infrastructure, policy and regulation, stakeholders' engagement, and economic development.
- **Module 4: Sub-sectors and Value Chain Prioritizations.** Building on the knowledge gained in previous modules, this module will describe what makes a selected sub-sector circular within the country's context. The module will explore key factors such as available and required finance, capacities needs, regulatory frameworks, governance structures, decision-making processes, and technological innovations essential for achieving circularity.

### V. Participants and Registration

The capacity building workshop brings together government experts from ministries of water, agriculture and environment, practitioners, NGOs and civil society members involved in promoting sustainability, and circular/green economy. The workshop will attract concerned regional and international organizations and representatives from the private sector.

Invited and nominated participants are kindly requested to complete their registration by **Friday, 23 September 2024** via Indico, the United Nations Events and Conferences Platform, through the following link:

<https://indico.un.org/e/Capacity-Building-Workshop-CE-Agriculture-Water>

### **Indico registration instructions**

#### ***New users***

Step 1. Set-up a new user account.

Step 2. You will receive an account activation link by email. Follow the link to activate your account.

Step 3. Fill the registration form for the Capacity Building Workshop on Circular Economy in Agriculture and Water Sectors.

#### ***Returning users***

Step 1. Use your username and password to login.

Step 2. Fill in the registration form for the Capacity Building Workshop on Circular Economy in Agriculture and Water Sectors.

***Recommended browsers*** for using Indico are Chrome, Firefox and Microsoft Edge.

Sponsorship for in-person participation is available for a limited number of government representatives and contributing experts based on UN Financial Rules and Regulations. Requests for sponsorship must be received in Indico no later than **Friday, 23 September 2024** to be eligible for consideration. Participants requesting sponsorship must **upload a clear coloured copy of their national valid passport (at least 6 months of validity)**, and personal photo (passport size) when completing their Indico registration. This is necessary to facilitate the finalization of logistical and administrative arrangements for their travel.

## **VI. Organizational Issues**

### ***Date and Venue***

The interactive two-day workshop will be held in-person on 28 and 29 October 2024, in Amman, Jordan. Details regarding the venue will be provided at a later stage.

Onsite registration will start on 28 October at 8:30 am. The workshop will close on 29 October by 5:00 pm.

### ***Language of the meeting***

The workshop will be conducted in the Arabic and English languages. Interpretation between both languages will be provided for participants.

### ***Accommodation and transportation***

Participants are requested to arrange their own hotel reservations in Amman by directly contacting a hotel of their choice.

Participants are requested to arrange their own local transport between the airport, hotel, and the meeting venue. It is recommended to arrange airport pick-up with the selected hotel.

### ***Entry visas***

Participants are responsible for securing their own visas for travel to Jordan, as may be necessary.

## **VII. Correspondence**

Kindly contact either of the following focal points with any queries regarding this event:

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