



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations



ATIO

Agrifood Systems Technologies
and Innovations Outlook

A Global Outlook for Local Impact –
Innovation and Technologies
Shaping the Future of Land,
Water and Agrifood Systems

Concept Note

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UNCCD COP17 Side Event

Side event title:

A Global Outlook for Local Impact:

**Innovation and Technologies Shaping the Future of Land,
Water and Agrifood Systems**

27 August 2026 – 10.00-11.30

In person | UNCCD COP17 | Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia | Mongolia Pavillon

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), Office of Innovation (OIN)

Forum Theme: Restoring Land. Restoring Hope.

Background

Land degradation, desertification and drought are increasingly undermining food security, livelihoods, ecosystem resilience and economic stability worldwide. As countries seek to accelerate land restoration under the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) framework, there is growing recognition that achieving impact at scale will require stronger alignment between innovation ecosystems, policy frameworks, financing mechanisms and implementation actors.

Agrifood systems are deeply interconnected with land restoration outcomes. They shape land use, resource management, rural livelihoods and ecosystem resilience across value chains. Yet despite increasing investments and commitments, restoration efforts often remain fragmented across sectors, institutions and stakeholder groups, limiting coherence, scalability and long-term impact.

At the same time, innovations relevant to land restoration — including technologies, governance models, financing approaches, grassroots practices and digital tools — continue to expand rapidly. However, decision-makers and stakeholders frequently lack integrated mechanisms to connect innovation intelligence with policy priorities, investment planning and implementation needs.

Within this context, the Agrifood Systems Technologies and Innovations Outlook (ATIO), led by the FAO's Office of Innovation (OIN), is being developed as a federated innovation intelligence system designed to improve access to knowledge, innovations and solutions relevant to land restoration and agriculture land management through sustainable agrifood systems transformation.

OBJECTIVE OF THE EVENT

- To position ATIO - a global innovation intelligence on agrifood systems technologies and innovations outlook - as a potential enabler for strengthening connections between innovation, policy, investment, and implementation under the COP17 agenda.
- To foster strategic dialogue on how ATIO elevates more coherent and coordinated land restoration efforts across agrifood systems, and its capability to support informed decision making that contribute to restoring soils, rangelands, water systems, and productive landscapes.
- To enhance the ATIO partnership and community to drive innovation-driven land restoration, resilience-building, and sustainable agrifood systems transformation.

EXPECTED OUTCOMES

The side event is expected to:

- Increase recognition and strategic relevance of ATIO at the level of COP 17 Parties as a strategic innovation intelligence mechanism supporting land restoration agendas.
- Enhance awareness and understanding of restoration-relevant innovations and of ATIO's value proposition as a global public good that helps users identify and access knowledge, solutions, partnerships and opportunities to support restoration planning and action.
- Foster greater uptake and use of innovation through ATIO's convening power and intelligence to connect policy, investment and implementation on land restoration.
- Catalyzed new partnerships and strengthen existing alliances to expand engagement, collaboration and support for ATIO and its contribution to innovation-driven land restoration and sustainable agrifood systems transformation.

KEY MESSAGES

- ATIO accelerates land restoration by improving access to innovation intelligence, helping decision-makers identify relevant technologies, solutions, partners, and knowledge to address restoration challenges across agrifood systems.
- ATIO connects governments, farmers, researchers, investors, development partners, and other stakeholders with the innovations and evidence needed to advance restoration efforts at scale.
- ATIO bridges local restoration needs with global innovation ecosystems, enabling users to identify, access, and adapt context-specific technologies and solutions.
- ATIO serves as a global public good, providing practical tools, good practices, case studies, emerging technologies, and strategic insights to support restoration planning, implementation, and monitoring.
- ATIO facilitates collaboration among innovators, policymakers, financing institutions, producers' organizations, Indigenous Peoples, local communities, and implementation partners, helping transform innovation insights into concrete restoration action.
- ATIO amplifies grassroots innovations and locally adapted solutions by recognizing the central role of farmers, pastoralists, Indigenous Peoples, women, youth, and local communities in restoration efforts.
- ATIO supports the scaling of restoration solutions through stronger partnerships and coordinated investments, contributing to more resilient agrifood systems, restored landscapes, and improved livelihoods.

AGENDA: COP17 Side Event | 90 minutes

Opening by moderator (10 min)

Moderator: **Delgermaa Chuluunbaatar, Innovation Officer, FAO**

- Welcome and framing of objectives
- Introduction to COP17 relevance and restoration agenda
- Framing the importance of aligning innovation, policy and investment for land restoration

Opening Remarks (10 min)

Lifeng Li, Director, Land and Water Division, FAO

Vincent Martin, Director, Office of Innovation, FAO

Interactive unboxing: The ATIO initiative (20 min)

Delgermaa Chuluunbaatar, Innovation Officer, Office of Innovation, FAO

- Interactive introduction and demonstration of FAO's ATIO Initiative and its a single entry – federated innovation intelligence providing access to innovations and technologies relevant to agrifood systems transformation. It will highlight how ATIO can contribute to connecting innovation ecosystems with policy priorities, investment opportunities, and implementation needs.

Multistakeholder dialogue: aligning innovation, policy and investment for restoration at scale (40 min)

Strategic dialogue on use of ATIO as a lighthouse for innovation intelligence, partnerships and coordinated policies and investments, accelerating land restoration across agrifood systems value chains.

- **Barron Orr Joseph, Chief Scientist, UNCCD**
- **Katja Vuori, CEO, AGRICORD**
- **Irish Baguilat, Coordinator for Sustainable Agriculture & Women Farmers' Agenda, Asian Farmers Association (AFA)**
- **Marina Kosmus, Head of the Competence Centre for Biodiversity, Forests, and Agriculture, German Agency for International Cooperation (GIZ)**
- **Custom Nyirenda, Director of Forestry, Ministry of Natural Resources, Government of Malawi**

Wrap up and Closing (5 min)

Qingyun Diao, FAO Representative in Mongolia, FAO

- Call for collective action and partnerships through ATIO to increase the use of science, innovation and technologies and make them available and accessible to support land restoration for all, accelerating the scaling of solutions across agrifood systems.



ATIO

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