

Plenary Session 3. Food insecurity in the Arab region: a serious risk



Rami Zureik

Rami Zureik is a Professor at the Faculty of Agricultural and Food Sciences at the American University of Beirut (AUB). He is the director of the Food Security Program in the Faculty of Agricultural and Food Sciences at AUB. He was recently appointed as the Interim Director of the Palestine Land Studies Center (PLSC). He was a member of the Steering Committee of the High-Level Panel of Experts on Food Security and Nutrition of the Committee on World Food Security (CFS), and a commissioner on the EAT-Lancet Commission on Healthy Diets from Sustainable Food Systems. He has worked and written extensively on the Arab World, focusing on the political ecology of Arab food security and its linkages with the agrarian question.



Abbas Hajj Hassan

Abbas Hajj Hassan is the Minister of Agriculture in Lebanon. He's a journalist who worked for several news agencies and channels, most recently for France 24, in Paris. He holds a bachelor's degree in law and political science, master's degree in International Relations and Diplomacy, master's degree in Law, and a PhD in political science and international relations.



Mohamed Hassan Katna

Mohammed Hassan Katna is an expert in the field of agriculture, rural and community development. He is the current Minister of Agriculture and Agrarian Reform in the Syrian Arab Republic. Prior to that, he was an Adviser to the Minister of Agriculture and Agrarian Reform, as well as the Director of Statistics and Planning in the Ministry. His experience includes over 40 years of planning, international cooperation, and supporting national projects for the development of the rural and agriculture sector, where he has contributed to addressing problems related to agricultural plant and animal production. Katna has been actively engaged with a number of committees and consultative councils formed in the Ministry and the Prime Minister's Office related to policy preparation, national five-year plans and the dispute resolution of agricultural relation law.





Savia N'Tahah

Savia N'Tahah is the Minister for Social Affairs, Children and the Family in Mauritania, appointed on 31 March 2022. She has been the Secretary-General of Mauritania's Businesswomen's Council since 2017, where she has mobilized many resources in this field. Prior to that, she worked as part of the Health Insurance Fund, Secretary-General of Women's Association for the Promotion of Hygiene, and in the Executive Secretariat of the African Agency for the Great Green Wall. She took training sessions in health care for insured persons in 2008, and in women's partnership in 2009. She is an expert in self-development, social work and in training persons with disabilities to innovate and manage income-generating businesses. She holds a bachelor's degree in Business Management.



Inaya Ezzeddine

Inaya Ezzeddine is a Medical Doctor, Pathologist, and Member of the Lebanese Parliament since 2018. She chairs the Women and Children Parliamentary Committee, SDG 2030 Agenda Parliamentary Commission, and holds positions in the Public Health, Labour, Social Affairs, and Foreign Affairs Committees. Former Minister of State for Administrative Reform (2016–2018) and recently appointed National Convener for food systems in Lebanon, Ezzeddine spearheaded the development of an anti-corruption strategy and digital transformation. A strong advocate for women's protection and empowerment, she drives legislative initiatives for gender equality. Recognized for her achievements, President Emmanuel Macron awarded her the Legion of Honor in 2020.



Atef Shitani

Atef Shitany has 30 years of experience in the fields of population, reproductive health, and social protection, where he contributed to drafting and implementing national population and reproductive health policies and strategies, as well as many national programmes addressing development, poverty reduction, and health. He served in the Egyptian Ministry of Health and Population as the Ministry's First Undersecretary and the Rapporteur of the National Population Council. He is currently working as an Adviser to the Minister of Social Solidarity in developing social protection policies, designing and operating a conditional health system with respective agencies. He holds a master's degree in public health.

