

Special Session 2. Desertification Day 2023

“Her Land. Her Rights”



Reem Nejdawi

Reem Nejdawi has been working at ESCWA since 2011. She is currently the Chief of Food and Environment Policy Team in the Climate Change and Natural Resource Sustainability cluster in Beirut, Lebanon. From 2017 to 2019, she led the ESCWA Technology Centre in Amman, Jordan. She has over 20 years of professional development experience in the Arab region, covering issues related to policy design; implementation and monitoring of sustainable development programmes and projects as well as policy advice. She worked extensively in the fields related to food security, environment, rural and women development and SME/microfinance programmes with special emphasis on resource efficiency in the Arab Region. She holds a master's degree in international Trade from Eastern Michigan University in the United States of America.



Lina Fleifel

Lina Fleifel is a young researcher with more than four years of experience working in the humanitarian sector. She joined ESCWA in 2019 and has been working in the Climate Change and Natural Resource Sustainability cluster on a series of projects in the fields of circular economy, climate finance, agriculture and food security in the Arab region. She holds an undergraduate degree in nutrition and master's degree in business administration from AUB.



Rafania Daccache

Rafania Daccache is an experienced Business Consultant and Learning Professional specialized in crafting strategies to help build sustainable businesses and to empower people and develop communities. She has successfully merged her family's agricultural expertise with her entrepreneurial spirit which resulted in Jnaynet Rafania, a company she founded in 2020. Jnaynet Rafania produces 100 per cent locally grown vegetables in Lebanon and contributes to the development of the agricultural ecosystem within the region.





Amina Ali Eid

Amina Ali Eid is a farmer working in Tyre, South Lebanon. She started cultivating organic crops in 2004 and now has a variety of fruits and vegetables and is most famous for her avocados and citrus fruits.



Shadi Hamade

Shadi Hamade has been a Professor of Animal Sciences at AUB since 1988 and has held various administrative positions within the Faculty of Agricultural and Food Sciences. His research interests range from animal-environment interactions to sustainable food systems leading to over 100 international publications as books, book chapters and peer-reviewed articles. He co-founded and has been leading the award-winning Environment and Sustainable Development Unit (ESDU) since 2001, an initiative transforming food and agriculture, implementing multimillion rural research and development projects in Lebanon and the region.



Abdul Rahim Loulou

Abdul Rahim Loulou is a Technical Adviser at the Arab Center for the Studies of Arid Zones and Dry Lands (ACSAD). He specializes in soil science and monitoring and combating desertification. He worked as an expert in soil classification and land evaluation with FAO. Technical Adviser and Director of scientific and international relations at the General Organization for Remote Sensing in the Syrian Arab Republic.



Barbara Adams

Board Chair of the Global Policy Forum, The New School faculty member in Graduate Programs in International Affairs (GPIA) (Read her full bio on page 4).

