

Concept Note

Capacity Building Training for the Black Sea Economic Cooperation Organization Regional Cooperation Centre for Sustainable Food Systems (BSEC-CSFS) and National Focal Points (including Their Alternates)

1. Background

Member States of the Organization of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation (BSEC), agreed to establish a Regional Cooperation Centre for Sustainable Food Systems (BSEC-CSFS) in Ankara, Turkey. The center commenced its activities on the premises of the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry of Turkey in November 2020 through the BSEC-CSFS project (GCP/SEC/019/TUR), implemented by FAO under FAO Turkey Partnership Program (FTPP).

The main purpose of BSEC-CSFS is to enhance the sustainability of the food systems in the BSEC Region by providing the BSEC Member States with advice, guidance and information in the areas of food security and safety, poverty alleviation and sustainable natural resource management, including aquatic resources and institutional capacities. BSEC-CSFS will focus its activities on resource mobilization; applications on international calls for proposals; establishing an active institutional network on sustainable food systems across the region and participation in related events (seminars, symposiums, ministerial meetings, etc.) at national and international level. To ensure sustainability of the Regional Cooperation Centre for Sustainable Food Systems (BSEC-CSFS) operational capacities would need to be strengthened. Operational capacity increase will cover program design & management, project formulation, implementation, monitoring and evaluation, and practical matters relevant to a project design Performance Measurement Training.

2. Training objective, audience, modality

The objective of the training is to develop the capacity of the BSEC-CSFS staff consisting of the Regional Project Coordinator (RPC) and the technical experts, and the National Focal Points (and their alternates) of BSEC member countries, to ensure the sustainable operation of the Regional Cooperation Center after the completion of the project. To achieve this purpose, both operational and technical capacities would need to be strengthened. Operational capacity building will cover program design & management, project formulation, implementation, monitoring and evaluation, and practical matters relevant to a project cycle and program management. Around 30 participants including BSEC-CSFS staff, BSEC Permanent International Secretariat (PERMIS) representatives and National Focal Points (and their alternates) from BSEC member countries are expected to attend. The training will be delivered online in English.

Training facilitator

The training will be delivered by Professor Borja Santos Porrás who is an adjunct professor at IE University in Madrid, Spain. He is also the director of international expansion at the IMFAHE Foundation. Professor Santos is a professional focused on the design, implementation, and evaluation of public policy during the last ten years, with a rich experience in leadership and problem-solving. He has been working designing strategies for better economic growth and innovation with the government of Sri Lanka and the Harvard Center for International Development; carrying out impact evaluations in Perú; supporting the institutional humanitarian response and disaster risk management of the government of Ethiopia and Ecuador; managing international aid projects at the Spanish Ministry of Foreign Affairs; and working with private companies and the academia in Germany.

3. Training programme

BSEC-CSFS Capacity Building Training on Project Planning and Performance Measurement

Training will be delivered in ten sessions spread over a period of four weeks. Each session will take 90 minutes. The first two sessions are planned to be held on the 18th and 19th of May. The second and third weeks will include 3 sessions each. The fourth and the last week will have two sessions. Detailed program is below. All times are in UTC/GMT+3 (CEST+1) time zone.

Session 1 (1h30) – INTRO Wednesday May 18th, 10:00-11:30

- Welcoming participants (15 minutes)
- Opening Remarks by different partners (45 minutes)
- Introduction: Concepts and Theories Project Management and Results-Based Management (30 minutes)

Session 2 (1h30m) – STRATEGIC PLANNING I - Thursday May 19th, 10:00-11:30

- Identification and deconstruction of the problem – ‘Problem Tree’ (45 min)
- Prioritization of change pathways – The Theory of change (15 min)
- Group exercise problem deconstruction (30 min)

Session 3 (1h30m) – STRATEGIC PLANNING II - Monday May 30th,10:00-11:30

- The Vertical logic – Results Chain (30 min)
- ‘LogFrame Matrix.’ (30 min)
- Group exercise logframe matrix – results chain

Session 4 (1h30m) - STRATEGIC PLANNING III - Wednesday June 1st, 10:00-11:30

- Indicators, Baselines, Targets, and Means of Verification (45 min)
- Risk & Assumptions (15 min)
- Group exercise – Good indicators (30 min)

Session 5 (1h30m) - STRATEGIC PLANNING IV - Friday June 3th, 10:00-11:30

- Time and Cost management. Results-based budgeting. (20 min)
- Partnerships (40 min)
- Group exercise – partnerships (30 min)

Session 6 (1h30m) - STRATEGIC PLANNING V - Monday June 6th, 10:00-11:30

- Time and Cost management. Results-based budgeting. (20 min)
- Partnerships (40 min)
- Group exercise – partnerships (30 min)

Session 7 (1h30m) – IMPLEMENTATION - Wednesday June 8th, 10:00-11:30

- Innovative iterative methods for project/program management (Agile, etc.) (60 min)
- Human resources and conflict management (30 min)

Session 8 (1h30m) – PERFORMANCE MEASUREMENT I - Thursday June 9th,, 10:00-11:30

- Monitoring and evaluation. Planning to design and conduct an evaluation (60 min)
- Group exercise – evaluation (30 min)

Session 9 (1h30m) – PERFORMANCE MEASUREMENT II - Monday June 13th, 10:00-11:30

- Impact evaluation (30 min)

- qualitative methods (30 min)
- Data visualization, Reporting, and communication for results. (15 min)
- Group exercise – evaluation (15 min)

Session 10 (1h30) – RESOURCE MOBILIZATION - Wednesday June 15th, 10:00-11:30

- How to apply for European Funds (90 minutes)