

Concept Note

FAO and Digital Agri Hub join forces to accelerate digital agriculture in Europe and Central Asia

The Digital Agri Hub has established an important alliance with [Regional Office for Europe and Central Asia](#). This collaboration, anchored in a solid partnership agreement through a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between UN FAO and Wageningen University and Research (WUR), represents a commitment to improve the exchange of information on the digital initiatives in agriculture held by the two organisations, and from there, to develop further initiatives that respond to the common objectives of food and nutrition security and food systems development. Together, FAO and Digital Agri Hub are pooling their resources and expertise to accelerate the adoption and scaling of digital solutions and services throughout Europe and Central Asia, with a focus on low- and middle-income countries (LMICs).

Digital agriculture presents a transformative opportunity for food systems and agricultural practices, particularly in regions like Europe and Central Asia. Recognising this potential, FAO launched the regional [AgriTech Observatory](#) earlier this year to facilitate knowledge sharing and innovation and scale up digital agriculture initiatives across the region. By leveraging FAO's AgriTech Observatory and Digital Agri Hub's dashboard, this joint alliance aims to catalyse positive change, foster innovation, and drive digital transformation across the agricultural sector.

The objectives of this alliance encompass leveraging the AgriTech Observatory's platform and the Digital Agri Hub's dashboard to reinforce the visibility and adoption of digital solutions and services, and their influence in Europe and Central Asia. Additionally, the collaboration seeks to facilitate cooperation among stakeholders, including practitioners, policymakers, researchers, and innovators, to propel the development and uptake of digital agricultural solutions. Furthermore, it aims to support the expansion of successful digital agriculture projects and policies through knowledge-sharing and capacity-building activities. Under this agreement the following activities will take place:

- **Knowledge exchange:** In the short term, FAO and Digital Agri Hub will actively share and integrate their knowledge bases to enhance the quality and breadth of content available on both platforms. Further, by sharing knowledge and insights into ongoing research work, both FAO and Digital Agri Hub can identify gaps, overlaps, and further opportunities for collaboration. This strategic alignment ensures that the platforms complement each other effectively, maximizing their collective impact.
- **Streamlining taxonomies:** FAO and Digital Agri Hub will collaborate to align the taxonomies and standardise classification of the initiatives across use cases, themes aligned with food and nutrition security and agrifood systems, and technologies. This endeavour will allow for consistent exchange of knowledge between FAO and Digital Agri Hub.
- **Setting up APIs for interoperability:** In the long term, FAO and Digital Agri Hub will integrate their systems through Application Programming Interfaces (APIs) to enhance interoperability and streamline the sharing of information on digital agriculture initiatives. The interoperability will allow streamlined impact tracking per type of initiative such as Digital/smart village, policy, good practice, etc.

Located in Budapest, Hungary, FAO's Regional Office for Europe and Central Asia (FAO REU) provides and coordinates FAO policy and technical assistance to Member Countries in the region. Its specialized team for Digital Agriculture provides critical capabilities to country offices, technical units, and Members, in designing and implementing national digital agriculture strategies, introducing key eGovernment solutions, as well as working at field level to increase access and uptake of ICTs by smallholder farmers. The team aims to harness FAO's regional expertise and insights via the AgriTech Observatory, a platform dedicated to navigating digital agriculture developments in Europe and Central Asia.

The Digital Agri Hub tracks the evolution of the digital agriculture (D4Ag) ecosystem in low- and middle-income countries. In collaboration with sectoral stakeholders, the Hub regularly publishes curated information on digital solutions, generating new insights and updates on important developments in the domain of digital agriculture. Serving as a multi-actor data and knowledge broker, the Hub focuses on leveraging inclusive digital solutions for development and offering unique perspectives for adopting or investing in digital agricultural innovations.

