

OECD Global Forum on Agriculture 2021: Policies for a more resilient agro-food sector

8-9 June 2021 | Virtual conference

The agricultural sector faces a growing and increasingly complex combination of risks. Climate change and resource depletion are projected to increase the intensity and frequency of natural hazards such as powerful storms, plant and animal diseases, and severe droughts and floods. By disrupting agricultural production, such shocks pose a threat to farmers' livelihoods and wellbeing. The wider agro-food sector is also adjusting to COVID-19, the largest global pandemic in more than a century. The pandemic has had a major impact on the structure of food demand, while some supply chains suffered severe – even if temporary – disruptions.

The OECD Global Forum on Agriculture 2021 is an opportunity for countries to share their experiences in developing policies that enhance the resilience of the agro-food sector to current and future risks. The fundamental question to be answered is how policymakers and other stakeholders in the agro-food sector can shift from an approach based on coping with the impacts of disasters and other systemic shocks towards a more strategic emphasis on building the sector's resilience to risks. That implies stakeholders being able to plan and prepare for, absorb, recover from, and adapt and transform in response to adverse events – and even embrace the new opportunities that they may bring.

Sessions held virtually over two days will highlight innovative policy approaches to building agro-food sector resilience to natural hazard-induced disasters as well as to shocks affecting both domestic and international markets.

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Day 1

8 June 2021

13h00-13h10 Opening remarks

Masamichi Kono, Deputy Secretary General, OECD

13h10-14h15 Session 1: How can policies drive improvements in agricultural resilience?

Agricultural policies send important signals for farmers to increase their resilience to climate change, natural hazards, market shocks and other risks. Speakers in this session will explore how governments can support farmers to build their capacity to manage risk (e.g. by developing their entrepreneurship skills, supporting experimentation and adaptation on-farm, and access to information systems), and provide incentives for farmers to adapt and transform their operations in response to uncertainty and a changing risk environment. Drawing on recommendations from the OECD's holistic approach to risk management for resilience in agriculture, it will explore how governments can 'operationalise' a resilience approach and develop policies for a more resilient agro-food sector.

Moderator: Casper Holl, Head of Unit, European, International and Agro-economic Department, Ministry for Agriculture, Nature and Food Quality, The Netherlands

Presentation:

- **Jonathan Brooks**, Head of the Agriculture and Resource Policies Division, OECD

Policies for a resilient agricultural sector: Insights from the OECD's holistic approach to risk management for resilience

Panelists:

- **Ciaran Devlin**, Deputy Director, Evidence & Analysis, Department of Food and Rural Affairs, United Kingdom
- **Dhanush Dinesh**, Head of Partnerships and Outreach, CGIAR Research Program on Climate Change, Agriculture and Food Security (CCAFS)
- **Corina Jordan**, General Manager for the North Island Extension Programme, Beef + Lamb New Zealand
- **Miranda Meuwissen**, Coordinator Hor2020 SURE-Farm: Towards sustainable and resilient EU farming systems

14h15-15h30 Session 2: Launch of the OECD/FAO report *Building Agricultural Resilience to Natural Hazard-induced Disasters: Insights from Country Case Studies*

To build resilience to natural hazard-induced disasters, agricultural sectors must shift from an approach that emphasises coping with the impacts of disasters on agriculture to building resilience to risk before disasters occur. Drawing on insights from the seven country case studies – Chile, Italy, Japan, Namibia, New Zealand, Turkey and the United States – in the new OECD/FAO report **Building Agricultural Resilience to Natural Hazard-induced Disasters: Insights from Country Case Studies**, this session explores what governments, farmers and other stakeholders are doing to build agricultural resilience to natural hazard-induced disasters. Speakers will share how agricultural sector stakeholders in their countries are preparing for disasters; preventing and mitigating the risks they pose to the sector; supporting a more resilient recovery; and encouraging adaptation in order to better manage future disasters.

Moderator: Graziella Romito, Director of International Relations, Ministry of Agricultural Food and Forestry Policies, Italy

Presentations:

- **Emily Gray**, Agricultural Policy Analyst, Trade and Agriculture Directorate, OECD
- **Tamara van 't Wout**, Disaster Risk Reduction and Climate Change Adaptation Specialist, FAO

Panelists:

- **Jan Lewandrowski**, Senior Economist, USDA Office of Energy and Environmental Policy (OEEP), United States
- **Ritsuko Yoneda**, Director for the OECD, International Affairs Department, Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (MAFF), Japan
- **Raffaella Zucaro**, Senior Researcher, Council for Agricultural Research and Agricultural Economy Analysis (CREA), Italy
- Other speakers TBC

13h00-14h15 Session 3: Improving the policy toolkit for agricultural risk management

Risk management programmes can support to a more resilient agricultural sector by helping farmers to cope with the negative financial impacts of adverse events. However, because they often focus on absorbing the impacts of shocks and supporting a quick recovery, they can modify farmers' incentives to invest in risk reducing measures, and to adapt and transform. This session will explore the need for a holistic, innovative and cost-effective policy approach to agricultural risk management, consistent with broader efforts to build the different aspects of resilience: preparedness, absorption and recovery, adaptation and transformation.

Moderator: Jesús Anton, Senior Agricultural Policy Analyst, Trade and Agriculture Directorate, OECD

Panelists:

- **Katherine Baldwin**, Research Agricultural Economist, USDA Economic Research Service
- **Joe Glauber**, Senior Research Fellow, International Food Policy Research Institute
- **Francesco Del Bianco**, Director General for Agriculture and Agri-Food, Canada
- **Celine Ollier**, Auditor, European Court of Auditors

14h15-15h15 Session 4: What are the lessons from COVID-19 for food systems resilience?

This session will focus on the resilience of food supply chains in OECD countries. Reflecting on experiences since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic, the session will examine not only short-term absorptive capacity but also adaptations seen over the past months, and potential transformations to increase preparedness for future shocks. Discussions will highlight insights relevant to preparations for the UN Food Systems Summit in 2021.

Moderator: Lee Ann Jackson, Head of Agro-Food Trade and Markets Division, Trade and Agriculture Directorate, OECD

Panelists:

- **Preeti Ahuja**, Practice Manager of the Latin America and Caribbean Region for the Agriculture and Food Global Practice, World Bank Group
- **Eileen Bentley**, Head of Client Capability, Bord Bia (the Irish Food Board)
- **Thomas Hertel**, Distinguished Professor of Agricultural Economics, Purdue University

15h15-15h30 Closing Session

- **Marion Jansen**, Director, Trade and Agriculture Directorate, OECD
- **Tetsuo Ushikusa**, Deputy Assistant Minister for International Affairs, Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, Japan

