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Kingdom of Saudi Arabia المملكة العربية السعودية



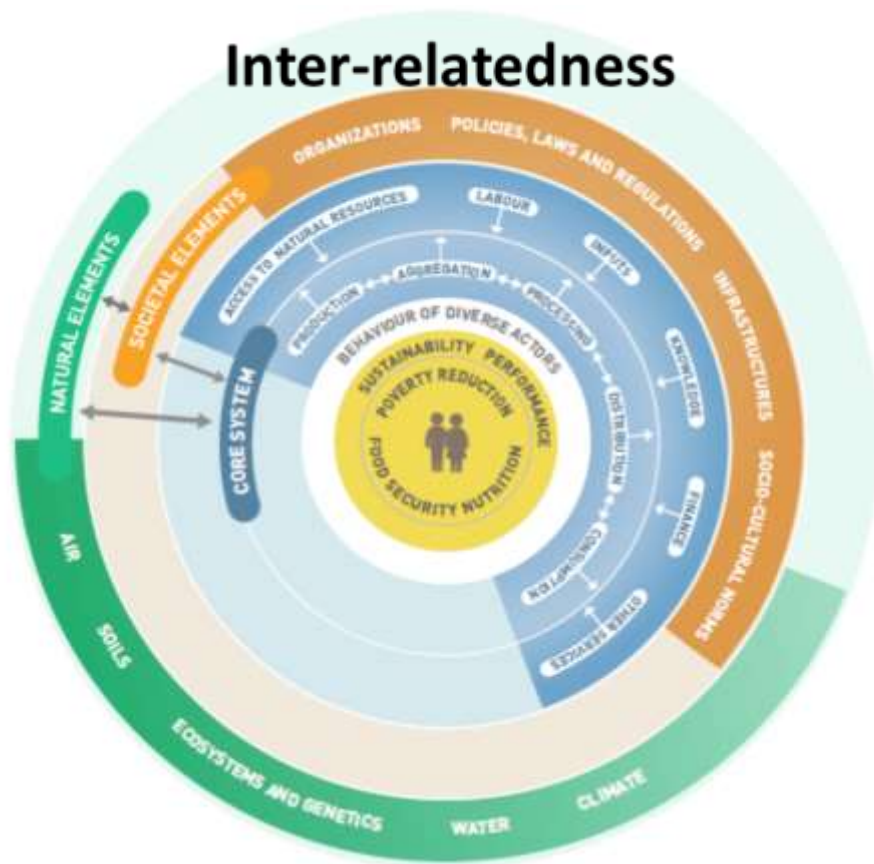
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Integrated pathways for sustainable agriculture and rural development for smallholders in Saudi Arabia

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Quest for pathways to sustainability create tensions around trade-offs and hard-to-find “win-win” solutions within agri-food systems

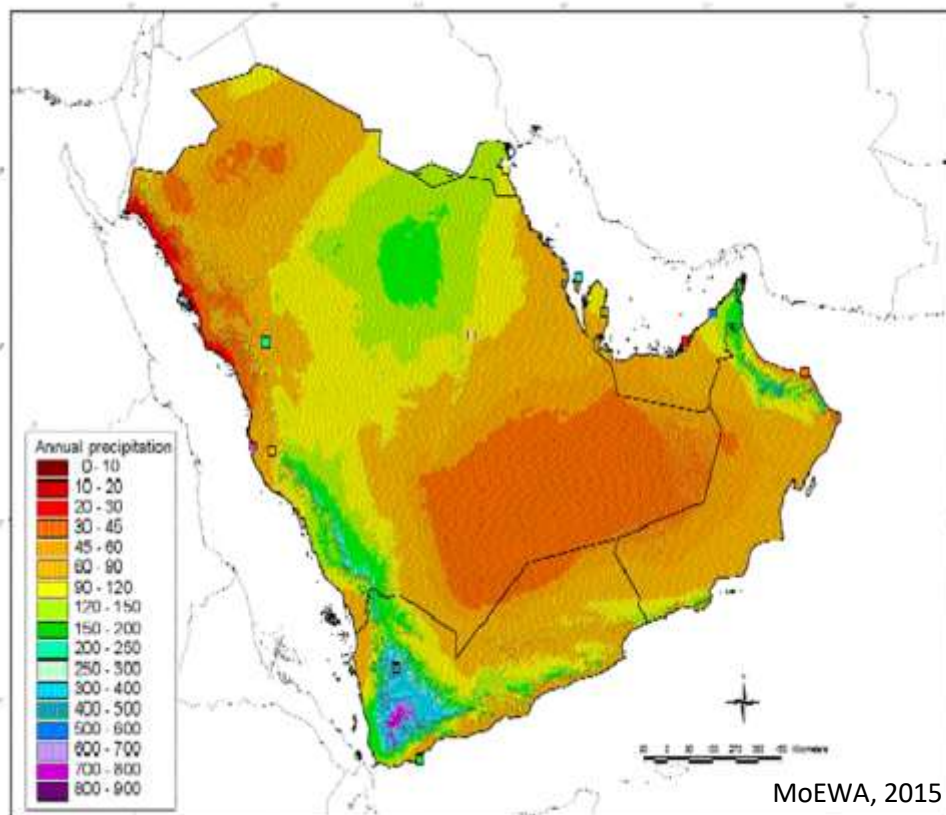
Inter-relatedness



Trade-offs



In Saudi Arabia smallholders' agriculture and the rural sector are very important for food security, culture and heritage but faces profound agro-ecological and socio-economic challenges. Water is the biggest of them.



Smallholder producers accounting for 80% of total ag. holdings. Most grow coffee, crops, fruits, roses in < 1ha farms

Crop sector imited by hot climate, moisture, low inputs, inefficiency, labor, skills and market opportunities

Livestock sector faces water scarcity, feed shortage, diseases, poor management and investments

Small-scale fisheries has weak infrastructure but a significant source of livelihoods

Natural resources management lack adequate policies, regulations, capacities and coordination

Government with FAO formulated the Sustainable Rural Agricultural Development (SRAD) Programme to diversify rural economy and improve food security

FAO assistance is 'Strengthening the Ministry of Water, Environment and Agriculture's capacity for implementation of the Sustainable Rural Agricultural Development (SRAD) Programme' (2020-2026) through a holistic, integrated approach to support diversification of rural economy and boost food security.



Problems to be addressed

1	Poor production Technologies: Inadequate access to and poor adoption of appropriate modern production technologies and innovative practices by small producers.
2	Weak institutional capacity: Limited capacity of rural institutions and agricultural cooperatives to provide appropriate support services to small producers.
3	Weak Agricultural services: Inadequate and weak agricultural services provided to small producers.
4	Poor natural resources management: Limited capacity of producers to use and manage natural agricultural resources sustainably.
5	Poor public awareness on importance of natural resources: Low level of public awareness on the need to protect the environment and conserve natural resources for present and future generation.

6	Limited productive and decent rural employment: Limited capacity of the public and private sector to develop and promote rural agro-enterprises and create productive and decent rural employment.
7	Few qualified staff of MoEWA: Few staff of MoEWA and affiliate institutions with required technical knowledge and skills.
8	Insufficient data and information: Insufficient data related to rural agricultural development and natural resources hindering formulation of solutions evidence based solutions.
9	Limited mechanisms to develop & disseminate data and information: Lack of mechanisms to develop and disseminate data, information and knowledge for evidence based action.
10	Weak partnership and coordination: Weak partnership and coordination and limited sharing of information, knowledge and experiences among stakeholders.



Linked with National Transformation Plan



Linked with FAO Strategic Framework

Develop Solution Pathways aligned to national and global commitments









Leads Transformation to Sustainable Food Systems



Solution Pathway

Inclusive Approach: Putting sustainability at the center of delivery

	Stakeholder participation and national ownership	Putting smallholders at the center of all interventions
	Holistic integrated approach	Using integrated landscape approach to prioritize people welfare and ecosystems sustainability
	National responsibility	Relying on national resources, partnerships, local technologies and institutions
	Pilot demonstration and promotion	Piloting innovative methods, approaches and practices and adopting the best ones
	Youth and gender integration	Increase youth and female opportunities ensure data and information address their specific needs
	Adaptive management	Flexible approach to allow for adapting and project strategy / methodology when necessary and based on lessons learned

Solution Pathway

Adopt 360° View: Address the cross-cutting areas for all components

Capacity building

Identify knowledge, skill and attitude gaps of farmers and extension workers and work towards bridging them

Value addition

Identify value chain bottlenecks and means for improving the product quality and productivity

Marketing

Identify marketing channels constraints , to improve quality and supply through cooperatives, associations

Farming system

Improve water productivity and adoption of good practices for under agro-ecological conditions

Research & Extension

Introduce and promote innovations, digitalization and technologies via pilot sites and demonstrations

Agribusiness incubation

Identify potential business activities, finance incubation and promotion of opportunities for rural youth and women



Solution Pathway

Build Local Capacities: For enabling innovations, new alliances, governance and compliance

Systematic data and information gathering across components and regions to assess priorities of stakeholders of agriculture and NRM sectors; establish a knowledge platform

Enhancing local capacities: strengthen institutional and individual skills for governance, regulatory and management practices for efficient of public and private investment in rural sectors



Enabling and promoting innovations: focus on technologies and digitalization of value chains to increase natural resource management, better access and support to smallholders, youth and women

Raising awareness through partnerships: strengthen collaborations, organise joint events to communicate actions for transformation of Saudi Arabian food systems



Thanks for listening

شكراً لحسن استماعكم