

**Press Release**

## **Adopting the Sustainable Livelihoods Approach for Promoting Rural Development in the UN-ESCWA Region**

**Beirut, 17 December 2009 (UN Information Services)** -- UN-ESCWA is organizing an Expert Group Meeting on "Adopting the Sustainable Livelihoods Approach for Promoting Rural Development in the ESCWA Region" from 21 to 22 December 2009 at the UN House, Riad el Solh Avenue.

Attending the meeting, which opens at 10:00 AM on Monday 21 December, are experts representing nine countries from the UN-ESCWA region, including representatives of ministries of agriculture, planning and local development. Similarly, representatives from the United Nations Development Program (UNDP), the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), the International Center for Agricultural Research in the Dry Areas (ICARDA), the American University of Beirut (AUB) and Lebanese NGOs concerned with the subject will also participate in the meeting.

The meeting will provide an opportunity for experts both from UN-ESCWA region as well as national, regional and international organizations concerned with rural development issues to discuss, review and assess livelihood approaches to rural development, their comparative advantages with regard to other approaches as well as obstacles to their adoption and implementation by relevant institutions. In addition, participants will have the occasion to exchange experiences on viable options for promoting the aforementioned approaches and to propose action-oriented recommendations in support of their adoption.

UN-ESCWA will present one major working paper along with seven substantive presentations. In addition, experts attending the meeting will present papers for reviewing and discussing the issue of sustainable livelihoods and achievements at country and regional levels.

The meeting is expected to come out with practical and pertinent region specific action-oriented recommendations for adopting sustainable livelihoods approaches, and a proposed communication strategy for member-country consideration.

**UN Information Services kindly requests journalists to grant this meeting the  
highlight it deserves.**

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