Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA)

Workshop on Voluntary Sustainability Standards (VSS) to promote sustainable agricultural production, food quality and safety, environmental protection and trade in the Arab Region
27 September 2011
UN House – Beirut, Lebanon

PROVISIONAL AGENDA

08:30 – 09:00 Registration at United Nations House

09:00 – 09:20 Welcome and opening statements
• Head, Division of Trade and Standards, the German Agency for International Cooperation (giz)
• Executive Secretary, ESCWA
• Minister of Agriculture, Lebanon, Patron of the Workshop

09:20 – 09:30 Objectives and scope of the Workshop
Ms. Roula Majdalani, ESCWA

Session 1: Voluntary Sustainability Standards (VSS): Concept and Implications for the ESCWA Region

09:30 – 09:45 VSS and the green economy: Options for sustainable agriculture in the ESCWA region
Mr. Fady Asmar, ESCWA Consultant

09:45 – 10:15 Introduction to VSS: concept, role and trend
Mr. Carsten Schmitz-Hoffman, giz

10:15 – 10:45 VSS and market access
Ms. Ulvinur Muge Dolun, UNIDO

10:45 – 11:15 Standards and VSS in the ESCWA region: existing practices and policy option
Ms. Lena Dergham, LIBNOR

11:15 – 11:30 Coffee break

Session 2: Challenges and Opportunities for Adopting VSS: Private Sector Initiatives and case studies

11:30 – 12:00 Alliance for Water Stewardship (AWS): Overview and case studies
Mr. Adrian Sym, AWS

12:00 – 12:30 Global G.A.P.: Overview and case studies from Egypt and UAE
Ms. Kerstin Uhlig, Global GAP
12:30 – 13:00 Organic Farming Standards: experience from Lebanon  
Ms. Rania Touma, Healthy basket

13:00 – 13:30 General Discussions

13:30 – 14:30 Lunch break

Session 3: High-Level Panel Discussion: Prospect for VSS in the region and way forward

14:30 – 16:30 - High-Level panel discussion
  • Mr. Rami Zuraik, AUB, Moderator
  • Representative, Ministry of Agriculture, Lebanon
  • Representative, ESCWA
  • Representative, LIBNOR
  • Representative, AIDMO
  • Representative, giz
- General discussion
- Synthesis and way forward by the Moderator

16:30 – 16:45 Closing Remarks by ESCWA and giz
End of meeting