



EUROPEAN UNION
DELEGATION TO THE REPUBLIC
OF YEMEN



Consultative Workshop on “Agricultural Practices and Sustainable Livelihood”

A special consultative workshop for Civil Society Organizations in Aden, on “Agricultural Practices and Sustainable Livelihoods”.

Date: November 7th, 2024
Location: Coral Hotel, Aden – Yemen (in Person)
Time: 9:00 AM – 2:00 PM Aden Time

Representative of AYS DN at workshop: MR. SAEED JAMIL SAEED ABDO ALHAJ

This event was organized by the European Union Delegation to the Republic of Yemen, in cooperation with NIRAS A/S and DevPro in presence and participation of the Arab Youth Sustainable Development Network along with several CSOs.



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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report provides an overview of the consultative workshop organized by the European Union Delegation to the Republic of Yemen, entitled “Agricultural Practices and Sustainable Livelihoods”. Held on November 7th, 2024, the workshop aimed to address the challenges faced by the agricultural sector in Yemen and to promote innovative strategies for enhancing food security and community resilience.

The workshop brought together a diverse group of stakeholders, including agricultural experts, policymakers, and community leaders, who engaged in collaborative discussions and knowledge sharing. Key topics included sustainable farming techniques, effective water management practices, and the importance of crop diversification. Participants also had the opportunity to share their experiences and challenges, fostering a rich dialogue around local needs and solutions.

The outcomes of the workshop highlighted several actionable recommendations, emphasizing the need for a multi-faceted approach to sustainability that integrates traditional knowledge with modern agricultural practices. The Arab Youth Sustainable Development Network played a crucial role in facilitating these discussions, advocating for the needs of local communities, and strengthening partnerships among stakeholders.

Overall, the workshop served as a significant step toward advancing sustainable agricultural practices in Yemen, and this report aims to document the insights gained and the collective commitment to improving livelihoods in the region. Continued collaboration and action among participants will be essential to realizing these goals and fostering resilience in Yemen’s agricultural landscape.



INTRODUCTION

On November 7th, 2024, the Arab Youth Sustainable Development Network (AYSDN) had the privilege of participating in a consultative workshop organized by the European Union Delegation to the Republic of Yemen in coordination with NIRAS and DevPro. The workshop entitled “Agricultural Practices and Sustainable Livelihoods” focused on the critical themes of agriculture and its basic and developed practice and ways to sustainable livelihoods, recognizing their pivotal role in fostering resilience and economic growth within the region.

The agenda of the workshop was meticulously designed to facilitate in-depth discussions around key topics, including sustainable farming techniques, innovative water management strategies, and crop diversification. Participants engaged in breakout sessions that encouraged the sharing of local experiences and challenges, fostering a collaborative environment for problem-solving. The workshop served not only as a platform for knowledge exchange but also as an opportunity for AYSDN to strengthen its role as a bridge between local communities and international stakeholders.

Moreover, the workshop served as a vital platform for AYSDN to further its mission of advocating for local agricultural practices and ensuring that the voices of farmers and rural populations were heard in broader discussions. Engaging with a diverse array of stakeholders—including agricultural experts and representatives from non-governmental organizations—enabled AYSDN to strengthen its network, share valuable insights, and identify potential partnerships that can enhance the effectiveness of future initiatives.

This report aims to summarize the key insights and outcomes of the workshop, highlighting the importance of sustainable agricultural practices in promoting food security and economic stability. By documenting these discussions, it is hoped to foster ongoing dialogue and collaboration among stakeholders dedicated to the advancement of sustainable livelihoods in Yemen.

WORKSHOP OBJECTIVES

The primary objectives of the workshop organized by the European Union Delegation to Yemen were centered around enhancing understanding and promoting actionable strategies for sustainable agricultural practices and livelihoods.

Workshop Objectives:

Objective	Sub-Objective	Key
1. Fostering Collaborative Dialogue	1.1 Encourage open discussions that allow participants to express their insights and experiences related to agricultural practices. 1.2 Facilitate structured sessions that guide conversations toward identifying common goals and shared interests among stakeholders	Guided Questions and Group Discussions



2. Identification of Challenges & Opportunities	2.1 Conduct surveys or assessments during the workshop for data gathering on the specific challenges faced by participants in their agricultural practices. 2.2 Organize breakout sessions focused on brainstorming innovative solutions and identifying resources that can address these challenges.	Group discussion & survey assessment
3. Promote Sustainable Practices	3.1 Present case studies of successful sustainable farming initiatives from Yemen and other regions to illustrate effective practices. 3.2: Provide hands-on demonstrations or workshops on specific sustainable techniques, such as composting or crop rotation	Experts engagement to lead sessions of the workshop
4. Strengthen Local Capacity	4.1: Identify training needs among local farmers and stakeholders to tailor capacity-building efforts effectively. 4.2: Create resource materials, such as guides or toolkits, that participants can use after the workshop to implement new practices.	Group discussion and thought sharing on specific needs knowledge gaps
5. Develop Actionable Recommendations	5.1 Form small working groups during the workshop to draft specific recommendations based on discussions and insights gained. 5.2: Prioritize recommendations based on feasibility and impact, ensuring they are actionable and relevant to stakeholders' needs.	Group Discussion and comprehensive study with comments of participants

WORKSHOP AGENDA

The workshop was structured to facilitate an engaging and productive dialogue around the themes of agricultural practices and sustainable livelihoods. The agenda comprised a series of presentations and discussions designed to encourage knowledge sharing and collaborative problem-solving among participants. Below is a detailed overview of the workshop agenda:

a. Opening Remarks

The workshop commenced with opening remarks from key representatives of the European Union Delegation to Yemen and AYSDN. These remarks set the tone for the event, highlighting the importance of sustainable agriculture in addressing the socio-economic challenges facing Yemen.



b. Presentation: Agricultural Practices and Sustainable Livelihoods

The first presentation provided a comprehensive overview of current agricultural practices in Yemen and their impact on sustainable livelihoods.

c. Presentation: Youth-Led Initiatives in Sustainable Agriculture

A spotlight was placed on youth-led initiatives that are driving sustainable agriculture in Yemen and it demonstrated the vital role of young people in innovating and implementing agricultural practices that promote sustainability with providing in-action examples of initiatives.

d. Presentation: Agroecology; Introduction and Key Principles

The workshop continued with a presentation on agroecology, introducing its key principles and practices.

e. Group Discussion: Sustainable Livelihoods through Agriculture

After the presentations, participants engaged in a group discussion focused on sustainable livelihoods through agriculture.

f. Group Discussion: Climate Change and Agriculture in Yemen

Participants convened for a second group discussion centered on the intersection of climate change and agriculture in Yemen.

7. Restitution of Group Discussions

To conclude the discussion segments, a restitution session was held where representatives from each group presented the key insights and recommendations generated during the discussions.

8. Closing Remarks

The workshop concluded with closing remarks from the organizers, summarizing the key themes and recommendations discussed throughout the day.

This structured agenda ensured a comprehensive exploration of critical issues related to agriculture and sustainability, fostering a collaborative atmosphere that encouraged participant engagement and knowledge sharing.

KEY DISCUSSIONS & INSIGHTS

The workshop generated a wealth of discussions and insights that highlighted the complexities and opportunities within the agricultural sector in Yemen. Participants engaged deeply with the themes presented, leading to valuable exchanges that informed actionable strategies for promoting sustainable livelihoods. Below are some of the key discussions and insights from the workshop:



Challenges in Agricultural Practices

Participants identified several key challenges affecting agricultural practices in Yemen, such as water scarcity, soil degradation, and market access. As most farmers voiced their concerns over the increasing input costs as well as a failure to provide supports, they encourage the adoption of more sustainable practices. All these challenges pointed out the continued need for focused interventions to improve resource management and access to tools and information necessary for farmers.

Role of Youth in Sustainable Agriculture

The presentation on youth-led initiatives held intriguing key elements for participants. It has been realized of the possibility contained in involving young people in agricultural innovation and decision-making. Thoughts from these conversations highlighted the need to train and empower young people to lead in sustainable practices as they bring much innovation and energy to the sector. Participants proposed that mentorship programs be established where seasoned farmers would guide youths interested in sustainable agriculture.

Adoption of Agroecological Practices

The discussion on agroecology highlighted its potential benefits for enhancing sustainability and resilience in agricultural systems. Participants shared success stories of farmers who have adopted agroecological methods, such as intercropping and organic farming, which have led to improved yields and reduced reliance on chemical inputs. Many expressed a desire for more training and resources to implement these practices effectively, emphasizing the need for ongoing education and support.

Climate Change Impacts

The group discussions on climate change revealed a consensus on the urgent need to address its impacts on agriculture in Yemen. Participants noted that changing weather patterns have resulted in unpredictable growing seasons and increased vulnerability to pests and diseases. The need for climate-resilient agricultural practices was a recurring theme, with participants brainstorming adaptive strategies such as drought-resistant crop varieties and improved irrigation techniques.

Community Engagement and Local Solutions

There was much emphasis in the discussions on community involvement in finding sustainable agriculture solutions. Participants expressed the importance of local knowledge and practices in support of a participatory approach that includes farmers in the decision-making process. It thus reaffirmed the fact that answers need to be context-specific and devised concerning the particular challenges that local communities are confronting.

Importance of Collaboration and Partnerships

The workshop underscored the significance of building partnerships among stakeholders, including government agencies, NGOs, and local communities. Participants recognized that collaborative efforts are essential for sharing resources and expertise to tackle the complex



challenges of sustainable agriculture. The discussions highlighted the need for platforms that facilitate ongoing dialogue and collaboration beyond the workshop.

Actionable Recommendations

The restitution session allowed participants to synthesize their discussions into actionable recommendations. Key suggestions included establishing training programs for sustainable practices, promoting youth engagement in agriculture, and developing policies that support local farmers. Participants also emphasized the importance of monitoring and evaluating initiatives to assess their effectiveness and adapt strategies as needed.

Overall, the key discussions and insights from the workshop reflected a deep commitment among participants to advancing sustainable agricultural practices in Yemen. The collaborative atmosphere fostered a sense of shared purpose, with many expressing enthusiasms for continuing the dialogue and implementing the ideas generated during the event.

RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE WORKSHOP

Based on the rich discussions and insights generated during the workshop, several actionable recommendations have emerged to promote sustainable agricultural practices and enhance livelihoods in Yemen. These recommendations aim to address the pressing challenges faced by the agricultural sector while leveraging the opportunities for innovation and collaboration.

First and foremost, it is essential to establish comprehensive training and capacity-building programs that focus on sustainable agricultural practices. These programs should cover a range of topics, including agroecology, organic farming, and effective water management techniques. Tailoring these initiatives to the specific needs of local farmers, especially women farmers, will ensure their relevance and effectiveness. Hands-on workshops, field demonstrations, and the creation of resource materials can significantly enhance the learning experience. Involving local experts and experienced farmers as trainers will not only add credibility but also foster a sense of community and shared knowledge.

Another vital aspect is the promotion of youth engagement in agriculture. By implementing initiatives that actively involve young people in sustainable practices and decision-making processes, we can inspire a new generation of farmers. Mentorship programs that connect youth with experienced farmers will provide invaluable guidance and support. Additionally, creating platforms for young people to share their innovative ideas can foster a culture of creativity and entrepreneurship within the agricultural sector.

Strengthening community engagement is also crucial. A participatory approach that involves local communities in the development and implementation of agricultural solutions will ensure that local perspectives are integrated into decision-making processes. Facilitating forums and workshops where community members can share their knowledge and



experiences will empower them and tailor solutions to the specific challenges faced by different regions.

Collaboration and partnerships among stakeholders need to be fostered to create a cohesive support network for sustainable agriculture. Building relationships among government agencies, non-governmental organizations, and the private sector will enhance the capacity to address complex challenges. Regular networking events and collaborative platforms can facilitate the exchange of resources, knowledge, and best practices, maximizing the impact of collective efforts.

Furthermore, it is imperative to focus on climate resilience. Developing and implementing strategies that enhance climate resilience in agricultural practices, such as promoting drought-resistant crop varieties and improving irrigation systems, is essential. Additionally, raising awareness about the impacts of climate change on agriculture will provide farmers with the tools and resources needed to adapt to changing environmental conditions.

To ensure the effectiveness of agricultural initiatives, a robust monitoring and evaluation framework should be established. This framework must include clear indicators to measure progress and impact, allowing stakeholders to identify successful practices and areas requiring adjustment. Continuous feedback loops will enable the adaptation of strategies based on lessons learned, ensuring that programs remain relevant and effective.

Finally, engaging with policymakers to advocate for supportive policies is crucial. Lobbying for financial support for farmers, access to markets, and incentives for adopting environmentally friendly practices will create an enabling environment for sustainable agriculture. Aligning policy frameworks with the needs of local communities will further enhance the potential for success.

These recommendations serve as a roadmap for stakeholders committed to advancing sustainable agricultural practices in Yemen. By implementing these strategies, all stakeholders in coordination with European Union can collectively work toward improved livelihoods, enhanced food security, and greater resilience within the agricultural sector. Continued collaboration and unwavering commitment will be essential to realizing these goals and addressing the ongoing challenges faced by local communities.

CONCLUSION

The consultative workshop organized by the European Union Delegation to the Republic Yemen provided a vital platform for dialogue and collaboration among a diverse group of stakeholders committed to advancing sustainable agricultural practices and improving livelihoods in the region. The insights and discussions generated during the event highlighted both the challenges and opportunities within Yemen's agricultural sector, emphasizing the critical importance of community engagement, innovation, and collaboration.



As participants shared their experiences and explored best practices, it became clear that a multifaceted approach is necessary to address the complex issues faced by local farmers. The recommendations outlined in this report offer actionable strategies that can foster resilience, enhance food security, and empower communities to adopt sustainable practices. By focusing on training, youth engagement, climate resilience, and collaborative partnerships, stakeholders can work together to create a more sustainable agricultural landscape in Yemen.

Moving forward, it is essential that the momentum generated by this workshop is sustained through ongoing dialogue, capacity-building efforts, and advocacy for supportive policies. By fostering a collaborative environment and leveraging the collective expertise of all stakeholders, we can make significant strides toward achieving the shared goal of sustainable development in Yemen's agricultural sector. Ultimately, the commitment to these initiatives will not only enhance the livelihoods of local communities but also contribute to the overall stability and prosperity of the region.
