

Seminar CELAC – SELA. “Food Systems & Disaster Management” August 2, 2022

CONCEPT NOTE

SESSION 1: “THREATS AND VULNERABILITIES THAT RESULT IN RISKS TO THE AGRICULTURAL SECTOR AND FOOD SYSTEMS IN LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN”.

1. Introduction

Agricultural activity, from primary production and throughout the agri-food chain, sustains food systems that, made up of various elements, provide social, economic, nutritional, environmental and health benefits, resulting in greater well-being for the population. However, there are threats and vulnerabilities of different natures for the agricultural sector and, therefore, for food systems.

The most evident threats to the agricultural sector are represented by extreme weather events related to climate change, such as extreme temperatures, droughts, floods, hurricanes and cyclones; biological factors such as crop pests, new viruses and animal diseases (including zoonotic diseases); anthropic factors such as the effects of supply and demand for agricultural commodities, the availability of agricultural inputs, currency volatility, international trade logistics and geopolitical factors. In addition, each country has a particular vulnerability condition that, among other factors, is determined by geographical location, soil, air and water conditions, as well as national economic and social factors specific to each country.

The product of the interaction between hazards and vulnerabilities results in a condition of risk for each country in terms of a probable detriment to agricultural activity, a significant decrease in production and interruptions in the supply of the agri-food chain. The materialization of risks leads to actual or potential calorie shortages for people, either due to the inadequacy of food systems or when an emergency or disaster occurs. It should be noted that the materialization of risks can have repercussions in the generation of conflicts, food crises, poverty, inequity and deterioration of biodiversity.

Consequently, risk management is relevant for governments, stakeholders and the population in general, since it enables them to respond to emergencies and disasters in the agricultural sector. This means that a prevention, strengthening and resilience approach is required, through interinstitutional and multisectoral work that allows for the objective evaluation of risks, their impacts and appropriate management measures, considering that this requires the formulation of public policies that facilitate the management of the required resources.

International and regional integration organizations are the appropriate space to promote

the development of coordinated and articulated strategies for Latin America and the Caribbean, and to contribute to the development and strengthening of the resilience of food systems in this region. In this context, this seminar, organized by CELAC and SELA, aims to analyze the threats and vulnerabilities that pose risks to agricultural production and food systems in Latin America and the Caribbean, and to promote coordinated and coordinated work by international and regional integration organizations active in this area.

2. Objectives of the first session:

- Identify and analyze the threats and vulnerabilities that make up the risks of emergencies and disasters in the food systems of the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean, with a focus on the agricultural sector.
- Exchange information on the work, studies and activities carried out by organizations such as CARICOM, IICA, FAO, OIE on the risks (threats and vulnerabilities) of emergencies and disasters for the agricultural sector and the food systems of the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean.
- Raise awareness among the Member States of CELAC and SELA about the advantages of working in a coordinated and coordinated manner in the prevention and management of emergency and disaster risks for the agricultural sector and food systems.

3. Expected results:

- To promote the coordination and articulation of regional strategies for the development and strengthening of the resilience of food systems in the face of possible emergencies and disasters.
- To concretize the intention of international and regional integration organizations to form a working group to diagnose the current situation in the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean, with a view to recommending and guiding the formulation of public policies, plans, programs and actions in the area of risk management for the agricultural sector and food systems.

4. Seminar agenda:

The agenda presented in Annex 1 of this concept note will be addressed.

5. Work structure:

- **Mode:** Virtual
- **Participants:** Representatives of policymaking focal points on emergency and disaster risk management issues for the agricultural sector, institutions and regional organizations specialized in this field.
- **Language:** Spanish and English.
- **Date:** Tuesday, August 2, 2022. Time: 9:30 am - 12:00 a.m. (Caracas)

6. Guiding questions:

- What is the current context of food systems in Latin American and Caribbean countries?
- What are the threats facing the agricultural sector and food systems of Latin

American and Caribbean countries?

- How exposed is the agricultural sector and food systems of Latin American and Caribbean countries to vulnerabilities?
- How susceptible are the agricultural sector and food systems of Latin American and Caribbean countries to vulnerabilities?
- What are the risks identified for the agricultural sector and food systems of Latin American and Caribbean countries?
- How well prepared are the agricultural sector and food systems of the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean for possible emergencies and disasters affecting agricultural activities?
- What are the prospects for emergency and disaster prevention and response for the agricultural sector and food systems in Latin American and Caribbean countries?
- How can the institution you represent contribute to support countries in risk assessment, prevention, mitigation, preparedness, response, recovery and restoration in the event of emergencies and disasters affecting the agricultural sector and food systems in Latin American and Caribbean countries?

Anexo 1

Seminario CELAC – SELA “Amenazas y vulnerabilidades que resultan en riesgos para sector agropecuario y los sistemas alimentarios en América Latina y el Caribe”

AGENDA SESION I

2 de Agosto de 2022

(Hora: 9:30 am Caracas)

Apertura: 9:30 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.

- Embajador Walter Clarems Endara, Secretario Permanente del Sistema Económico Latinoamericano y del Caribe (SELA).
- Embajador Gustavo Martínez Pandiani, Subsecretario de Asuntos de América Latina y el Caribe y Coordinación Nacional de la Presidencia Pro Tempore argentina de la Comunidad de Estados Latinoamericanos y Caribeños (CELAC).
- Sr. Mario Lubetkin Subdirector General y Representante Regional para América Latina y el Caribe de la Organización de las Naciones Unidas para la Alimentación y la Agricultura (FAO)
- Sr Manuel Otero, Director General del Instituto Interamericano de Cooperación para la Agricultura (IICA). *(Por confirmar)*
- Sr Luis Barcos, Representante Regional de la Organización Mundial de Sanidad Animal para América. (OMSA)
- Dr. Carla Natalie Barnett Secretaria General de la Comunidad del Caribe (CARICOM) *(Por confirmar)*

Panel de presentaciones 10:00 a.m.– 11:40 a.m.

- Sra. Anna Ricoy Oficial de Gestión del Riesgo de Desastres de la FAO para América Latina y el Caribe) (20 minutos + 5 de preguntas)
- Dr. Martin Minassian Representante de la Organización Mundial de Sanidad Animal (OMSA). (20 minutos + 5 de preguntas)
- Representante de IICA (20 minutos + 5 de preguntas) *(Panelista por confirmar)*
- Representante de CARICOM (20 minutos + 5 de preguntas) *(Panelista por confirmar)*

Resumen y conclusiones: 11: 40 a.m. – 12:00 m.

Moderador: Secretaría Permanente del Sistema Económico Latinoamericano y del Caribe (SELA) Consultor SELA en el área: Camilo Beltrán.