

## FAO eLearning Academy: Innovative learning methodologies and digital inclusion for sustainability



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The [FAO eLearning Academy](#), which is the result of a collaborative effort involving over **300 partners throughout the world**, offers over **500 multilingual learning courses** free of charge, as a global public good. In addition to the self-paced courses, the FAO eLearning Academy offers free international technical webinars, Massive Open Online Courses, mobile learning solutions, and various learning initiatives and events. The overall objective of the FAO eLearning Academy is to strengthen human capital through the transfer of knowledge, skills, and multi- and trans-disciplinary competencies, in order to generate competent professionals, able to face the global challenges. The FAO eLearning Academy strives to fill the gap between formal and informal education, allowing professionals to easily and efficiently acquire the competencies they need to become more competitive and relevant, thus favoring their inclusion in the job market. The FAO eLearning Academy is adopting the [Digital Badges Certification System](#), to certify the acquisition of competencies, in order to **progress talents** within organizations and **increase employment opportunities**.

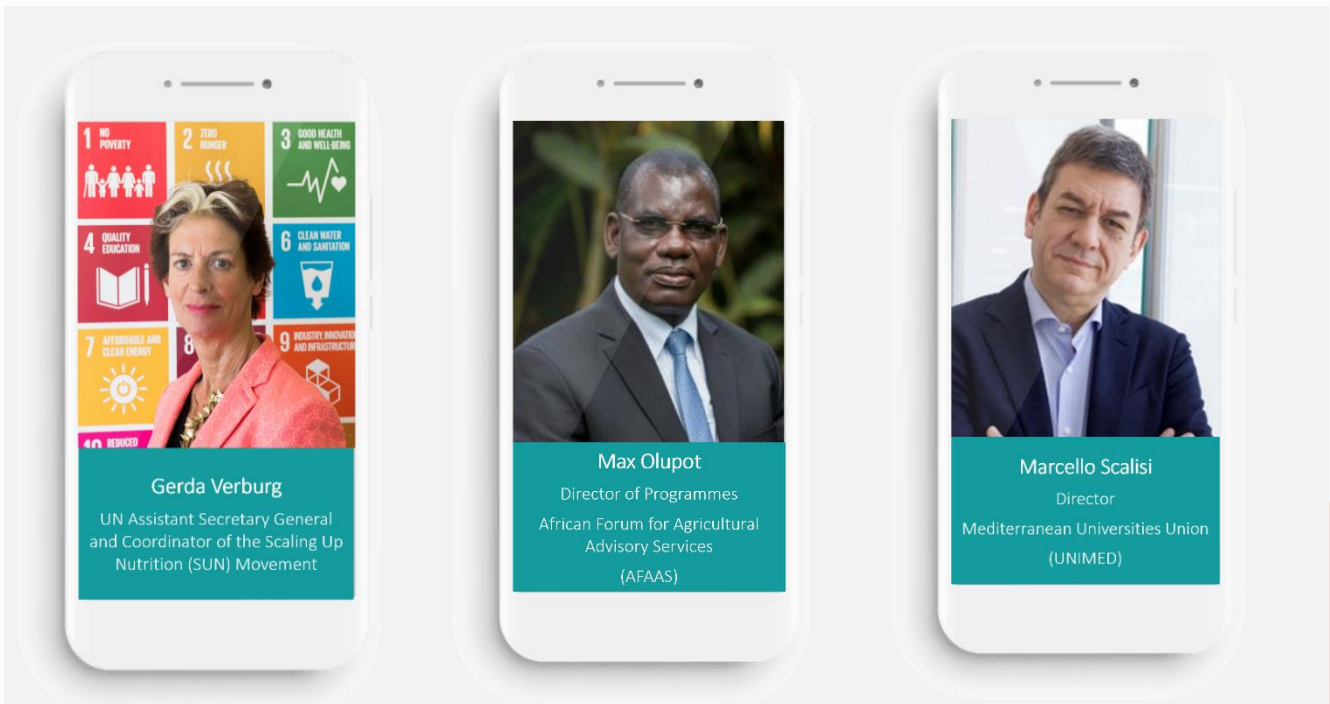
### OBJECTIVES OF THE EVENT

- Share the aspirations of the FAO eLearning Academy: promoting universal education, equal rights, competitiveness and inclusion;

- Describe the international certification offered;
- Share partners experience and testimonials on the collaboration with the FAO elearning Academy

## SPEAKERS

The event, moderated by **Ms Cristina Petracchi** (Leader of the FAO elearning Academy), will be delivered by **Ms Gerda Verburg** (UN Assistant Secretary General), **Mr Max Olupot** (African Forum for Agricultural Advisory Services), **Mr Marcello Scalisi** (Mediterranean Universities Union), **Mr Grammenos Mastrojeni** (Union for the Mediterranean), **Ms Sara Roversi** (Future Food Institute) and **Ms Tarifa A. Alzaabi** (International Centre for Biosaline Agriculture).



**Gerda Verburg** has served as UN Assistant Secretary-General and Coordinator of the Scaling Up Nutrition (SUN) Movement since 2016, working with the 61 country governments that lead the SUN Movement, united with UN agencies, civil society, business and donors, in a common mission to defeat malnutrition in all its forms. Prior to leading the SUN Movement, Ms. Verburg served as Permanent Representative of the Netherlands to the Rome-based UN agencies (FAO, IFAD and WFP), Chair of the Agenda Council for Food and Nutrition of WEF, Chair of the UN Committee on World Food Security (CFS) and Chair of the UN Commission on Sustainable Development. She served as Minister for Agriculture, Nature and Food Quality in the Netherlands.

**Max Olupot** is Director of Programmes at AFAAS Secretariat. He is also the Coordinator of the Eastern Africa Field Schools Hub. He is responsible for the coordination and management of the Eastern African Field School Support Hub (FS-Hub) hosted by AFAAS. Max is the current Chair of the Tropical Agriculture Platform (TAP) and the focal person of the Global Forum for Rural Advisory Services (GFRAS) in Africa, with vast experience in establishing of RAS Country Fora. He holds a Master's Degree in Rural Development and a Bachelor's Degree in Agriculture from Makerere University. He is passionate about Agricultural Extension and Rural Development, with experience in participatory processes from the initial "farmer first" concepts.

**Marcello Scalisi** is the Director of UNIMED – Mediterranean Universities Union – since 2008. He holds a degree in Historical Sciences and International Cooperation at the Faculty of Literature, Philosophy and Languages of the University of Roma Tre, Italy. He started working at UNIMED in 1998 as a project manager and moved gradually to the coordination of UNIMED's initiatives and projects. He has extensive experience in managing and monitoring international projects. UNIMED is currently a network of more than 140 universities from more than 20 countries of the Euro-Mediterranean region, with 12 SubNetworks involving more than 400 researchers and 15 institutional partnerships with international organizations.



**Grammenos Mastrojeni**  
Deputy Secretary General  
Union for the Mediterranean  
(UFM)



**Sara Roversi**  
Founder and Director  
Future Food Institute  
(FFI)



**Tarifa A. Alzaabi**  
Deputy Director General  
International Center for Biosaline  
Agriculture  
(ICBA)

**Grammenos Mastrojeni** is a diplomat, professor, and writer. He has pioneered research and action on societal, geo-strategic and economic impacts of environmental degradation. Until August 2019 he was Coordinator for the Environment and Head of the Science-Policy Interface with the Italian Development Cooperation. Co-Chair of the G7 Group on Climate and Fragility, Chair of the UN Mountains Alliance, Co-Chair of the Global Islands Partnership. Currently, he is Senior Deputy Secretary General of the Union for the Mediterranean in charge of Energy and Climate Action. Professor of Environment and Geo-strategy at various think-tanks and Universities and member of various scientific boards, Grammenos authored numerous articles, official reports, and six books.

**Sara Roversi** works with globally recognized think tanks on setting the agenda for the sustainable food industry. She is the Founder and Director of Future Food: a purpose-driven ecosystem facilitating evolving positive change in life on earth, promoting food innovation as a strategic element to achieve sustainable growth. Her mission is to take food system leaders, youth, and purpose-driven entrepreneurs to the next level of achievement through education, research projects, and disruptive innovation. Sara is also a director of “Food Innovation Master’s Program” in addition to being a member of leading associations and hubs related to food systems, sustainability, and SME development.

**Tarifa A. Alzaabi** joined ICBA as Deputy Director General in 2019. She has 20 years of executive and leadership experience in higher education institutions, developing services and strategies through innovation, research, and capacity development. A social scientist by training, in her current role, Tarifa promotes sustainable agricultural development and transformation of food systems through capacity development, women and youth engagement, as well as agripreneurship. She has launched several programs focused on capacity development such as the ICBA’s Youth Engagement Society (ICBA YES) and contributed to the development of the Arab Women Leaders in Agriculture (AWLA) fellowship program and the training of AWLA fellows.



**Cristina Petracchi**  
Leader of the FAO eLearning  
Academy  
(FAO)

**Cristina Petracchi** heads the FAO eLearning Academy. She manages and coordinates the design, development, delivery and language adaptations of an extensive portfolio of eLearning courses and blended learning programmes for the benefit of FAO member countries and is responsible for the creation of University Masters' and Post Graduate Degree Programmes. She engages actively in consolidating partnerships across United Nations agencies, academic institutions and universities, regional organizations, CSOs and NGOs, for capacity development initiatives. In addition to a University Degree in Biological Sciences, Ms Petracchi holds a PhD in Nutrition and Food Science, and has several years of experience in capacity development activities in several countries.

## HOW TO ATTEND

The webinar is free and open to everyone, provided you have the link to the platform. To join the webinar session on Zoom, kindly register [here](#).

We suggest you to use Google Chrome in order to join the webinar. We also recommend you to check your time zone [here](#).

## Feel free to share this invitation with your colleagues.

Please note that webinars have a limit of 1 000 simultaneous participants. For every webinar we will proceed with providing access to the first 1 000 registered participants.

The FAO eLearning Academy webinars are always recorded, and the recordings are accessible, at anytime, through the FAO eLearning Academy: [elearning.fao.org](http://elearning.fao.org).

## PARTNERS

*African Forum for Agricultural Advisory Services - AFAAS*  
*Agence Française de Développement - AFD*  
*AGRHYMET Regional Centre*  
*Agricultural Research Centre for International Development - CIRAD*  
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*Family Farming Knowledge Platform - FFKP*  
*Forest Department of Bangladesh*  
*Forestry Commission of Ghana*  
*Forestry Development Authority of Liberia*

*Forum for Agricultural Risk Management in Development - FARM-D*  
*French training and research alliance for agriculture, food, environment and global health - Agreenium*  
*Future Food Institute - FFI*  
*Global Centre for Nutrition and Health - NNEdPro*  
*Global Child Nutrition Foundation - GCNF*  
*Global Environment Facility - GEF*  
*Institut des sciences et industries du vivant et de l'environnement - AgroParisTech*  
*Institut national de recherche pour l'agriculture, l'alimentation et l'environnement - INRAE*  
*Institut national d'études supérieures agronomiques de Montpellier - Montpellier SupAgro*  
*Institute of Hydrology, Meteorology and Environmental Studies - IDEAM*

International Center for Advanced Mediterranean Agronomic Studies - CIHEAM  
International Center for Agricultural Research in the Dry Areas - ICARDA  
International Center for Biosaline Agriculture - ICBA  
International Fund for Agricultural Development - IFAD  
International Training Centre of the International Labour Organization - ITC-ILO  
Italian Agency for Development Cooperation - AICS  
Kenya Agricultural and Livestock Research Organization - KALRO  
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Mc Gill University - Margaret A. Gilliam Institute for Global Food Security  
Mediterranean Universities Union - UNIMED  
Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development, Democratic Republic of Congo  
Ministry of Water and Environment, Uganda  
National Food Technology Research Centre - NFTRC

National Forest Institute of Guatemala - INAB  
Natural Resources Institute - NRI  
New Partnership for Africa's Development - NEPAD  
Norway's International Climate and Forest Initiative - NORAD  
Open University of Catalonia - UOC  
OpenMed  
Papua New Guinea Forest Authority - PNGFA  
Partnership for Child Development - PCD  
Platform for Agricultural Risk Management - PARM  
Southern Hemisphere Association of Fresh Fruit Exporters - SHAFFE  
United Nations Development Programme - UNDP  
United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific - UNESCAP  
United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change - UNFCCC  
United Nations Scaling Up Nutrition Movement - SUN Movement  
UNITELMA University  
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University of Zimbabwe  
Veterinary Medicines Directorate of the United Kingdom - VMD  
World Food Programme - WFP  
World Resources Institute - WRI

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