International Training Workshop on "Achieving Sustainable Development Goals - Challenges and Opportunities in African Asian Countries"
AMMAN, JORDAN
New Dates: 01 to 07 May 2024

THE GLOBAL GOALS

AFRICAN-ASIAN RURAL DEVELOPMENT ORGANIZATION (AARDO)

INTRODUCTION

The concept of sustainable development has been pivotal since the late 1980s, marking a commitment to a harmonious and prosperous future that balances economic growth, social inclusion, and environmental protection. As global challenges have evolved, so too have the frameworks guiding this vision. The United Nations, recognizing the complexities of modern-day challenges ranging from climate change to socio-economic disparities, transitioned from the eight Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) to the broader 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) from-2016. These SDGs aim to holistically address pressing issues of our time, ensuring a balanced approach to global prosperity.

However, as the world navigates the intricacies of these goals, it grapples with multifaceted challenges. Besides climate change, wars, conflicts, and instability disrupt global supply chains, affecting food sustainability and underscoring the interconnectedness of nations. Developing countries, while striving to embrace sustainable practices, often face dilemmas of resource utilization versus environmental conservation. Moreover, ingrained societal issues such as poverty, unemployment, and inequalities further complicate the realization of these goals. Added to this mix are global phenomena like economic repercussions of the Covid-19 pandemic and the implications of rapid population growth, particularly in developing nations.

This dynamic landscape underscores the imperative for informed, collaborative, and adaptive strategies in pursuing sustainable development, especially in the African and Asian context.

The International Training Workshop on "Achieving Sustainable Development Goals - Challenges and Opportunities in African Asian Countries" aims to delve into these complexities, providing a platform for knowledge exchange, strategy formulation, and collaborative action.

CHALLENGES OF SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Sustainable development, while a beacon of hope for a harmonious and prosperous global future, presents a myriad of challenges. Its expansive nature, covering economic growth, social inclusion, and environmental protection, makes practical implementation intricate. These challenges are as diverse as they are interconnected, require multi-faceted solutions. Most pressing challenges are :

2.1 War and Conflicts:

- Conflicts and wars pose significant barriers to sustainable development.
- Countries accounting for substantial percentage of global wheat and barley exports, highlight the vulnerabilities of global supply chains during conflicts.
- Such issues undermine civil society and impede the realization of sustainable development goals.

2.2 Resource Management - Suitability and Availability:

- Developing nations often grapple with balancing resource utilization and environmental conservation.
- While developed nations advocate for sustainable practices, the feasibility and practicality of such advice in diverse local contexts are often debatable.
- Initiatives like forestry can boost local economies but may come at environmental costs. Thus, sustainable programs need customization according to local needs.

2.3 Poverty & Unemployment:

- Tackling poverty, a central goal of sustainable development, is intertwined with addressing inequalities and economic disparities.
- Factors like gender, urban-rural divides, and access to opportunities play pivotal roles.
- Global challenges, including the economic downturn and repercussions of the Covid-19 pandemic, have exacerbated poverty levels and challenged livelihoods.

2.4 The Global Economy:

- Economic downturns, inflationary pressures hinder sustainable development progress. Such downturns disproportionately affect the most vulnerable, emphasizing the challenges of globalization.

2.5 Population Growth:

- Rapid population growth, especially in developing nations, amplifies the challenges related to resource availability and distribution.
- Ensuring essentials like fresh water, electricity, and food for an ever-growing population underscores the complexities of sustainable development.

Considering these challenges, it becomes evident that achieving sustainable development is not a linear journey, but one that requires adaptive strategies, global collaboration, and a deep understanding of local contexts.

OBJECTIVES OF THE TRANING WORKSHOP

The workshop mainly aims at providing a comprehensive understanding of sustainable development, its significance, and the challenges and opportunities it present. Specific objectives are;

- Review and understand the policies and strategies of implementation of SDGs in AARDO Member Countries.
- Facilitate the exchange of practical experiences in implementation and achieving Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs);
- Discuss challenges and opportunities in achieving sustainable development goals, especially SDGs 1 & 2.
- Acquaint participants with Jordan's successful experience in attaining national Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs); and
- Discuss and prepare an action plan for achieving the SDGs.

MAIN AREAS OF FOCUS

The training course will emphasize several critical areas related to sustainable development, particularly in Africa and Asia:

- Rural Development and its significance.
- Recent initiatives in rural development across African-Asian countries.
- The intersection of rural development and poverty reduction.
- Empowering women through microcredit: Insights from African-Asian countries and experiences supported by AARDO.
- Delving deep into the objectives of sustainable development.
- Sharing field-level experiences from various participating countries.
- Institutional experiences and insights from AARDO member countries; and Highlighting Jordan's achievements in multiple SDGs.

METHODOLOGY

The workshop will adopt an interactive and inclusive approach, prioritizing participant engagement to share insights and practical experiences. Renowned resource persons from various Jordanian departments and organizations, with expertise in the subject matter, will facilitate sessions. The methodology encompasses:

- Classroom lectures enriched with audio-visual aids.
- Insightful field visits;
- Presentations of country-specific papers; and
- Engaging in group work exercises.

The goal is to empower participants to play a pivotal role in SDG implementation, including financial inclusion through these diverse learning modalities.

MODERN CITIES: AMMAN

ANCIENT CITIES: ALSALT

ANCIENT CIVILIZATIONS: ROMAN AMPHITHEATER

EDUCATION AND UNIVERSITIES

JORDAN
الائتلاف الأردني لأهداف التنمية المستدامة
THE JORDANIAN COALITATION FOR SDGs
2030

الجمعية الملكية لحماية الطبيعة
RSCN
ECOTOURISM: ROYAL SOCIETY FOR THE CONSERVATION OF NATURE

TOLERANCE AND RELIGIOUS COEXISTENCE

BET ANYA IS THE PLACE WHERE JOHN THE BAPTIST LIVED, WHERE JESUS WAS BAPTIZED AND WHERE ELIJAH WAS BORN INTO HEAVEN

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The role of municipalities and local administrations is crucial in achieving sustainable development for several reasons. Sustainable development aims at meeting the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. Local governments play a pivotal role in this process because they are closest to the communities and can directly impact the quality of life of their residents.

Here are some key reasons why the municipality's role is important in achieving sustainable development:

- **Community Engagement and Participation:**
  - Local governments can engage with the community to understand their needs, preferences, and challenges. Involving citizens in decision-making processes ensures that development initiatives align with local priorities.
- **Urban Planning and Infrastructure:**
  - Municipalities are responsible for urban planning and infrastructure development. Proper planning can lead to the creation of sustainable cities and communities, with well-designed public spaces, efficient transportation systems, and green infrastructure.
- **Environmental Conservation:**
  - Local administrations can implement policies and regulations to protect the environment. This includes initiatives such as waste management, water conservation, and promoting green spaces, all of which contribute to environmental sustainability.
- **Economic Development:**
  - Local governments can foster economic development by supporting local businesses, promoting sustainable practices, and attracting investments that align with environmental and social goals. A thriving local economy contributes to the overall well-being of the community.
- **Social Equity and Inclusion:**
  - Municipalities play a key role in ensuring that development benefits are distributed equitably among all segments of the population. This includes addressing issues of poverty, inequality, and promoting social inclusion.

- **Public Health and Well-being:**
  - Local administrations are responsible for public health services, ensuring access to clean water, sanitation, and healthcare. These factors are critical for the well-being of the community and are integral to sustainable development.
- **Education and Awareness:**
  - Municipalities can promote education and awareness campaigns on sustainability issues. This includes educating the public about waste reduction, energy conservation, and other practices that contribute to sustainable living.
- **Disaster Preparedness and Resilience:**
  - Local governments are on the front lines when it comes to dealing with natural disasters and emergencies. Planning for and responding to these events in a sustainable manner can enhance community resilience and reduce long-term environmental impacts.
- **Implementation of Sustainable Practices:**
  - Municipalities can lead by example by implementing sustainable practices within their own operations. This includes adopting renewable energy sources, eco-friendly building standards, and green procurement policies.

DAY 3 / THE ROLE OF COMMUNICATIONS AND DIGITAL SERVICES IN ACHIEVING SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT GOALS

Communications and digital services play a crucial role in achieving the United Nations' 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). These goals aim to address global challenges such as poverty, hunger, inequality, climate change, and access to education and healthcare.

Communications and digital services contribute to each of these areas:

1. Poverty and Hunger (SDGs 1 & 2):

- Digital platforms facilitate microfinance and e-commerce, empowering entrepreneurs and farmers to reach wider markets and improve their livelihoods.
- Mobile apps can provide real-time information on market prices, weather conditions, and agricultural best practices, helping farmers optimize their yields and manage risks.
- Social safety nets can be delivered more efficiently and transparently through digital payments and e-registries, ensuring aid reaches those most in need.

2. Inequality and Gender Equality (SDGs 5 & 10):

- Bridging the digital divide by connecting everyone to the internet fosters equal access to information, education, and job opportunities.
- Telemedicine and e-learning platforms can expand access to healthcare and education, particularly in remote areas and for marginalized communities.
- Digital financial inclusion empowers women with access to banking services and economic opportunities, promoting gender equality.

3. Climate Change (SDG 13):

- Smart sensors and data analytics can monitor environmental changes, predict natural disasters, and inform climate-resilient practices.
- Digital platforms can enable carbon trading and promote sustainable consumption and production patterns.
- Raising awareness about climate change through social media and online campaigns can drive collective action.

4. Education and Healthcare (SDGs 3 & 4):

- E-learning platforms offer flexible and accessible education opportunities, breaking down geographical and socio-economic barriers.
- Telemedicine allows patients to consult with doctors remotely, improving access to quality healthcare, especially in underserved areas.
- Educational and health-related information can be disseminated quickly and widely through online channels, promoting preventive healthcare and healthy lifestyles.

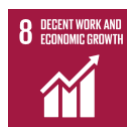**5. Good Governance and Peace (SDGs 16 & 17):**

- Open data initiatives foster transparency and accountability in government institutions, reducing corruption and promoting good governance.
- Citizen engagement platforms facilitate dialogue and participation in decision-making processes, strengthening social cohesion and peace.
- Conflict resolution and peacebuilding efforts can be supported through online communication and collaboration tools.

There are several industrial cities in Sahab City, Jordan, each playing a role in the country's sustainable development efforts. Here's a brief overview of two prominent ones:

1- Sahab Industrial City: This is the largest industrial city in Jordan, housing over 400 factories and employing tens of thousands of people. It focuses on various industries, including textiles, pharmaceuticals, and food processing. While traditionally an industrial hub, the city is increasingly adopting sustainable practices like waste reduction and energy efficiency measures.

2- King Abdullah II Industrial City: Established in 1999, this city prioritizes attracting high-tech and environmentally friendly industries. It boasts advanced infrastructure, a skilled workforce, and a focus on renewable energy sources like solar power. By promoting sustainable practices within its industries, King Abdullah II Industrial City aims to be a model for eco-friendly industrial development in the region.

When discussing the role of the industrial city in Sahab, or any industrial area, in sustainable development, several key aspects come into play:

- **Economic Growth:**
  - Industrial cities contribute significantly to economic development by attracting businesses and creating job opportunities. This economic growth can lead to improved living standards and reduced poverty, aligning with sustainable development goals.
- **Innovation and Technology:**
  - Industrial areas often serve as hubs for innovation and technology. By fostering research and development activities, industrial cities can contribute to sustainable solutions and advancements in various sectors.
- **Environmental Sustainability:**
  - Sustainable industrial practices are essential for minimizing environmental impact. This includes adopting eco-friendly technologies, waste management systems, and energy-efficient processes to reduce pollution and resource consumption.
- **Employment Opportunities:**
  - The presence of industrial activities in Sahab City creates job opportunities for the local population. This is crucial for social development, as employment can lead to improved livelihoods and community well-being.
- **Infrastructure Development:**
  - Industrial cities often drive infrastructure development in the surrounding areas. This includes the construction of roads, utilities, and other essential services, which can benefit both industrial activities and the community.

- **Community Engagement:**
  - Industrial zones should engage with the local community to ensure that the benefits of industrial development are shared. This could involve collaboration on social initiatives, education, and health programs, contributing to social sustainability.
- **Resource Efficiency:**
  - Sustainable industrial development emphasizes resource efficiency, minimizing waste and optimizing the use of raw materials. This contributes to environmental sustainability and aligns with the principles of a circular economy.
- **Green Technologies:**
  - The adoption of green and clean technologies in industrial processes can significantly reduce the ecological footprint of industrial activities. This may include renewable energy sources, efficient water management, and environmentally friendly production methods.
- **Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR):**
  - Industrial entities in Sahab City can contribute to sustainable development by incorporating CSR practices. This might involve investing in community development projects, supporting education and healthcare initiatives, and promoting ethical business practices.
- **Local Supply Chains:**
  - Encouraging local supply chains can be a part of sustainable industrial development. This reduces transportation-related environmental impacts and supports local businesses, contributing to economic and social sustainability.
- **Training and Skill Development:**
  - Industrial zones can contribute to sustainable development by investing in training and skill development programs for the local workforce. This not only enhances employability but also aligns with the goal of building human capital for sustainable growth.

The Vital Role of Agricultural Extension in Sustainable Development

Bridging the Gap Between Knowledge and Action:

- **In the face of mounting challenges like climate change, resource depletion, and population growth, achieving sustainable development has become critical. Agriculture, as the backbone of food security and rural livelihoods, needs a significant transformation to meet these demands. This is where agricultural extension steps in, playing a crucial role in bridging the gap between knowledge and action on the ground.**

Promoting Sustainable Agricultural Practices:

Agricultural extension goes beyond simply disseminating information. It's about empowering farmers to adopt sustainable practices that enhance productivity, conserve resources, and protect the environment. This includes:

- **Promoting soil health: Encouraging practices like crop rotation, cover cropping, and composting to improve soil fertility and reduce reliance on chemical fertilizers.**
- **Water conservation: Implementing techniques like drip irrigation and rainwater harvesting to optimize water use and mitigate drought risks.**
- **Integrated pest management: Utilizing natural predators, biopesticides, and other non-chemical methods to control pests and reduce reliance on harmful pesticides.**

Transferring Modern Technologies to Farmers:

Effective extension goes hand-in-hand with transferring modern technologies that can revolutionize agricultural practices. This includes:

- **Precision agriculture: Utilizing sensors, drones, and data analytics to optimize fertilizer and water application, improve pest and disease control, and personalize farming decisions based on real-time data.**
- **Digital platforms: Providing farmers with access to online resources, mobile apps, and e-learning tools for information dissemination, market access, and communication with extension agents.**
- **Renewable energy technologies: Encouraging the use of solar panels, biogas digesters, and other renewable energy sources to reduce dependence on fossil fuels and power rural communities.**

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PROGRAMME COORDINATION

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Essential Qualifications

- Bachelor Degree or its equivalent, with considerable working experience in planning and executing the programmes related to subject of the programme.
- Must be subject specialist and related to the subject of the programme.
- Proficiency in spoken and written English language, as the medium of conducting the programme is English only and translation facilities into any other language would not be available.
- Preferably below 55 (fifty-Five) years of age with no participation in AARDO's offline programme over the last two years.
- Must be in good health to undergo the programme.

How to Apply

Log on to the link:
http://aardo.org/aardot.php
Fill up the details and submit.

Take print out of the filled in application form.

Sign the application and get recommendation letter from Nodal Ministry of AARDO

send it along with recommendation letter & passport to our email:
researchdivision_aardo2013@yahoo.com
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