# EU-Central America Dialogues on Sustainable Food Systems: Building Strategic Partnerships for Resilience and Sustainability

**Date**: 2022-03-22

**Location**: Location not specified

## Executive Summary

The European Union (EU) and Central America are collaborating to transition towards sustainable food systems, recognizing the significant impact of food systems on climate change and biodiversity loss. The dialogues aim to foster constructive exchanges and develop bi-regional strategies, focusing on key issues such as healthy soils, sustainable pesticide use, and food loss and waste. The first online workshop took place on March 22-23, 2022, involving policymakers and representatives from both regions, highlighting the importance of strategic partnerships in addressing global food security challenges exacerbated by recent crises. The initiative includes four sub-regional workshops, culminating in a bi-regional conference, reinforcing the commitment to sustainable agricultural practices and cooperation under the existing Association Agreement.

## Characteristics

* The EU-LAC Dialogues focus on accelerating the transition to sustainable food systems through strategic partnerships and constructive exchanges of ideas.
* The dialogues involve multiple workshops and a bi-regional conference, emphasizing collaboration between the EU and Central America.
* Key topics include sustainable agriculture, food loss and waste, and the sustainable use of pesticides.
* The initiative is part of the EU’s broader Farm to Fork Strategy and Green Deal, addressing climate change and environmental degradation.
* The dialogues aim to strengthen cooperation and identify common priorities between the EU and Central American countries.

## Actors

| Category | Actor |
| --- | --- |
| Political Actors | European Union; Secretariat for Central American Economic Integration; Ministries of Agriculture of the Central American governments; European Commission |
| Economic Actors | Central American Bank for Economic Integration |

## Main Themes

| Category | Subcategory |
| --- | --- |
| Inclusion & Social Development | Sustainable Digital Development |
| Regional & International Cooperation | EU-LAC Digital Alliance; EU-CELAC Digital Partnership |

## Practical Applications

* Ongoing EU-Latin America and the Caribbean Dialogues on Sustainable Food Systems, which include a series of workshops and a bi-regional conference aimed at promoting collaboration and sharing best practices.
* Established policy dialogues between the EU and Central America focusing on sustainable agriculture and food systems, with participation from EU representatives, Central American governments, and the private sector.
* Implementation of the EU Farm to Fork Strategy as part of the Green Deal, which addresses the sustainability of food systems and their impact on climate change and biodiversity.
* Active discussions on key elements such as healthy soils, sustainable use of pesticides, and food loss and waste during the workshops, aimed at developing bi-regional strategies for sustainable food systems.
* A decade-long Association Agreement between the EU and Central America that facilitates cooperation and exchange in building sustainable food systems.

## Commitments

* Conduct a total of four sub-regional workshops on Sustainable Food Systems.
* Hold a bi-regional conference expected to take place at the end of 2022.