**FAO and WFP convene forum in Dushanbe to advance climate-resilient agriculture in glacier-dependent regions**

***29 May 2025, Dushanbe*** – As glaciers in Central Asia — vital lifelines for ecosystems, agriculture, and communities — continue to melt at an unprecedented rate, global leaders, scientists, development partners, and youth activists are coming together to tackle one of the most urgent challenges of our time.

A high-level regional conference, jointly organized by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the United Nations World Food Programme (WFP), was held at the Hyatt Regency Hotel in Dushanbe under the theme: **"Agriculture in a Time of Glacier Loss: Addressing Droughts, Flooding, and Resilience in Glacier-Dependent Regions."**

The hybrid event brought together ministers, representatives from UN agencies, research institutions, youth organizations, and civil society from across Central Asia and beyond. The discussions spotlighted innovative, scalable solutions – from climate-smart agriculture and nature-based restoration to evidence-based policies for glacier preservation and sustainable agri-food systems.

Key issues addressed during the conference included the identification of effective water and climate adaptation strategies tailored to the specific needs of glacier-dependent ecosystems. Participants emphasized the importance of context-sensitive and resilient agricultural practices that support both livelihoods and environmental sustainability.

The event also underscored the need to integrate glacier protection into broader water, land, and climate agendas. Special attention was given to the role of youth-led innovations and the convergence of traditional knowledge with scientific expertise in shaping inclusive and forward-looking mountain policies.

Moreover, participants explored how cross-border and multisectoral collaboration can reduce climate-driven risks, prevent resource-related conflicts, and enhance peace and stability in fragile mountainous and downstream areas.

“Glacier loss is not a distant threat — it is an ongoing crisis that directly impacts agriculture, food security, and rural livelihoods throughout Central Asia,” said Aghasi Harutyunyan, FAO Representative a.i. in Tajikistan. “We must act collectively, both regionally and globally, to safeguard these fragile ecosystems and the millions of people who depend on them.”

The conference aimed to advance regional cooperation and deliver a unified message to global climate and development processes, including the UNFCCC, CBD, and HLPF. It also sought to catalyze new commitments and actions that will strengthen resilience and promote sustainable development in mountain regions.

Central Asia stands on the frontline of the global climate emergency. With more than 50 percent of the region’s glaciers projected to disappear by 2050, the water and food security of over 64 million people is at risk. This landmark event marks a critical step toward coordinated regional and international action to preserve mountain ecosystems and ensure a more resilient future for all