

The Committee on World Food Security (CFS), 39th Session, 2012, endorsed the following recommendations on Food Security and Climate Change.<sup>1</sup>



CFS reiterated its role in promoting greater policy convergence and coordination with regards to food security, and recognized that the adverse effects of climate change can pose serious threats to food security especially to small scale food producers' lives and livelihoods, and to the progressive realization of the right to food in the context of national food security, and urged action.

The Committee recognized:

- the responsibility of member states to ensure that their policies, programmes, actions and strategies are fully consistent with existing international obligations, including food security related commitments
- the role of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) as the key competent forum to deal with climate change and that this decision box does not prejudice efforts under the UNFCCC to address climate change
- the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20), in particular regarding food security and nutrition and sustainable agriculture.

Taking into account the urgent need for actions to address the effects of climate change on food security as well as the root causes of food insecurity in a manner coherent with the progressive realization of the right to food in the context of national food security, the Committee invited Member States, International Organizations and other CFS stakeholders, as appropriate, and recognizing the role of the UNFCCC:

i) to integrate climate change concerns in food security policies and programmes and to increase resilience of vulnerable groups and food systems

to climate change, emphasizing adaptation to climate change as a major concern and objective for all farmers and food producers, especially small-scale producers, including through:

- increasing public and private investment and international cooperation for enhancing food security in the face of climate change threats, in particular for adaptation to the adverse effects of climate change, sustainable use of natural resources, water management and soil conservation;
- developing national and local capacities to deal with food security-related climate change challenges, including improving extension services, and making available and accessible, weather and climate forecasting and risk management tools, in support of farmers' and small-scale food producers' networks and organizations (Member States, International Organizations)
- conducting assessments of risks, vulnerability and capacities, giving due consideration to gender and nutrition-sensitive perspectives, and improving and implementing early warning systems, especially in a coordinated manner (Member States, International Organizations)
- developing integrated land-use policies for food security and adaptation to climate change and, where appropriate, contributing to climate change mitigation considering the "Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible

**find out more...**

**Food Security and Climate Change  
by the High Level Panel of  
Experts on Food Security  
& Nutrition**



**CFS policy recommendations  
download centre**  
[http://www.fao.org/cfs/  
downloads/](http://www.fao.org/cfs/downloads/)



<sup>1</sup> Excerpt from the CFS 39 Final Report

Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests in the Context of National Food Security” in accordance with nationally defined priorities; (Member States);

- integrating climate change adaptation and disaster risk management in food security policies and programmes (Member States, International Organizations)
- implementing relevant initiatives, such as for example FAO-Adapt, as appropriate, to strengthen support to countries’ efforts toward climate change adaptation (International Organizations).

ii) to create conditions to facilitate access to genetic resources for food and agriculture and the fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising from their use for example by:

- recognizing the importance of the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture and of the Nagoya Protocol adopted by the 10th Conference of Parties (COP) of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD);
- inviting the FAO Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture to continue and strengthen its work on climate change and genetic resources including conservation and use of genetic resources for adaptation to climate change (Member States);

iii. to develop agricultural strategies that take into account:

- a. the need to respond to climate change and to safeguard food security;
  - b. the diversity of agricultural conditions and systems; and
  - c. the countries’ and regions’ specific levels of development, needs, contexts and priorities, including by:
- taking into account gender-sensitive and participatory approaches that enable both men and women to gain equitable access to land use, information, and resources when addressing food security in the context of climate change;
  - encouraging farmers in adopting good practices, including, inter alia, farming and grazing practices to prevent land degradation and loss of soil

carbon, increasing the efficiency of nitrogen use, improving livestock productivity and the use of manure, improving water management, and increasing the use of agro-forestry;

- providing multi-stakeholder country-led assessments and research for agricultural development strategies to face the adverse effects of climate change, taking into account differences between agricultural systems, farming practices, and regional, national and local conditions;
- promoting efficiencies in the food chain and the reduction of post-harvest losses and food waste in a sustainable manner (Member States in partnership with private sector and civil society).

iv. to enhance research, including farmer-led research, and improve information collection and sharing by:

- increasing international cooperation and public and private investment for research, on climate change adaptation and mitigation in order to favour alignment with sustainable development and food security and nutrition including the adaptation needs of small scale producers;
- fostering exchanges of information among research programs on climate change and food security (Member States, International Organizations );

v. to facilitate, as appropriate, participation of all stakeholders in food security policies and programmes to address climate change recognizing the contribution of all farmers and food producers, especially small-scale producers, to food security, by:

- encouraging multi-stakeholder fora at local, national and regional levels to promote broad participation of local communities and the most vulnerable groups, as well as the private sector, in decision-making processes;
- supporting CSOs, notably those representing the most hunger-affected populations, small-scale producers’ organizations, and women farmers’ organizations, to participate in decision making and the implementation of food security policies and programmes to address climate change.

vi. to support the consideration of food security within the UNFCCC activities, in accordance with its mandate and in the context of the objectives, principles and provisions of that convention, by:

- inviting FAO to continue collaboration with the UNFCCC Secretariat including through the provision of sound technical information on food security issues;
- inviting the CFS Secretariat to transmit for information the HLPE report on Food Security and Climate Change and the present document of the CFS to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) and to the UNFCCC Secretariat.



#### **POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS**

CFS is the foremost inclusive international and inter-governmental platform for all stakeholders to work together in a coordinated way to ensure food security and nutrition for all. CFS endorses policy recommendations on a wide range of food security and nutrition topics.

#### **CFS WEBSITE AND CONTACT**

<http://www.fao.org/cfs>

[cfs@fao.org](mailto:cfs@fao.org)