

FAO'S RESPONSE TO CLIMATE CHANGE

From global impact assessments to national and local action, FAO promotes adaptation and mitigation in agriculture, fishery, forestry and other sectors as an integral part of development. FAO integrates adaptation and mitigation into agricultural and food security planning and policy advice, including institutional and technical capacity building. FAO advocates better targeting of the agricultural sectors within financing and technology transfer mechanisms, including incentives for adaptation-mitigation synergies and environmental services. In this context, FAO actively supports the UNFCCC process.

Knowledge management and sharing

FAO plays an active role in raising awareness, disseminating information and providing a neutral forum for discussion. Current activities include:

- **Forum for discussion:** Fostering technical and policy-relevant discussions on climate change issues through its Regional Commissions, conferences, stakeholder forums and wide range of collaborative partnerships on global issues and key programmes.
- **Data management:** Managing climate change related databases and data harmonization, e.g. through the Global Forest Resources Assessment (www.fao.org/forestry/fra), the Global Terrestrial Observation System (www.fao.org/gtos), the Global Land Cover Network (www.glcn.org), and agroclimate databases (www.fao.org/nr/climpag).
- **Communication and awareness raising:**
 - ◇ Sharing knowledge related to climate change and the agricultural sectors through publications, Web sites, e-newsletters, discussion forums, audiovisuals (e.g. film "Forests and climate change: a convenient truth" produced in partnership with the UK Forestry Commission) and national activities during World Food Day 2008 (www.fao.org/getinvolved/worldfoodday).
 - ◇ Fostering communication strategies and tools to support climate change adaptation in rural areas through the "Communication for Sustainable Development Initiative".
 - ◇ Developing of activities and programmes to raise awareness and involve children and youth in climate change related issues with other UN agencies (including the UNFCCC and UNICEF) and civil society organizations (www.fao.org/climatechange/youth).

High Level Conference on climate change and food security

In June 2008, FAO, together with IFAD, WFP and the CGIAR system, convened a High-Level Conference on World Food Security: the Challenges of Climate Change and Bioenergy. On climate change, the Declaration adopted by 181 countries indicates: "It is essential to address the question of how to increase the resilience of present food production systems to challenges posed by climate change [...] We urge governments to assign appropriate priority to the agriculture, forestry and fisheries sectors, in order to create opportunities to enable the world's smallholder farmers and fishers, including indigenous people, in particular in vulnerable areas, to participate in, and benefit from financial mechanisms and investment flows to support climate change adaptation, mitigation and technology development, transfer and dissemination. We support the establishment of agricultural systems and sustainable management practices that positively contribute to the mitigation of climate change and ecological balance."

www.fao.org/foodclimate

Country support

FAO supports countries through cross-sectoral field projects and programmes related to impact assessment, climate change adaptation and mitigation and the development of policy guidelines. Activities include:

- **Mainstreaming:** Integrating climate change adaptation and mitigation strategies into agricultural, fisheries, forest management and national food security plans and programmes, e.g. through the Pacific Programme for Food Security and Sustainable Livelihoods.
- **Impact assessment:** Assessing the impacts of climate change on agriculture and food security, e.g. in Morocco and several Low-Income Food-Deficit Countries (LIFDC). Exploring the links between gender, climate variability and adaptive responses and developing a methodology for gender sensitive adaptation, e.g. in India.
- **Capacity Building:** Enhancing national and local capacities in agriculture, livestock, forestry and fisheries for disaster risk reduction, climate risk management and climate change adaptation through community participation in Bangladesh and Nepal and through the Global Initiative for Plant Breeding to develop drought-, flood- and salt- resistant crop varieties.

UN-REDD Programme

FAO-UNDP-UNEP jointly launched a collaborative programme on reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation (REDD) to assist developing countries prepare and implement national REDD strategies and support development of standardized approaches for a REDD instrument linked with the UNFCCC.

www.un-redd.net

Technology transfer

Introduction of more sustainable cropping, livestock, forestry and fisheries management systems linking the need for increased agricultural production with environmental concerns as well as climate change adaptation and mitigation. Examples include:

- promotion of conservation agriculture in Central America and the Caribbean, Central and East Asia and in Southern and Eastern Africa; regional programmes on organic agriculture and climate change in the Pacific Island Countries and Africa; promotion of conservation and use of indigenous and locally adapted plant and animal biodiversity in Asia and Africa;
- irrigation modernization programmes: www.watercontrol.org/about/about.htm;
- promotion of sustainable rangeland and forage management in Africa, Latin America and Central Asia and the Livestock, Environment and Development Initiative (www.fao.org/ag/againfo/programmes/en/lead/lead.html);
- promotion of improved use of biogas technology, especially in Asia and Latin America;
- pilot project on the potential of Payments for Environmental Services for climate change mitigation in agropastoral systems;
- implementation of the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries and the ecosystem approach to fisheries and aquaculture;
- facilitating sustainable forest management by supporting implementation of guidelines for best forestry practices, e.g. for fire management, reduced impact logging, forest law enforcement, etc;
- involvement in projects covering 16 countries under the thematic window "Environment and climate change" of the UNDP-Spain MDG Achievement Fund.