

Tuesday, 13 October 18:00– 19:30

Red Room

How to reconcile climate change and food security? The run up to the 2015 Paris Climate Conference

#23

ORGANIZERS

France

Morocco

FAO

Abstract: Our capacity to feed 9.5 billion people in 2050 and achieve the right to food for all in the context of climate change will depend on our ability to adapt and transform our food system to be fairer, more resilient and more sustainable. As family farmers are the first and most affected by both hunger’s challenges and the consequences of climate change, innovations in and support to family farming are crucial to transform agriculture. To set the scene in the run up to the 2015 Paris Climate Conference the side event will explain the threats and opportunities that climate change poses to agriculture and food security, and demonstrate the key role of agriculture, in terms of adaptation and mitigation. The particular nexus between food security, soils and climate change will be presented and concrete solutions that already exist in this field will be laid out, such as the “4 pour 1000” initiative that aims to increase soil carbon sequestration in order to improve soil quality and fertility while absorbing and reducing the rate of carbon in the air.

KEYWORDS: Climate change , Family farmers , Agroecology , Soil

Languages: EN, FR, SP

Refreshments

Summary:

Key speakers

- M. José GRAZIANO DA SILVA, Director General of FAO
- Mr. Stéphane LE FOLL, Minister of Agriculture, Agrifood and Forest, France
- Mr. Mohamed EL GUERROUJ, General Director of ADA (Agence pour le Développement Agricole), Morocco
- Mrs. Hilal ELVER, UN Special Rapporteur for the Right to Food
- Mr. Lapodini ATOUGA , Commissioner of Agriculture, Environment and Water resources of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS),

The side-event “How to reconcile the Climate Change agenda with Food Security objectives? The run up to the 2015 Paris Climate Conference”, co-organized by France, Morocco and FAO staged a high-level dialogue on the importance, challenges and solutions for a transformational role of agriculture in the context of climate change, both adaptation and mitigation, given the need to ensure today’s and tomorrow’s food security. It called for a international mobilization in terms of ambition and initiatives in agriculture to strengthen food security and agriculture, in the light of the upcoming COP 21.

M. José GRAZIANO DA SILVA highlighted that climate change threatens to undermine our ability to eradicate extreme poverty and hunger by 2030, and pointed to the central role of agriculture in responding to this challenge. He called for a change of paradigm to promote a more productive, a more inclusive and a more resilient agriculture. He insisted on the importance of supporting adaptation in the agricultural sectors as a strategy for improving food security in a changing climate. He stressed that FAO is ready to support its member countries to respond to this monumental challenge.

M. Stéphane LE FOLL called for a large mobilization to guarantee a successful COP 21. He insisted on the need for a “double Green revolution” in which agriculture will go through an transition towards being grounded on a full use of the wide range of ecological functions of agro-systems. He explained that the Agroecology project in France is one of the vectors for this ecological transition.

He presented the “4 per 1000: Soils for food security and climate” initiative “ aiming at both improving food security, enhancing adaptation to climate change and participating to climate change mitigation through strengthening carbon sequestration in soils. This is an international and multi-partnership initiative with two parts (research and actions).

Finally, he announced the organization during the COP 21, together with FAO, of an “Action Day” Focus on agriculture, on December 1st in the framework of the Lima Paris Action Agenda (LPAA) and invited initiatives and strong participation.

Mr. Lapodini Marc ATOUGA, the Commissioner of Agriculture, Environment and Water resources of the Economic Community of West

African States (ECOWAS) presented the main actions and policies set up by ECOWAS in the agricultural sector so as to deal with climate change in the region. He mentioned reforestation, capacity building, extension, among others. He also mentioned ECOWAS' support to the "4 per mil initiative".

Mr. Mohamed EL GUERROUJ, General Director of ADA (Agence pour le Développement Agricole), Morocco, explained how the "Green Morocco Plan" brings concrete solutions so as to adapt agriculture to climate changes. He also recall the ambition of Morocco and France, in line with the declaration of Tangier, to articulate the COP22 with COP 21 during their respective presidencies.

Mrs. Hilal ELVER, Special Rapporteur of the Right to Food, insisted on the Human rights dimension and the importance to consider local communities livelihoods when discussing on agricultural policies to address climate change.

In conclusion, the panelists called on the need for an ambitious agreement at the upcoming COP 21. The Moderator, H.E. M. Serge TOMASI, French Ambassador/Permanent Representative to FAO, underlined once more the importance of Climate change and our common responsibility to tackle this challenge. He expressed his disappointment on the fact that the climate change had not been included in the plenary itself neither in the CFS programme of work for the two coming years.