



منتدى التغيرات المناخية

Forum sur les changements climatiques
Climate Change Forum



IFAD's Role in Climate Change

The International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) is a specialized agency of the United Nations, whose mission is to enable poor rural people to overcome poverty. Agriculture is the main source of livelihood for most poor rural people, and it is also the human activity most directly affected by climate change. In response to the growing magnitude of climate change, IFAD is increasingly integrating adaptation strategies into its operations and contributes to mitigation programs in a way that make it beneficial to poor rural people.

On the international scene IFAD plays an active role on climate change policy issues and is one of the main organizations seeking to reach a broad inclusion of the AFOLU sector in a post-2012 agreement. Together with the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), IFAD submitted a document under the AWG-LCA entitled “Financing Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation in the Agriculture and Forestry Sectors”. The main goal of this document is to “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” (FAO, IFAD, 2008).

IFAD also had a special participation in the Barcelona Climate Change Talks 2009, the last meeting before Copenhagen, with a presentation entitled “Turning climate change challenges into opportunities for sustainable rural development” (Global Donor Platform, 2009).

Beside its policy role, IFAD has direct action in the field with projects focusing on climate change adaptation/mitigation, some of them in the NENA region. IFAD has one special unit, the Global Environment and Climate Change unit (GECC), created to address climate change issues and promote low-carbon and climate-resilient investments in the country portfolios.

The CLIMTRAIN project is a training programme created by the GECC unit aimed at strengthening and sharing of in-house knowledge on climate change issues in the context of rural development. The Global Environment Facility (GEF), one of the main financial mechanisms for addressing climate change, also represents a strategic partner for IFAD.

The Global Mechanism (GM), an organization focused on combating desertification through the promotion of sustainable development through land management, is hosted by IFAD since 1997.

IFAD ADAPTATION PROJECTS

China - Support to a weather-based index insurance project to help poor farmers.

Cameroon, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Equatorial Guinea and Nigeria – Support to the World Agroforestry Centre Tree Domestication Programme, helping thousands of farmers benefit from the sale of fruit and medicinal trees products on fragile ecosystems such as hillsides.

Mauritius and Rodrigues islands - IFAD-funded programme provides communities in fishing methods that do not damage coral reefs or deplete fish stock.

Morocco - Rehabilitation programme to improve rangeland productivity, soil cover, rehabilitation of medicinal and aromatic plants and improved soil water infiltration in rangelands degraded by drought and overgrazing.

Eritrea - Implementation of “spate irrigation” areas, a form of water harvesting; flash flood risk management for crop and livestock production; spread of drought-resilient crops seeds.

Jordan - Soil and water conservation activities, building of anti-erosion stone walls and terraces; support to the building of more than 1,000 cisterns to collect winter rainfall irrigation water.

IFAD MITIGATION PROJECTS

Himalayas and Yemen - Support to reforestation projects.

China - Set up of solar power systems; installation of small-scale biogas digesters providing energy supply for lighting and cooking

Eritrea - Installation of small-scale biogas digesters and provision of 11 500 units of energy-saving stoves to poor communities, reducing the deforestation pressure and providing a good quality fertilizer; promotion of afforestation / reforestation activities, sustainable land management and Catchments recovery generating soil carbon sequestration.

Rwanda - Implementation of 4 500 ha of Agroforestry systems that help controlling erosion and improve yields.

Niger - Assisted tree regeneration programme helping on 100 000 ha that help reducing damage from sandstorms, restoring soil fertility and sequestering carbon.

Sudan - Promotion of Gum Arabic plantations.

IFAD is expanding its grant and loan portfolio for projects that reward poor people for ecosystem services. Since 2001, IFAD has supported a grant programme in South East Asia that has had a significant impact on secure access to land, watershed protection and biodiversity conservation. A grant programme focusing on Africa will address carbon emissions and avoided deforestation.

IFAD supports research institutes and other bodies to test, adapt and disseminate technology to help climate-proof agriculture and multiply its partnerships with research institutes such as the International Institute of Tropical Agriculture in Benin, Cameroon, Côte d’Ivoire, Ghana, Nigeria and Togo; or the International Centre for Maize and Wheat Improvement in sub-Saharan Africa. IFAD has also supported the development of NERICA, a new rice variety that combines the hardiness of local African rice species with the high productivity of Asian rice.

In the NENA region, IFAD has several projects not mentioned above located in Algeria, Egypt, West Bank and Gaza, and Syria with activities mostly related to soil and water conservation, watershed management, improvement of water-use efficiency, sustainable irrigation systems, combat desertification, management of sylvo-pastoral ecosystems and reforestation.

References

<http://www.ifad.org/climate/>

http://unfccc.int/parties_observers/igo/submissions/items/3714.php

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Global Donor Platform for Rural Development, 2009 – Platform issue Papers No. 7.