



COMMITTEE ON COMMODITY PROBLEMS (CCP) Side Event

“Achieving sustainable productivity growth in the context of climate change”

Wednesday, 26 September 2018
12:45-14:15 hours
FAO, Sheikh Zayed Centre

Climate change will have increasing implications for agriculture and food security worldwide. Higher average temperatures, changes in precipitation, rising sea levels, an increase in the frequency and intensity of extreme weather events, as well as the increase in damage from pests and disease, are expected to affect crop and livestock productions as well as fisheries and aquaculture. The impacts will be most adverse in low-latitude regions, where most developing and least developed countries are located, and where millions of people depend on agriculture for their livelihood and are vulnerable to hunger and food insecurity.

In 2015, world leaders acknowledged the need to address this threat. They negotiated, under the aegis of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), the Paris Agreement on climate change, which recognizes “the fundamental priority of safeguarding food security and ending hunger, and the particular vulnerabilities of food production systems to the adverse effects of climate change”.

To meet demand, agriculture in 2050 will need to produce almost 50 percent more food, feed and fuel than in 2012. In sub-Saharan African and South Asia, for instance, agricultural output would need to more than double by 2050. Meeting the increased demand should not be a major challenge, if historical achievements can serve as a guide. However, because of climate change, maintaining the pace of past productivity growth may be more difficult.

Climate change features centrally within FAO, where in addition to being the Biennial Theme for 2018-2019, it is also the focus of the 2018 edition of FAO’s flagship publication The State of Agricultural Commodity Markets (SOCO), which examines the climate-trade-food security nexus. Likewise, the OECD is exploring possible market and price impacts of climate change and developing policy recommendations for adaptation and mitigation.

Provisional Programme

Chairperson:

Ambassador François Pythoud
Permanent Representative of Switzerland to FAO

Speakers:

- Mr. Alan Matthews
Professor Emeritus of European Agricultural Policy, Trinity College Dublin
- Mr. Franck Jesus
Head of the Natural Resources Policy Division, OECD
- Ms. Ada Ignaciuk
Senior Economist, Agricultural Development Economics Division, FAO
- Mr. Zitouni Oulddada
Deputy Director, Climate and Environment Division, FAO

The event aims to improve understanding of how climate change will affect the food and agricultural sectors and, in particular, its ability to generate sustainable productivity growth and the role of trade as both an adaptation and mitigation tool. The event will survey the ongoing work on climate change and related topics, including, but are not limited to, climate-smart agriculture, sustainable productivity growth, agricultural investment and international trade.