

Webinar: **Climate change impacts on food security and nutrition now and in the future**

31 March 2015

Takeaways

The webinar explored and discussed the climate change, food security and nutrition nexus. A panel of international experts presented the different dimensions of this issue revealing how climate change is making it harder to feed the world's growing population and what can be done to prepare farmers around the world for the challenges ahead. Below are highlights from the presentations, please refer to the slides and recordings for more information both on the MICCA webpage and the FSN forum:

www.fao.org/climatechange/micca/88950/ and www.fao.org/fsnforum/news/climate-change-FSN

Kaisa Karttunen, Senior Natural Resources Officer, FAO:

Introduced the topic of the webinar and highlighted that:

- Food security in its four pillars, nutrition and climate change are closely interlinked.
- Tackling the root causes of climate change at a national level and in all sectors is important if development goals are to be met.
- Smarter agriculture and food systems can be part of the solution to climate change. Climate-smart agricultural approach promotes site-specific production practices, e.g. agroforestry, reduced deforestation, sustainable crop and grazing land management, improved livestock and manure management, soil and water conservation and sustainable land and water management.

Cristina Tirado, Adjunct Associate Professor, University of California Los Angeles, Institute of Environment and Sustainability, USA:

Provided an overview of how climate change affects nutrition and vice versa, specifically:

- Nutrition-sensitive adaptation strategies (e.g. integrated farming systems, sustainable diets and sustainable food systems) bring co-benefits to health and the environment.
- Including nutrition indicators in planning and programming is critical if sustainable development goals are to be reached.

Agricultural extension services are needed to support the necessary changes in production systems.

Aikaterini Kavallari, Economist, FAO:

Presented a model that helps to foresee changes in global food security. She concluded that climate change is expected to raise the prices of commodities and these effects will vary by region. Further, climate change effects will be more regionally-specific and unpredictable, making it necessary to design models in each biophysical and socio-economic context

Hideki Kanamaru, Natural Resources Officer, FAO:

Presented the projected impacts of climate change on natural resources, including the impact on water management, on forestry, on crop and livestock farming systems, as well as on nutrition. Adaptation planning and impact assessments need to be in place to meet the information needs of stakeholders.

Florence Egal, Food Security and Nutrition expert:

Highlighted three important issues related to climate change food security and nutrition:

- **The local dimension:** assessing climate change depends on many factors; the local production system, ecosystem and culture. There is the need to go beyond the 'commodity' approach – you don't eat commodities you eat diets!
- **Root causes:** When assessing factors that induce climate change, it is fundamental to look at the root causes. For example not just assessing how many mangrove forests have been cut down but why?
- **Nutrition and climate change are a similar issue:** Areas most affected by extreme weather events are those with the most poverty, food insecurity and malnutrition. It is therefore important to get people from different entry points to work together to find a strategy to adapt to climate change and tackle malnutrition particularly by building the capacity of local institutions.

130 participants took part in the webinar and expressed interest in the following areas:

- How the impacts of climate change on agriculture and nutrition in different regions can be effectively measured and predicted.
- The health impacts and greenhouse gas emissions caused by various kinds of production systems and diets (e.g. in regards to use of animal protein).
- The relationship between sustainable agriculture, agroecology and climate-smart agriculture and their potential impacts on nutrition.

The participants were hoping to share more examples of best practices of CSA, with a special focus in food security, gender aspects and existing traditional knowledge systems.