



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations



FAST
Food and Agriculture
for Sustainable
Transformation Initiative



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FAST

Introduction

The world's agriculture and food systems, in short agrifood systems, are increasingly vulnerable to climate change. The evidence on the impacts of climate change on agrifood systems is growing worldwide, which are more prominently in developing countries: rising temperatures, heat waves, droughts and floods, changes in rainfall patterns and extreme events affect agriculture more than any other sector. These reduce yields, cause damages, and induce changes in land suitability for agriculture. New pests and diseases appear where they were unknown. Climate change exacerbates the risks of hunger and malnutrition among the most vulnerable groups. In this context, with less than eight years left until 2030, the urgency to address climate change is increasing.

Agrifood systems across the world offer a unique opportunity to address climate change from two perspectives. One, by building resilience across agrifood systems, we ensure their adaptation to climate change. At the same time, sustainable agricultural systems offer many opportunities to reduce greenhouse gases emissions. Implementation of climate resilient agrifood systems requires political will, international cooperation, generation and exchange of knowledge and best practices, as well as financial resources to support producers and value chain actors across the world to operate the necessary transformations.

Recent assessments¹ show that availability and access to climate finance at both farm and country levels remains largely insufficient. Addressing this need, the aspirational goal of FAST is to implement concrete actions that would result in **improving the quantity and quality of climate finance contributions to transform agriculture and food systems by 2030, to support adaptation and maintain a 1.5-degree pathway whilst supporting food and economic security**. The FAST initiative will be a multi-stakeholder partnership acting as an accelerator to transform agrifood systems to deliver triple wins: for people, for climate and for nature. FAST is designed as a catalyst, building on ongoing global and regional initiatives and coalitions to drive effective actions, and avoiding duplication.

¹ CPI-IFAD. 2020. [Examining the Climate Finance Gap for Small-Scale Agriculture](#); FAO. 2022. [Climate finance in the agriculture and land use sector between 2000-2019 - Special update](#); FAO. 2021. [Climate finance in the agriculture and land use sector - global and regional trends between 2000 and 2018](#); IFPRI. 2022. [Climate finance: Funding sustainable food systems transformation](#).

Governance

FAO, in collaboration with other UN agencies, will play the role of a neutral facilitator, providing the objectivity, independence and credibility that are prerequisites for the success of the FAST initiative. Guiding principles for implementation aim to ensure the effective delivery of agreed outputs, with initial principles identified through a series of multi-stakeholder consultations and in partnership with the High-Level Champions under the Marrakech Partnership. Details will be part of the Terms of Reference of the initiative to be discussed and finalized during the inception year, towards its launch at COP27.

Initial guiding principles by the FAST initiative

Ensuring that the food security dimension and the diversity of the agrifood systems are reflected in the activities.

Empowering and engaging women, youth, Indigenous Peoples, and people in vulnerable situations.

Ensuring the best available science and innovation are considered, including local knowledge and practices.

Promoting a holistic vision, considering the 2030 Agenda and its Sustainable Development Goals for tradeoffs and synergies, to unlock the entire potential and needs for more sustainable agrifood systems.

Promoting peer-to-peer exchanges.

Ensuring wide and balanced stakeholder engagement, including scientific, financial, and civil society partners alongside governments.

Ensuring flexible engagement of member countries, according to their interests, priorities and needs.

Coordinating and collaborating with on-going global and regional initiatives and partnerships to maximize synergies and avoid duplications of efforts.



FAST will be developed as a multi-stakeholder cooperation programme with annual meetings of members to agree on a work programme. Concrete deliverables focus initially on 3 pillars: **1) access to finance pillar:** enhance country capacities to identify and access climate finance and investment; **2) knowledge and capacity pillar:** provide the necessary analyses, developing voluntary guidelines and supporting capacity development; and **3) policy supports and dialogues pillar:** ensure agrifood systems are fully embedded, and given the needed priority and importance, in climate change policies, such as Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC), National Adaptation Plans (NAP) or Long-term Low Emissions and Development Strategies (LT-LEDS). Ad-hoc technical advisory groups can be set up to ensure responsiveness and efficiency, and for the timely delivery of mutually agreed high-quality outputs.



Access to finance pillar

Aim	Enhance country capacities to identify and access climate finance and investment.
How	<ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Collect, analyze, and synthesize data on the climate finance and investment for agrifood systems.➤ Identify best opportunities for countries to receive needed support and assistance.➤ Identify subsector gaps and prioritize urgent underfunded adaptation needs of small-scale producers.➤ Enhance mechanism for matchmaking of priority and bankable projects, ideas, and needs, with multi-stakeholders financing and donors, ensuring that finance flows reach projects and organizations in priority regions.➤ Develop a roadmap for increasing financing with metrics and indicators to measure progress.➤ Help bilateral/multilateral funders and governments better understand the solutions in their programs.➤ Explore pathways to better mobilize private sector funding sources.



Knowledge and capacity pillar

Aim	Provide necessary analyses, develop voluntary guidelines and support capacity development across stakeholders.
How	<ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Provide a platform for harvesting, sharing, and disseminating knowledge, good practices and lessons learned on climate action within agrifood systems.➤ Enhance countries capacity to assess the impacts of climate change on Nexus Water, Food, and Energy (NWFE).➤ Assess and stocktake no-regrets options.➤ Develop guidelines, datasets, tools, harmonized approaches and recommendation, and metrics.➤ Set up of knowledge clusters based on members' interest, to reinforce existing process of assessment, guidance, and knowledge-sharing, such as the FAO's Climate Change Knowledge Hub.➤ Support the development of innovations combining technology, knowledge and financial engineering to unlock financing for the sector.



Policy support and dialogue pillar

Aim	Ensure agrifood systems are fully embedded, and given the needed priority and importance, in climate change policies.
How	<ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Analyze and synthesize the role of agrifood systems current policies to facilitate a better understanding of country priorities, challenges, and support needs.➤ Identify the "gaps" and "opportunities" for enhancing adaptation and mitigation policies, including considering the regional specificities.➤ Develop a science-based vision at the global and national levels and mobilize a high ambition collaboration platform to act.➤ Advocate, outreach, and communicate.

Collaborations

Build on, partner with, and complement the most relevant global initiatives, networks, and coalitions for each of the activities (see annex below).

Build on, partner with, and complement well established regional initiatives and networks across the different continents (Africa, Near East, Asia, Pacific, Latin America and the Caribbean) (see annex below).

Establish a COP-to-COP engagement with successive COP presidency team to ensure FAST remains high in their respective agenda.

Annex

Identified relevant global initiatives, networks, and coalitions (provisory list to be updated).

Global level

The Adaptation Action Coalition	The IFI Harmonization of Standards for GHG accounting Task Force	The Special Funds (SSCF, LDCF, Adaptation Fund) and the Financial Mechanism (GEF, GCF) under the UNFCCC
The Agriculture Innovation Mission for Climate (AIM4Climate)	The international “ 4 per 1000 ” Initiative: Soils for Food Security and Climate	The Task Force on climate-related Financial Disclosures (TCFD)
The Climate and Clean Air Coalition (CCAC)	The International Development Finance Club (IDFC)	The Thematic Working Group on Agriculture, Food Security and Land Use
The Climate Investment Coalition (CIC)	The International Platform on adaptation Metrics (IPAM)	The U.S. Government’s global hunger and food security initiative: Feed the Future
The Food Action Alliance	The Just Rural Transition Initiative	The United Nations Food Systems Summit coalitions
The Food and Land Use Coalition	The Livestock Environmental Assessment and Performance Partnership (LEAP)	The USA President’s Emergency Plan for Adaptation and Resilience (PREPARE)
The Food Forward Consortium	The Policy Dialogue on Accelerating Transition to Sustainable Agriculture	The WIPO Green database
The Glasgow Breakthrough on Agriculture	The Public Development Bank (PDB) Platform for Green and Inclusive Food Systems	The World Farmers’ Organization (WFO)
The Global Donor Platform for Rural Development	The relevant International financial institution such as Multilateral Development Banks	The World Benchmarking Alliance
The Global Leaders Declaration on Forests and Land Use		The Global Alliance for the Future of Food (GAFF)
The Global Methane Pledge (GMP)		
The Global Research Alliance on Agricultural Greenhouse Gases		
The Good Food Finance Network		

Regional level

The ICLEI (Local Governments for Sustainability) network across the regions	The ASEAN Climate Resilience Network
The regional Farmers’ organization across the continents	The SAMOA Pathways
The African Adaptation Initiative (AAI)	The Platform of Latin America and the Caribbean for Climate Action on Agriculture (PLACA)
The Adaptation of African Agriculture (AAA) Initiative	The Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA)
The Forum for Agricultural Research in Africa (FARA)	



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