

Prioritizing Climate Resilience: Building a New Policy Consensus with Smallholder Farmers

Key speakers
<p>Opening remarks:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Mr. Dirk Schattschneider, Chair of the GAFSP Steering Committee and Deputy Director General, Federal Ministry of Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) <p>Presenters:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ms. Carin Smaller, Director for Agriculture & Investment, International Institute for Sustainable Development (IISD) – Ceres2030• Dr. Madhur Gautam, Lead Agriculture Economist, Agriculture and Food Global Practice, World Bank <p>Panelists:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Dr. Patrick Kormawa, Adviser to the Minister of Agriculture, Sierra Leone• Mr. Shamsul Alom, Additional Director, Department of Agricultural Extension, Ministry of Agriculture, Bangladesh• Mr. Musa Sowe, Vice-President, The Network of Peasant Organizations and Agricultural Producers in West Africa (ROPPA)• Ms. Chintanaphone Keovichit (Noy), Coordinator, Lao PDR Farmer Network• Ms. Constance Okeke, Project Manager for Public Finance of Agriculture, ActionAid International <p>Discussants:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ms. Asma Lateef, Policy and Advocacy Lead, SDG2 Advocacy Hub• Ms. Kathryn Hollifield, Program Manager, Global Agriculture and Food Security Program (GAFSP) <p>Moderator:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ms. Bettina Prato, Senior Coordinator for the Smallholder and Agri-SME Finance and Investment Network (SAFIN)
Main Objectives
<p>This event explored the global evidence on the agricultural financing gap needed to reach Sustainable Development Goal (SDG2) by 2030, while also highlighting smallholder farmers' experiences that could inform a roadmap to guide investments towards more sustainable and climate-resilient agriculture that improves smallholder farmers' livelihoods, productivity, and nutrition outcomes.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Highlight the importance of financing and investment to boost smallholder farmers' climate resilience and meet ambitious climate and development goals.• Achieve consensus on the key actions driving change for smallholder farmers, particularly the role of financing impactful investments for climate-resilient and locally led climate solutions.• Build momentum towards a shared policy agenda by engaging a wide range of stakeholders on needed actions and investments.
Summary of key points

Introductory remarks by the GAFSP Steering Committee Chair highlighted Germany's commitment to fight climate change and end global hunger, and the role that GAFSP could play in this process.

"We, as BMZ and Germany, will continue to fight against climate change and to end the global hunger, as illustrated by the One World No Hunger Initiative. And GAFSP is a key partner for us to achieve the SDG2."

Mr. Dirk Schattschneider

Chair of the GAFSP Steering Committee

Deputy Director General, Federal Ministry of Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ)

Scene setting

Following the introductory remarks, the representative from the **Ceres2030** initiative presented evidence from the recent Ceres2030 report, noting that the donors must double their current resources spent on agriculture and food security. More specifically, she noted that an additional USD 33 billion per year investment is needed by 2030 (USD 14 billion from donors and USD 19 billion from governments), to move 500 million people out of hunger, double the incomes and productivity of 545 million small-scale producers, and maintain greenhouse gas emission targets. The speaker also discussed the ways to support smallscale farmers adopt new climate resilient technologies and drought resistance crops, while providing sufficient training and extension services.

Ceres2030 intervention was followed by the presentation from the **World Bank**, where the speaker discussed a report by IFPRI and the World Bank on repurposing agricultural policies and support for a healthier planet, people, and economies. He noted that with growing global demand for food, coupled with high vulnerability to climate change, the need to align incentives to make agriculture more productive, sustainable, and nutrition sensitive is critical. However, the food system transformation requires a systemic shift. He noted that the best option moving forward is to repurpose support towards enhancing productivity, especially emission efficient technologies/practices, which has large triple-win payoffs in terms of climate, poverty, and food security. He also discussed the ways the World Bank is supporting countries identify context specific reform options through evidence-based policy dialogue.

Panel discussion

The scene setting section was followed by a lively panel discussion between policy makers, smallholder farmers, and civil society representatives. In their interventions all panelists spoke about the need to invest in agriculture, in order to strengthen smallholder farmers' resilience against climate change.

Speaking from the perspective of policy makers, **Sierra Leone** and **Bangladesh** government representatives shared their country's experiences in scaling up climate-resilience agriculture. The Advisor from **Sierra Leone** noted that the approaches piloted under the GAFSP project have led to formal adaptation of various actions by the government. He highlighted the catalytic nature of technology in the modern day agriculture, the urgency to support private sector to gain more prominence in the agricultural sector, as well as the importance of nexus between technology, knowledge, and partnerships to move the development agenda forward. Additionally, the Director from **Bangladesh** spoke about the policies that his government have implemented, largely thanks

to the success of the GAFSP funded Missing Middle Initiative (MMI) project. Specifically, he pointed out the government's to mainstream the MMI approach of building strong producer organizations across the country to promote inclusive finance among smallholder farmers.

The ensuing discussion between the farmer organization and civil society representatives highlighted smallholder farmers' experiences in the context of climate change. The speaker from **ROPFA** stressed the need to invest in human capital and research and extension services to address the climate crisis. Additionally, he highlighted the necessity for adequate infrastructure for post-harvest management and the need to provide business and entrepreneurship support to smallholder farmers. **Lao PDR Farmer Network** representative spoke about the complex ways climate change is impacting smallholder farmers in Lao PDR and highlighted the urgency with which we need to act to address climate crisis. She also spoke about the creative actions farmers are implementing to address these challenges. As a representative of civil society, the speaker from **ActionAid International** discussed the challenges faced by female farmers, including climate change and access to finance. Additionally, she discussed the immediate priorities to build climate resilience among female farmers. She urged governments to put female smallholder farmers at the forefront of all agriculture financing related discussions.

The event then concluded by remarks from the organizing team - GAFSP and the SDG2 Advocacy Hub. **The SDG Advocacy Hub** representative reiterated the need to build a new policy consensus with smallholder farmers to prioritize their climate resilience, and ensure that they are at the center of all the new commitments and policies that are put into place. The Program Manager of the **GAFSP** highlighted the critical role that the inclusive nature of the Program plays in bringing together a diverse set of voices to outline the relationship between the climate and food and discuss the ways to address the challenges faced by the smallholder farmers. Both discussants called for better utilization of all available resources, including human and financial capital, as well as the new and existing knowledge and know-how, in our efforts to address the existing agricultural financing gap and support smallholder farmers resiliency.

Resources

Event recording: <https://bit.ly/3DHwrul>