



**Food and Agriculture  
Organization of the  
United Nations**

## **FAO Facility for Mainstreaming Disaster Risk Reduction and Resilience in Agriculture**

*A platform to help countries access technical and financial resources to fully integrate risk reduction principles and practices in agriculture.*

### **Agriculture at increasing risk**

Agriculture is a source of livelihood for over 35 percent of the world's population. Natural hazards and disasters – such as floods, drought, storms, earthquakes, landslides, tsunamis or wildfire – disproportionately affect the small-scale farmers, herders, fishers and forest dependent communities who generate over half of the world's agricultural production.

Between 2004 and 2013, agriculture absorbed more than 22 percent of total damage and losses caused by natural disasters in developing countries. Vulnerability increases with each event, reversing improvements to food security, poverty reduction and agricultural development. As a result of climate change, extreme weather events are becoming more frequent, intense and costly. Risk-sensitive agriculture is a prerequisite for food security and sustainable development.

It is imperative for international aid funding to prioritize the reduction and proactive management of risks, rather than reacting to events. However, investment in disaster risk reduction is extremely low: receiving less than 5 percent of humanitarian funding on average per year and around 0.4 percent of official development aid in 2010 and 2011.

Under the Hyogo Framework for Action 2005-2015, considerable progress was made to strengthen overall policies, raise awareness and improve coordination capacities for disaster risk reduction. However, concrete local actions are yet to be delivered at scale. With the Post-2015 Framework launched in Sendai, countries commit to fully embed risk reduction within their development agendas and to enhance delivery of local actions, including through agriculture (crops, livestock, fisheries and forestry sectors).

### **Facilitating investment in risk reduction for agriculture**

To help countries rapidly progress in meeting disaster risk reduction goals in agriculture post-2015, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) is establishing a mechanism to pool and facilitate access to technical expertise and capacity building opportunities.

The support will focus on creating an enabling environment for disaster risk reduction within the agriculture sector, including through the development of related policies, strategies and plans, coordination support, training and access to improved technology.



*Agriculture absorbs nearly  
one-quarter of the economic  
impact of natural hazards and  
disaster in developing countries.*



*Every USD 1 spent on disaster  
risk reduction brings  
a USD 2-4 return in avoided  
or reduced disaster impacts.*



*More investment is needed  
in disaster risk reduction  
to build resilient livelihoods and  
food production systems.*

**Purpose.** Increase the capacity of national governments and civil society to mainstream disaster risk reduction in agricultural sectors through support in the design and implementation of appropriate policies, institutional mechanisms and programmes, with focus on developing countries regularly exposed to natural hazards.

**How it works.** FAO is committing catalytic funding, and technical and administrative staff time to the Facility. Countries recurrently exposed to natural hazards will be supported in consolidating their requests for assistance, and national counterparts will be supported to mobilize the technical and financial resources required to meet their needs. Donor contributions will be channeled to support identified priorities.

### How to contribute to the Facility?

- Financial contributions: 2015–2016 funding needs amount to USD 10 million.
- Promoting the exchange of knowledge and technology among partner countries.
- Funding the deployment/secondment of experts and learning exchange.

### How to apply to the Facility?

- Requests for assistance should be submitted to FAO Representations in the concerned country.
- Requests will be prioritized against criteria such as: demonstrated institutional commitment for disaster risk reduction; vulnerability to natural hazards; target beneficiaries and their reliance on agriculture, food and nutrition sectors; and the potential to reduce underlying risk factors.
- Technical and financial resources from the Facility will be delivered through FAO Representations with support from FAO's global resilience team.

### Who is eligible?

- **Line Ministries** including (but not limited to) Agriculture, Irrigation, Livestock, Fisheries, Aquaculture, Forestry and Environment.
- **Non-governmental organization** partners for disaster risk reduction.
- **Regional bodies and agencies** with transboundary mandates for risk reduction in agriculture-related sectors.

#### RISK REDUCTION IN AGRICULTURE – *Example from the field*

In 2009, FAO provided funding and technical support to enhance climate risk management and disaster preparedness in Bicol – one of the Philippines' most disaster-prone regions. Today, Bicol is not only safer from natural disasters and hazards but a model for risk reduction initiatives regionally.

The Department of Agriculture of Bicol established a Technical Unit for Disaster Risk Reduction and Management, and produced a Regional Plan of Action and 15 community development plans with local counterparts and communities. The plans quickly triggered action: regular agro-climate bulletins to advise farmers on crop choices and management practices; farmer field schools testing newly released hazard-tolerant seeds for disaster-prone areas; web-based software to monitor crop performance and more accurately gauge disaster damage and losses.

What started as a small initial grant triggered further financial investment, partnership and replication. In 2015, FAO is supporting the Governments of the Philippines, Cambodia and Laos to develop national Plans of Action for Agriculture based on the Bicol experience.

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### Areas of support

- Capacity needs assessment
  - Risk-sensitive investment programming
  - Policy and planning advice
- Capacity development and training
  - Knowledge management, communication and advocacy
- Enhanced access to risk reduction technologies
  - Partnership and resource mobilization



FAO Facility funding needs  
2015–2016:

**USD 10 million**



Average investment  
for a two-year capacity  
development project under the  
Facility:

**USD 500 000**

