



Reuben Angelo Sessa

Climate change, DRR and Energy Coordinator for Europe and Central Asia

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations Regional Office for Europe and Central Asia

Reuben holds a University Degree in Biology from Southampton University, and a Ph.D. in plant genetics, biochemistry and plant pathology from Imperial College, University of London.

He started his career in FAO in 1999 working for the Global Terrestrial Observing System (GTOS) secretariat, where his tasks included the development of international remote sensing and *in situ* standards for the measuring of the terrestrial climatic variables required for climate change monitoring and modelling.

Subsequently Reuben has worked for both the offices of the Director of NRC and the ADG of natural resources where he supported FAO work on climate change and the environment including FAO engagement to the UNFCCC, Rio+20 and other international related platforms.

In 2010, Reuben coordinated the development of the original climate smart agriculture concept (www.fao.org/docrep/013/i1881e/i1881e00.htm) and was the editor of the FAO CSA source book (www.fao.org/docrep/018/i3325e/i3325e.pdf). He also supported the development of the Global Alliance for Climate Smart Agriculture and was a member of the facilitation unit which is hosted by FAO.

In May 2015, under the cooperate mobility plan, Reuben was appointed as climate change, DRR and energy coordinator for Europe and Central Asia in the Budapest office. Under his new role tasks include developing new programmes in the different sub-regions, providing technical and strategic guidance, as well as coordinating REU work on the Green Climate Fund (GCF), Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction and the UNFCCC Paris agreement. Reuben is also alternative focal point in REU for SP5.

In his spare he also coordinates the UN and CSO YUNGA programme developing educational and capacity building programmes for youth engagement and active participation in sustainability initiatives, including the SDGs (www.fao.org/yunga/home/en/).