

# Climate-Smart Agriculture

Meeting food security, development and climate goals



Providing food, fuel and fibre for a global population of more than 9 billion people by 2050 will put ever greater pressure on our planet's already scarce natural resources, without taking into account climate change. The added challenge of climate change adaptation and mitigation makes it even more difficult for farmers in developing countries to improve their lives and livelihoods, while meeting other demands placed on agriculture.

For the world to deliver on its goal of halving poverty and hunger by 2015, there is an urgent need for more investment in developing countries to boost agricultural productivity and efficiency, improve access to local, national and international food markets, manage risks from household to national levels and enable adoption of climate-smart practices, policies and technologies. The international community, governments and private sector share an important responsibility to finance and technically support climate-smart agriculture through integrated approaches that address the multiple objectives of agricultural development, food security and climate change.



**United Nations System  
Chief Executives Board for Coordination**

## UN system-wide response to climate change

Under the chairmanship of the Secretary-General, the Chief Executives Board (CEB) brings together the leaders of 29 UN system organizations to jointly support Member States in meeting the global challenges faced by the international community.

In 2008, the CEB adopted the Climate Change Action Framework, a joint, action-oriented approach in line with the ongoing UNFCCC negotiating processes and the emerging agendas of the Parties of the Convention.

The UN system stands ready to support Member States in implementing their commitments. At COP 16 / CMP 6, it is presenting its ongoing work and practical tools available through side events, exhibits and by sharing a joint package with thematic information.

For more information on the CEB and its joint work on climate change, please visit:  
<http://www.unsceb.org/ceb/priorities/climate-change/>

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### Objectives

To provide financial and technical support to agriculture that:

- Contributes to halving poverty and hunger by 2015;
- Sustainably increases productivity and resilience, reduces/removes GHGs;
- Enhances achievement of national food security and agricultural development goals;
- Builds appropriate incentive systems and payment schemes that ensure smallholder farmers and other rural poor have a voice in and benefit from these activities and promotes traditional knowledge.

### Activities

FAO, IFAD, and other partners inside and outside the UN are working with developing country governments to scale up efforts to address poverty, food security and climate challenges in integrated ways within the agriculture sector. Projections based on population growth and food consumption patterns indicate that agricultural production will need to increase by at least 70 per cent to meet 2050 demands.

National governments and communities have complementary roles in identifying and adopting climate smart policies and practices. FAO, through its technical work and projects on climate smart agriculture and IFAD through implementation of its Climate Change Strategy, grants and investment loans, are sharing lessons learned and supporting developing country efforts to test and scale up climate smart agricultural practices and technologies, as well as policies

to support them, including sustainable land management, conservation agriculture and agro-forestry.

Poverty, marginalization as well as market and weather-related shocks will continue to affect communities in the years to come. For this reason, better integration of food security, safety nets and adaptation policies, based on the use of climate science and environmental information, will be crucial to assess risks and reduce vulnerability. Index-based weather insurance is already being piloted effectively in some countries.

Smallholders, women, youth and vulnerable communities such as indigenous peoples in particular are a focus of efforts to support the adoption and location-specific adaptation of climate smart agriculture and to ensure that climate finance benefits the poor, and their communities.

### Moving forward

In the face of long-term challenges, we know that today's knowledge and technologies will not be enough. The UN system is therefore supporting research and its application for promising technologies that may increase production and resilience with lower emissions. Further development of crops that are resistant to climate change impacts (greater drought, salinity, heat, immersion) or that reduce emissions continues with partners such as the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR) and the Global Crop Diversity Trust, as well as the FAO supported International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources and Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture. FAO's numerous technical databases and knowledge networks and IFAD's regional *Learning Routes* are increasing the generation and dissemination of climate information among and within communities across regions.

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