



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



# Integrating Agriculture in National Adaptation Plans Programme (NAP–Ag)

*Empowered lives.  
Resilient nations.*

*Safeguarding livelihoods and promoting resilience through National Adaptation Plans*

## The Challenge – Adapting to climate change

Climate change threatens agricultural production, food security and nutrition in many parts of the world. While rising temperatures and increased droughts are projected to decrease production throughout this century, climate induced disasters will further erode livelihoods.

Developing countries and least developed countries (LDCs) are particularly vulnerable to these impacts. The need to adapt to changing climatic conditions is especially pressing for the poor who depend directly on agriculture for their livelihoods. They are usually the hardest hit by natural hazards and crises.

**75%** of the world's poor  
& food insecure people rely  
directly on agriculture & natural  
resources for their living

The **Integrating Agriculture in National Adaptation Plans Programme (NAP-Ag)** is a multi-year initiative funded by Germany's Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Building and Nuclear Safety (BMUB) through its International Climate Initiative (ICI). It supports partners under a country-driven process to identify and integrate climate adaptation measures for agricultural sectors into relevant national planning and budgeting processes.

The programme initially targets eleven countries: Colombia, Gambia, Guatemala, Kenya, Nepal, Philippines, Thailand, Uganda, Uruguay, Vietnam and Zambia. However, it plans to expand to other countries in the Pacific, Asia, Africa as well as Latin America and the Caribbean.

## Outcomes

The Programme aims to:

- **Define and institutionalize national processes** for addressing agriculture sector concerns in the formulation of National Adaptation Plans and other relevant development planning processes.
- **Identify climate adaptation measures and demonstration programmes** based upon future scenarios, impacts and vulnerabilities for the agricultural sector. This will help governments to implement adaptation strategies in the sector, in collaboration with development partners.
- **Strengthen risk management capabilities of key ministries** (i.e. Environment, Planning, Finance, Agriculture) through the use of appropriate tools – for instance risk analysis, cost-benefits, expenditure tracking - to assist investment planning and budgeting.
- **Compile and share lessons learned** regionally on climate change adaptation planning and budgeting for the agriculture sector.

The Global Programme catalyzes:

- **Institutional capacities** and processes for operationalizing climate response strategies in the sector.
- Support countries to **access climate finance** from the Global Environment Facility and the Green Climate Fund.
- More strategic **allocation** of national budgets earmarked for **adaptation investments**.

While the focus of the programme is mainly on the agricultural sectors, the results and processes used are highly relevant in providing information to other sectors on how to integrate adaptation needs into national planning and budgeting.



## Transforming Agriculture

Many countries have started to act on their most immediate and urgent adaptation needs. However, a transformative change is required in agricultural sectors, including forestry and fisheries. This will render the livelihoods of people dependent on agricultural productive systems more climate resilient. Examples of these changes include:

- Growing crop varieties better suited to changing weather conditions.
- Optimizing water and irrigation systems.
- Introducing new methods of soil cultivation, crop rotation.
- Enhancing planning through greater use of weather and climate information from daily to seasonal scales.
- Integrating systematic climate risk assessments in agriculture and food security sectors and promoting evidence-based adaptation planning frameworks.
- Identifying and prioritizing interventions by applying long-term adaptation approaches.
- Strengthening monitoring and evaluation systems to learn what works and what does not work, to periodically revise strategies.

## Building on Experience

At the country level, frameworks to catalyse these transformative changes are evolving. The National Adaptation Programmes of Action (NAPA) were established in 2001 at the 7th Conference of Parties (COP 7) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) in Durban to address the urgent and immediate climate adaptation needs of LDCs. By 2014, 50 countries had already submitted their NAPAs to UNFCCC in response to their short term needs. Over more than a decade, many LDCs have put into place national and local adaptation initiatives through the NAPAs. As noted by UNFCCC, a high number of priority projects were proposed under the category agriculture, fisheries and livestock.

Building on these experiences, the National Adaptation Plan (NAP) process was established in 2010 under the Cancun Adaptation Framework (CAF) at COP 16. The process enables countries to formulate NAPs as a means of identifying medium- and long-term adaptation needs and to implement strategies and programmes to address those needs. Many developing countries and LDCs are now engaged in developing NAPs to implement their priorities. Agriculture, livelihoods and food and nutrition security are pivotal for NAPs as they are highly climate sensitive. Change in these areas is key for countries to transition to low emission and climate resilient development in the medium to long term.

## Acting Now

Since fundamental changes to agricultural systems are required for climate change adaptation, the time to act is now. For example in Sub-Saharan Africa, there is significant potential to expand and modernize irrigation systems. Experience from other countries suggests that an improvement to irrigation infrastructure typically takes 5 to 15 years to complete. This includes developing the appropriate government capacities, tools and resources to oversee and promote these transformations. Moreover, institutional processes for managing climate risk remain largely fragmented and require sustained support. In particular, decision-makers from agriculture and many related sectors need to be equipped with skills to factor climate risk in financial management and investment planning processes.

## UNDP & FAO – Trusted Partners

UNDP and FAO implement the programme through their network of specialized technical staff. UNDP staff bring expertise in climate-compatible development, disaster risk reduction, governance, as well as central planning/budgeting. FAO, as the UN specialized agency in food and agriculture, will bring its expertise in providing policy advice and sharing best practices in the agriculture, forestry and fisheries sectors under a changing climate. At the country level, these experts will form a technical team with representatives from the Ministries of Agriculture and Environment/UNFCCC focal points to meet country specific needs.

## Steering Committee

A Steering Committee will review the progress and annual benchmarks achieved. It is composed of the BMUB, FAO, UNDP, Programme Countries and key partners, e.g. the UNFCCC Adaptation Committee and the Least Developed Countries Expert Group (LEG). Additional partners and donors will be integrated into the structure of the programme as appropriate.

## Moving Ahead

Many developing countries are expected to bear the brunt of climate change impacts on agriculture. NAPs must envision how to preemptively minimize the impact of potentially declining yields and irregular harvests. FAO and UNDP plan to roll out this work in other countries as the programme expands.

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