
INTERNATIONAL SEMINAR ON DROUGHT AND AGRICULTURE
PREDICT, PLAN, PREPARE: STOP DROUGHT BECOMING A FAMINE

FAO, 19 JUNE 2017

SUMMARY OF SESSION 4

THEMATIC AREA 4: MAINSTREAMING DROUGHT MANAGEMENT

IN THE CONTEXT OF THE 2030 AGENDA

The final theme explored the linkages between drought management and the 2030 Agenda. It sought to understand how the context of 2030 Agenda could raise the profile of drought, raise awareness of proactive approaches, and encourage better sectoral integration. It focused on the links between drought, Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the use of indicators in drought management.

THE CHALLENGES: MULTIPLE INDICATOR FRAMEWORKS, COORDINATION, AND FRAGILE STATES

Through the panel discussion and input from delegates, several challenges were raised to the mainstreaming of drought in the wider 2030 Agenda. Key point from the speakers is the role of non-agricultural activities in promoting resilience. A further consideration is how to manage fragile states during times of conflict.

1. Lack of coordination in implementation of monitoring and interventions for drought risk management.
2. Droughts poses a significant risk for meeting the SDGs. For example, 50 or more of the SDGs indicators will be affected by drought.
3. Limited national budgets to sustain and scale up practical solutions and monitoring of impacts.
4. Far more than climate and water need to be included in a drought resilient strategy. Non-agricultural factors are also important such as economic growth, diversification out of agriculture, migration and food trade.
5. Focus on fragile states: Mainstreaming drought management in fragile states where there is no solid collaboration with governments and no donor structure.

THE SOLUTIONS: HARMONISATION OF INDICATORS TO MAXIMISE EFFECTIVENESS AND RECOGNITION OF NON-AGRICULTURAL FACTORS IN DROUGHT RESILIENCE

1. Consideration should be given to the harmonization of goals and indicators across the 2030 Agenda to ensure effectiveness given resource constraints.
2. Migration at a moderate level could be viewed as a drought mitigation strategy and allows the diversification of household incomes.
3. There is a future role for innovative technologies. For example, machine learning in seasonal prediction is beginning to gain attention.
4. Proactively support and strengthen coordination at all levels.
5. The use of a drought risk management approach to assist in the achievement of SDGs.
6. Post-event drought evaluations to learn lessons from earlier droughts and mitigation measures.
7. The promotion of food trade, even during times of plenty, to ensure trade during times of drought.