



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations

BUILDING FORWARD BETTER 
INITIATIVE

THEMATIC AREA

INTEGRATED DROUGHT MANAGEMENT

1. Description of the module

Drought is among the most far-reaching natural disasters and have affected more people worldwide in the last 40 years than any other natural hazard. It is a complex phenomenon with varying levels of intensity, duration, spatial extent and impacts. In Africa, the Sahel region is particularly exposed to climatic shocks and recurrent drought events have already been recognized among the key drivers of growing humanitarian needs.

FAO is strongly committed to fighting drought and, together with other international partners, is advocating for a proactive, coordinated and holistic drought risk management based on three key pillars:

1. Early warning and monitoring systems;
2. Vulnerability and impact assessment;
3. Drought risk mitigation measures.

The module will discuss the main concepts related to drought and will present international frameworks and initiatives as well strategies to move away from a reactive approach towards a proactive approach in drought management.



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2. Module structure

Drought: Conceptual definitions and types

- The international framework: The role of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD)
- Regional past trends and future projections
- Integrated Drought Management Programme (IMDP)

The UNCCD three pillars: Definition and key concepts

Pillar 1. Early warning and monitoring systems

- Drought monitoring and forecasting
- Drought indices and indicators: how to use them and interpret results
- Monitoring drought with remote sensing data

Pillar 2. Vulnerability and impact assessment

- Drought risk assessment in the agricultural sector
- Assessing impacts in the social, environmental, and economic spheres

Pillar 3. Drought risk mitigation measures

- Risk management through adaptation and mitigation
- Risk strategies: risk assessment, mapping and reduction
- Hands-on training: exercises on scenarios from the region
- National drought policies: key elements and examples from the region
- Raising public awareness: presentation of case studies
- UNCCD-led Drought Toolbox
- FAO Drought Portal

3. Learning objectives

The participants will familiarize with the main concepts related to drought and the international agenda. They will acquire skills in integrated drought management and knowledge of the options available to decrease and manage drought risks. They will develop a comprehensive understanding of the different fields involved in drought management through both theoretical bases and real cases and scenarios.

SUPPORTED BY:



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