



Twenty-second session of the Conference of the Parties (COP 22) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)

STATEMENT OF THE INTERNATIONAL FUND FOR AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT (IFAD)

The International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) actively engages in improving the climate resilience of smallholder farmers in developing countries and contributes to the Twenty-second session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change through side events and participation in the high-level segment.

It is encouraging that more than 80 percent of National Determined Contributions highlight the importance of agriculture for climate change adaptation and mitigation. This sends a strong signal that countries want action on adapting agriculture to the effects of climate change and reducing the carbon footprint of their farming practices.

Smallholder farmers in developing countries face the impacts of climate change today – from lower crop yields and reduced water availability, to flooding, price spikes and increased food insecurity.

By integrating climate-smart solutions and technologies into agricultural development programmes, IFAD is investing in rural people to build their resilience to climate change and sustain food and nutrition security.

IFAD is mobilizing, through our Adaptation for Smallholder Agriculture Programme (ASAP) and our partnership with the Global Environment Facility (GEF), co-financing of nearly USD600m in addition to our regular investment programme. This will improve the climate resilience of at least 8 million people and represents on average a 10 percent top up on our annual regular investment programme.

Overall IFAD has committed to 100 percent mainstreaming of climate resilience by 2018 for our on-going investment cycle. Along with a second phase of ASAP and additional contributions' focus on climate, IFAD aims to invest at least USD500m in the next few years to increase the climate resilience of at least an additional 7 million people.

We are also pleased to be recognized as an Accredited Entity with the Green Climate Fund, which gives IFAD the opportunity to support smallholders even more.

Working with the GEF, other UN agencies, international organisations and NGOs, IFAD is leading the new Integrated Approach for Food Security in Sub-Saharan Africa. The programme increases smallholder production sustainably, while safeguarding ecosystems. Twelve African countries are taking part. The total GEF financing is USD106.5m that will be supplemented by USD805.4m co-financed from various stakeholders.

Poverty eradication cannot be reached without inclusive and sustainable rural transformation. Investing in climate resilient agriculture responds to SGD13 on climate action, contributes to increasing food security (SDG2), moving people out of poverty (SDG1), empowering women to better manage natural resources (SDG5), promoting water efficient irrigation (SDG6), providing low carbon energy sources (SDG7), enabling climate-proofing of key rural infrastructure (SDG 9), and improving landscape and biodiversity assets management (SDG15).

To implement the Paris agreement we must invest in rural people, recognizing them as a critical part of the solution, involving the nearly 2.5 billion people whose livelihoods come from small farms and their organizations in particular in all phases of planning and policy processes. We stand ready to offer our support and expertise – as a financing and knowledge institution, and as a facilitator of partnerships between governments, the private sector and smallholders.