



Investing in rural people

IFAD's Rural Resilience Programme (2RP)



Pillar II: Sustainability, Stability and Security (3S) Initiative in Africa

The Sustainability, Stability and Security (3S) Initiative in Africa

3S is an inter-governmental initiative that aims to address the interlinked issues of climate resilience, youth unemployment and irregular migration in an integrated manner by focusing on agroecology and degraded land areas of the continent. Conceived and owned by African countries (with Morocco and Senegal as initiators), the 3S Initiative aims at mitigating the adverse drivers and structural factors that hinder people from maintaining sustainable livelihoods and compel them to leave their places of origin. To achieve this, the 3S Initiative works at jointly fortifying Africa's three critical endowments: its natural resources (sustainability), human resources (stability) and institutional resources (security).

What will the 3S Initiative do?

In a post COVID-19 world, the 3S Initiative will tackle the issues of climate resilience, employment and out-migration in areas affected by land degradation on the African continent.

To achieve this, the 3S Initiative is designed to:

- (i) make rural investments
- (ii) address economic policy changes
- (iii) promote innovative technical and financial solutions aimed at the rural youth.

It is expected that these actions will lead to durable improvements in the economic opportunities of rural communities most impacted by climate change, unemployment, migration and the exacerbating effects of the COVID-19 crisis.

Investments will support the following activities:

- Protecting watersheds and sustainable land management

- Securing land access and land tenure rights through national governments
- Creating public infrastructure in rural communities
- Building and strengthening early warning systems to predict drought and other natural hazards
- Strengthening agricultural knowledge, for example, through farm extension services
- Providing technical assistance to develop land-based product value chains
- Designing financial incentives to farmers and enterprises in agriculture and forestry
- Mobilizing diaspora funding and educating people on investing remittances productively
- Undertaking analytical studies that can form the basis of evidence-based policy changes.

How will the 3S Initiative work?

The initial target of public resources for the 3S Initiative is US\$200 million per year for five years: US\$180 million is expected to come from official development assistance donors and 10 per cent from 3S countries in Africa. It is envisaged that a further US\$4 billion will be leveraged through engaging the private sector.

Proposals will align with IFAD country strategies, which in turn must reflect priorities established through national policy documents, specifically nationally determined contributions, national biodiversity targets and national land degradation neutrality targets under the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification. Moreover, IFAD will coordinate to align country programmes and country strategy notes with 3S national coordination frameworks, national road maps or proof-of-concept projects that have been developed by 3S member countries.

How will success be measured?

Table 1 shows the objectives, outcome areas and targets for the 3S Initiative.¹

Table 1: 3S Initiative results framework

Objectives	Outcome Areas	Indicators	Targets
1. Stop and reverse land degradation resulting from climate changes	Restore degraded lands to their ecological and economic potential	Number of hectares of land brought under climate-resilient management	10 million
		Of which share of land restored through innovative technologies	20%
		Greenhouse gases (CO ₂ e) avoided or sequestered	300 million tCO ₂ e over 20 years
2. Secure rural livelihoods and create new economic opportunities in rural areas	Improve secure land access for farmers, in particular women and the young	Percentage of persons/households reporting improved access to land, forests, water or water bodies for production purposes	Target to be established after year 1 of programme implementation
		Create new sustainable or green land-based jobs in agriculture, forestry and agro-industry	Number of persons in rural areas accessing financial services
3. Relieve pressure for long-distance migrating from rural areas due to climate change and land degradation	Rural residents are incentivized to invest in their lands instead of abandoning them and migrating permanently	Number of persons receiving services promoted or supported by the project	10-20 million
		Number of persons in new or existing green jobs	2 million
		Number of persons/groups supported to sustainably manage natural resources and climate-related risks	Target to be established after year 1 of programme implementation
		Number of persons/households reporting adoption of environmentally sustainable and climate-resilient technologies and practices	Target to be established after year 1 of programme implementation
		Number of persons/households reporting a significant reduction in the time spent collecting water or fuel	Target to be established after year 1 of programme implementation

¹ Results targets assume that resource mobilization volumes will be reached as anticipated. Otherwise, targets will be adjusted accordingly.

A call for action

The COVID-19 crisis has worsened many adverse trends in Africa including rising youth unemployment and migration, hunger, malnutrition and poverty.

Rather than small remedies, comprehensive policies are needed to tackle the causes of these issues. Solutions must deal with climate change adaptation, rural job creation and migration and mobility in a cohesive way.

Policies directed at restoring degraded cropland to its economic potential and improving secure land access for farmers have the potential to boost rural employment and create “rural growth centres”. Such interventions are likely to attract private sector investment in new land-based jobs on- and off-farm, thus creating new opportunities that will help retain rural youth who might otherwise decide to migrate away or be exposed to extremist activity and terrorism. The outcome is a more climate-resilient and circular rural economy at home.

Donor funding in the amount of US\$180 million per year for five years will allow the 3S Initiative to make these changes come to life.

Contacts

Liza Leclerc
Lead Technical Specialist
Environment, Climate, Gender and Social Inclusion
Division (IFAD)
E-mail: 2RP@IFAD.org

Barbara Bendandi
Program Officer – 3S Secretariat Coordinator
United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification
(UNCCD)
E-mail: bbendandi@unccd.int



International Fund for Agricultural Development
Via Paolo di Dono, 44 - 00142 Rome, Italy
Tel: +39 06 54591 - Fax: +39 06 5043463
Email: ifad@ifad.org
www.ifad.org

 facebook.com/ifad
 instagram.com/ifadnews
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