



SPOTLIGHT

ADDRESSING CLIMATE CHANGE

Rural people live and work in some of the world's most fragile landscapes – from arid and desert zones to tropical grasslands, and from low-lying coastal areas to degraded hillsides. Their work in small-scale farming and related activities is closely linked to, and reliant on, the climate. Globally, they are among the people most vulnerable to the increasingly severe impacts of changing climate conditions.

AT IFAD, INVESTING IN ENABLING RURAL PEOPLE TO ADAPT TO CLIMATE CHANGE, AND THUS STRENGTHENING THEIR RESILIENCE TO CLIMATE THREATS, IS A PRIORITY.

We know that promoting agricultural practices that protect and sustainably use biodiversity offers opportunities to adapt to climate change. A key aspect of this is capitalizing on indigenous and traditional knowledge from rural people themselves. This is the focus of much of our climate work.

Indeed, our *Climate Action Report 2021*, published in the lead-up to the 2022 United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP27), showed that 92 per cent of IFAD climate finance was targeted to adaptation. And until 2030, 30 per cent of IFAD's climate finance is committed to nature-based solutions.

But while adaptation is our focus, we are also contributing to climate mitigation. In fact, research published in 2022 showed that our investments over the past 20 years have sequestered more carbon and more greenhouse gases than they emitted. That is, our investments are net negative with respect to greenhouse gas emissions.

KENYA

Gerald Juma and his wife, Tabitha, supply their local community with trees from a nursery, established according to land conservation techniques learned from the Upper Tana Catchment Natural Resource Management Project.

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That is not surprising, considering that many of our projects involve protecting and enhancing local biodiversity. As well as building rural people's resilience to the impacts of climate change, this also helps to reduce the causes of climate change because flourishing local ecosystems act as effective carbon sinks. Indigenous women in the Peruvian Amazon are demonstrating this through the IFAD-supported Avanzar Rural project. With funds awarded through IFAD's Innovation Challenge, the project team developed and tested a toolkit to adapt the principles and methodology of behavioural design to IFAD's projects.

This is just one example of how important rural women's work is for addressing climate change. We will continue to prioritize women in our climate work. In 2022, we launched a new initiative called the Gender Transformative Mechanism in the Context of Climate Adaptation (GTM). Working with the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation and other partners, the GTM is focused on providing rural women with the information and innovations they need to adapt to climate change. With continued support, we predict this initiative can improve the lives of over 20 million rural people across 20 countries by 2030.

DURING 2022, WE WERE ABLE TO DO MORE IN AREAS SUCH AS NATURE-BASED SOLUTIONS, PROTECTING BIODIVERSITY AND THE SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES THANKS TO OUR SUCCESS IN MOBILIZING CLIMATE FINANCE.

Success has been largely down to the Adaptation for Smallholder Agriculture Programme and the mobilization of US\$336.5 million through the Adaptation Fund, Green Climate Fund and Global Environment Facility.

We have also been using tools such as geographical information systems (GIS) in innovative ways to effectively target the areas most in need of investment for climate adaptation, and to monitor progress and assess results. And we have been documenting success stories to share with our partners.

COP27 was an opportunity to strengthen partnerships with our Member States around climate action. During the conference, we signed a partnership agreement with Egypt, which selected IFAD to lead the multibillion-dollar food and agriculture pillar of its Nexus for Water, Food and

Energy platform. This platform is part of Egypt's plan to launch its National Climate Change Strategy 2050. The food pillar includes five projects with a combined total of US\$3.35 billion for phase 1 (2023-2030). In the lead-up to the signing, IFAD's legal team collaborated closely with the IFAD country team to agree on the modalities of the contractual arrangement, which was countersigned during COP27 in Sharm El-Sheikh.

IFAD's legal team also co-organized – alongside our Indigenous Peoples team and the International Land Coalition – an event hosted at the IFAD pavilion during COP27: The Untold Stories of Climate Justice – From indigenous peoples to land rights. The audience heard accounts from indigenous peoples and their communities about how they are being impacted by the climate crisis and climate injustice.

IFAD was prominent during COP27, organizing many events. Our participation at the conference was based around advocating for the needs of small-scale farmers and other rural people, in particular to highlight the importance of scaling up climate finance to support their adaptation needs.

In addition to the events at the IFAD pavilion, we also organized a virtual field visit to showcase, for a global audience, our work in building the climate resilience of rural people.

GUBA

IFAD funding has enabled the Combate de Pacheco Cooperative to buy modern equipment to refrigerate and preserve milk produced by its cows.

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