



Twenty-third session of the Conference of the Parties (COP 23) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)

STATEMENT OF THE INTERNATIONAL FUND FOR AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT (IFAD)

Poor rural and coastal communities are among the most vulnerable to the effects of climate change. Their livelihoods are heavily dependent upon the sustainable management of natural resources and well-functioning ecosystems. Any existing vulnerabilities in rural and coastal communities are exacerbated by climate change, threatening their stability, while untapping their agricultural potential in a sustainable manner contributes to achieving food security and eradicating poverty.

Considering that more than 2 billion people depend on smallholder farming for their livelihoods and food security, the involvement of smallholders as positive agents of change is central to identifying solutions and taking effective climate action – both at local and global levels. Adaption and mitigation strategies result in long-term social, economic and financial opportunities for smallholders that can raise household wellbeing, incomes, and eventually GDP.

Investing in climate resilient agriculture thus responds to the challenge of the Sustainable Development Goals, not only in terms of climate action (SDG13), but also supporting the goals to end poverty (SDG1) and hunger (SDG2), empower women to better manage natural resources (SDG5), promote efficient water resources management (SDG6), provide low carbon energy sources (SDG7), enable climate-proofing of key rural infrastructure (SDG 9), promote sustainable production and reduce food loss (SDG12), conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources (SDG14), and improve landscape and biodiversity assets management (SDG15).

By integrating climate resilient solutions into agricultural and fisheries development programmes, IFAD assists rural and coastal communities in enhancing their ability to cope with climate change, ensuring their food security and nutrition, and improving their livelihoods.

To facilitate this, IFAD has developed the world's largest climate adaptation programme dedicated to supporting poor smallholder farmers, the Adaptation for Smallholder Agriculture Programme (ASAP). We are committed to continue integrating climate and environmental sustainability into all new country strategies and project designs across our entire development portfolio as we embark with the implementation of ASAP2.

Lessons learned are documented and shared in IFAD's Advantage series and other documents to share knowledge and promote innovative solutions. For example, at COP23 IFAD launched [The Marine Advantage](#) on empowering coastal communities and safeguarding marine ecosystems.

IFAD partnerships with the Global Environment Facility (GEF), the Least Developed Countries Fund (LDCF), the Special Climate Change Fund (SCCF), the Adaptation Fund, and the Green Climate Fund (GCF) leverages finance to address the links between rural poverty and environmental degradation.

As recognised in the NDCs, the need to promote sustainable agriculture, as well as food systems, is of vital importance for countries to fulfil their commitments under the Paris Agreement. Hence, advancing the climate negotiations and sharing knowledge in the field of agriculture is a priority for COP23 and IFAD welcomes the draft decision prepared by the SBSTA on a work programme to this end.

Under the COP23 leadership of Fiji, the Talanoa Dialogue, based on the Pacific tradition of storytelling, building empathy, and making wise decisions for the collective good, has been launched as an important next step towards the implementation of the Paris Agreement. We will need this spirit to collectively achieve the ambitious, yet realistic, targets of the Paris Agreement and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. We will need to invest in the future that we want and accompany those who need support, leaving no one behind.

IFAD stands ready to offer its knowledge, financing and partnership to support local and global climate change action. We reaffirm our commitment to support countries in their efforts to implement the Paris Agreement by adapting agriculture to the effects of climate change and reducing the carbon footprint of their farming practices.