



FAO's climate change support

Promoting practical adaptation and mitigation solutions and policy change

Understanding the problem

Given the dependence of Uganda's economy on agriculture and natural resources, the country is particularly vulnerable to climate change and climate variability, which includes droughts, floods and landslides. The magnitude, frequency and severity of these extreme weather crises, especially drought, have increased over the past decades. In late 2015 and early 2016, for instance, a 'super El Nino' event exacerbated the regularly increasing annual impacts of climate change, with resultant flooding leading to loss and/or destruction of homes, latrines and public buildings as well as damage to roads, reduced food security, and outbreaks of cholera. The Government's Economic Assessment of the Impacts of Climate Change in Uganda (2015) estimates costs of inaction under climate variability and change for the agriculture and water sectors between 2010 and 2050 to range from USD145 to 270 billion if no action is taken.

Conscious of the threat posed by climate change, Uganda developed a National Climate Change Policy (NCCP) in April 2015, to ensure a harmonized and coordinated approach towards a climate-resilient and low-carbon development path for sustainable development. The overarching objective of the policy is to ensure that all stakeholders address climate change impacts and their causes through appropriate measures, while promoting sustainable development and a green economy. The NCCP - which has a Costed Implementation Strategy - recognizes the importance of agriculture as both a cause of and solution to climate change, including sections on agriculture and water that are particularly relevant to FAO's operations. It also gives policy direction and guidance on the institutional arrangements needed to comprehensively address climate change challenges.

FAO's response

Working in coordination with the Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries (MAAIF) and the Ministry of Water and Environment (MWVE), FAO's response is multi-dimensional, including adaptation-focused interventions that are complemented by mitigation activities and policy-making support. FAO raised the awareness and capacity of nine national committees, three line ministries, Parliamentarians and 21 District Local Governments (DLGs) as well as 21 408 farmers, including students, teachers and youth; as a result, FAO observed a 20 percent increase in the proportion of stakeholders applying climate change adaptation practices and 50 percent increases in farmers' coffee yields. Additional training was provided at the district level, where more than 1 300 people were trained and an awareness-raising programme targeted district technical officers, civil society members and Farmer Field Schools (FFS). In total, 168 FFS, benefiting more than 4 000 farmer households, were established and made operational. Many farmers participating in village savings and loan schemes made considerable savings, reinvesting about 41 percent to support climate change adaptation practices. About 700 hectares of bio-energy plantations were established, and 20 reservoirs producing over 220 000 cubic meters of water were established and rehabilitated – benefiting over 40 000 heads of cattle during critical dry months.

In terms of mitigation, FAO is also supporting the establishment of woodlots to reduce the risk of deforestation and promote sustainable forestry as well as providing energy-saving cook stoves and promoting the use of bio gas. Livelihood diversification is also taking on an increasingly important role in FAO's field work, with a focus on introducing cultivation methods and crops that are more optimally suited to local conditions.

Recognizing the importance of innovation and agribusiness support to moving past subsistence, the GCCA established six mushroom spawn production centres and

**FOCUS:
CLIMATE CHANGE**



KEY FACTS

\$ If no action taken, climate change could cost Uganda **USD 145 to 270 billion** between 2010 and 2050

🌿 **700 ha** of bio-energy plantations established by FAO

💧 **220 000 cubic metres** of water made available to agro-pastoralists by FAO

📖 More than **23 000 farmers** and **21 District Local Governments** supported by FAO with training since 2015

💰 More than **USD 14.7 million** mobilized by FAO since 2015*

🗺️ **Geographic coverage of FAO-GCCA interventions (districts)**
Ssembabule, Mubende, Kiboga, Luwero, Nakaseke and Nakasongola

🤝 **In partnership with**
The Government of Uganda, the European Union and the Government of the Kingdom of Belgium

60 trainee farmers received starter packs to establish viable mushroom enterprises. The project also supported a private, woman-owned coffee nursery operation in Luwero district, by providing a solar-powered groundwater pumped irrigation system and a greenhouse. Through this support, the owner's coffee seedling operation increased production from 50 000 seedlings in 2014 to 240 000 elite, disease tolerant seedlings in 2017.

In support of policy capacity building, FAO assisted the Government of Uganda to mainstream climate change into its National Development Plan II (2015/16–2019/20) as well as in the development and validation of the Intended Nationally Determined Contribution (INDC), which was submitted to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) in 2015.

PARTNERSHIPS AND RESOURCES

With financial support of more than USD 12.7 million (11 million euros) from the European Union for the project “Global Climate Change Alliance (GCCA) Agriculture Adaptation to Climate Change” and nearly USD 2 million from the Government of the Kingdom of Belgium in support of its Country Programming Framework (CPF) 2015 to 2019, FAO has been working with the Government of Uganda and research institutions like universities and NARO as well as civil society and international and national NGOs to contribute to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the Paris Climate Agreement in Uganda. Continuing to build on its longstanding partnership with the EU in Uganda, FAO is working to build on lessons learned through the GCCA to maximize the impact of the Global Climate Change Alliance Plus (GCCA+) set to launch in late 2018.

GOING FORWARD

Given the scale of the threat climate change poses both globally and also particularly in Uganda, FAO is working to support the mobilization of investment support that could further support the Government to achieve its national, regional and global climate change commitments. Within this context, there is a need for:

- Long-term expansion in the geographic coverage of interventions country-wide, while retaining a special focus on hotspots like Karamoja and the cattle corridor
- Increased investment in water resource availability and use not only for production but also for household use. If personal consumption needs are not yet met, the water made available for agriculture, which does not have the same standards for treatment and safety as household water supplies, then communities may face an increased risk of exposure to unsafe water.
- Strengthened support for the introduction of climate change adaptation technologies like hydroponics, aquaponics, greenhouses and other innovative practices that can generate higher yields in smaller spaces with fewer resources.
- Work to ensure the climate change resilience of the livestock sector through policy and practical interventions in the field.

A reservoir established by FAO in Mubende District of the Central Cattle Corridor, Uganda.



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