



**Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations**

Nicaragua

**Belgium's contribution
through the Special Fund for
Emergency and Rehabilitation
Activities (SFERA)**

Supporting vulnerable farming communities affected by extreme weather events

Populations in Central America are particularly vulnerable to the effects of climate change. Between 2020 and 2022, during the most recent La Niña phenomenon, Nicaragua suffered the consequences of three hurricanes and a tropical storm, significantly impacting the livelihoods of rural communities.

Compounding the situation were El Niño-induced climate extremes in 2023, exacerbating existing vulnerabilities. Unfavourable weather conditions affected agricultural activities resulting in reduced production of beans, rice and sorghum, the impact of which was only partially reduced by growth in maize production.

A transition from El Niño to La Niña phenomenon is expected in the coming weeks; however, national forecasts indicate that during May–July 2024 (coinciding with the primera season, the main planting season of the year), rainfall will be below-average in the Dry Corridor of the country.

To mitigate the adverse impacts of El Niño on people's lives and livelihoods in Nicaragua, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) has received financial support from the Government of the Kingdom of Belgium, through SFERA, amounting to USD 500 000. The generous contribution will enable FAO to provide staple crop and vegetable seeds along with fertilizers to 800 farming households (3 600 people) affected by back-to-back extreme climate events – Hurricanes Eta, Iota and Julia as well as El Niño-induced dry spells – over the past three years. Activities will be carried out between June 2024 and May 2025, and priority will be given to vulnerable groups, such as families with less than 3 hectares of arable land, Indigenous Peoples, households headed by women and people with disabilities. The distribution of inputs for backyard gardening will contribute to quickly increasing households' availability of and access to nutritious food. Technical assistance will also be provided to help recover their agricultural livelihoods following agricultural losses due to El Niño-induced rainfall deficits as well as to strengthen their livelihoods resilience against below-average rainfall forecasts.



**Providing vulnerable farmers
affected by climate extremes
with essential agricultural
inputs will not only help
restore their livelihoods but
also strengthen their resilience
against future shocks.**

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