



Programme Highlights Report 2025

2025 marked a decisive year for advancing global climate action. By December, and in line with the 2025 submission deadline, 127 Parties had submitted updated Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC3.0s), setting their adaptation and mitigation priorities through 2030. At the same time, 74 countries had submitted their National Adaptation Plans (NAPs), reflecting strengthened commitments to resilience building. At COP30 in Belém, the adoption of the 59 Belém Adaptation Indicators advanced the UAE Framework for Global Climate Resilience and established the core mechanism for tracking progress toward the Global Goal on Adaptation (GGA). However, COP30 concluded without a substantive outcome on the Sharm el-Sheikh Joint Work on the implementation of climate action on agriculture and food security, with negotiations now scheduled to resume in June 2026. These developments create a critical window for countries to embed more ambitious agriculture and land-use priorities in their NDCs and NAPs, while aligning national adaptation efforts with global objectives. In this context, SCALA plays a pivotal role in advancing climate ambition in agrifood systems, and supporting countries in translating climate commitments into transformative climate action at the national and subnational levels.

Key messages

- Eleven SCALA countries completed systems-level assessments that inform policy decisions on agriculture and land use, updates to NDCs and NAPs, and the preparation of bankable project concept notes.
- Eight countries submitted updated NDCs, and one submitted its NAP to the UNFCCC, with technical and financial support from SCALA.
- Eight countries have strengthened their tracking of climate action through SCALA-supported MRV and M&E frameworks, complemented by targeted training for local and national governments.
- 1,650 partners from governments, the private sector, civil society and academia enhanced their capacities in adaptation planning, monitoring and reporting on adaptation and mitigation, and climate-smart agriculture practices.
- SCALA leveraged over US\$62 million in climate finance for adaptation through bankable concept notes informed by SCALA evidence and results.
- Eleven non-SCALA countries received targeted support to strengthen private sector engagement and public-private collaboration for climate action through the [Private Sector Engagement Facility](#).
- A flagship report, [Agrifood Systems in National Adaptation Plans](#), was launched at COP30. This comprehensive analysis of all NAPs from developing countries highlights adaptation priorities and needs in agrifood systems, providing a critical reference to guide adaptation implementation and strategic investment decisions.
- Nine international events and forums showcased SCALA results, best practices and lessons learnt from programme countries.

The SCALA programme, a joint initiative of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), supports 12 countries across Africa, Asia and Latin America in strengthening climate planning and action in agrifood systems. The SCALA Private Sector Engagement Facility (PSEF) supports 11 additional countries to enhance private sector engagement and public-private collaboration. In 2025, the programme was actively engaged across the full adaptation cycle in all participating countries. The programme continued to strengthen the enabling environment for translating climate plans into implementation by building national and local capacities, fostering multistakeholder collaboration, and mobilizing public and private resources to advance climate targets. At the same time, SCALA strengthened national systems for monitoring and reporting on adaptation and mitigation under the UNFCCC. Building on established partnerships with Ministries of Agriculture, Environment, and other key institutions, the programme also delivered practical tools and evidence-based guidance to inform adaptation planning, supported the formulation of more ambitious climate commitments, and advanced private sector engagement. Through these inclusive and country-driven processes, SCALA contributed to raising climate ambition and enabling transformative action across agrifood systems.

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

Strengthening the evidence base for transformative climate action

SCALA supports countries to translate their climate plans into concrete implementation of climate action on the ground. Multistakeholder teams analyse the agriculture and land-use priorities outlined in countries' NAPs and NDCs and identify those with the highest potential for transformative change. To bridge information gaps, stakeholders subsequently conduct comprehensive systems-level assessments, with the SCALA global team providing tailored resources, capacity building and technical support based on specific country requests.

Throughout the year, SCALA country teams made significant progress in addressing information gaps that are critical for transformative climate action and adaptation, in particular. These efforts were complemented by the development of policy briefs designed to disseminate key findings, encourage their uptake by decision-makers, and inform the development of bankable project concept notes. Together, this work has contributed to strengthening climate risk-informed policy processes and supported the mobilization of finance for climate action. Examples include:

- In **Cambodia**, the country team partnered with the Royal University of Agriculture to examine the drivers of deforestation in the Stung Treng Province, identifying cashew and cassava as two key value chains contributing to forest loss. Building on this assessment, a value-chain analysis identified practical measures, including Nature-based Solutions, to support a transition towards more climate-resilient and forest-positive production systems.
- In **Argentina**, in collaboration with the Association of Regional Agricultural Experimentation Consortia, low-carbon livestock and maize production models adapted to the Pampas region were designed and validated. These models will be complemented by an analysis of financing options to support farmers in adopting climate-resilient and low-emission production systems.
- In **Côte d'Ivoire**, SCALA identified gender-sensitive, climate-resilient practices to enhance the sustainability and resilience of the cassava and cashew value chains, assessed their profitability, and mapped potential private sector investment opportunities. The findings will inform multistakeholder dialogues to integrate climate targets into agricultural policies and strategies, while guiding private sector engagement and partnership building.

Throughout 2025, complementary assessments on gender, social inclusion and Nature-based Solutions (NbS) were undertaken to strengthen the evidence base for implementing inclusive, climate-resilient and nature-positive solutions, while supporting resource mobilization efforts. For example:

- In **Egypt**, country teams conducted an [assessment](#) of the impact of climate change on women engaged in the livestock and dairy sectors, focusing on economic and household-level effects.

In addition, the programme helped update a UNDP digital tool that uses artificial intelligence to assess alignment between climate and nature policy targets, strengthening its adaptation component and expanding its applicability to NAPs, in addition to NDCs and National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plans (NBSAPs). The tool is intended to help countries ensure greater policy coherence across the Rio conventions and prioritize high-impact actions.

Enhancing governance and integration of agriculture and land-use priorities

SCALA strengthens multistakeholder coordination and institutional capacities to effectively integrate NDC and/or NAP priorities on land use and agriculture into national, subnational or sectoral policies, plans and budgets. This approach is crucial for advancing sustainable development, building resilience and combating the impacts of climate change as it increases collaboration between politicians, government officers, civil society organizations, business leaders, small and medium-sized businesses, academics, Indigenous Peoples, local communities and other key stakeholders. In 2025, SCALA supported the integration of agriculture and land-use priorities into broader government processes for climate planning, budgeting and monitoring across all participating countries.

- In **Ethiopia**, the programme provided targeted training to local government stakeholders in the Benishangul-Gumuz, Sidama and Afar regions to integrate SCALA-supported local NAP and NDC implementation action plans, designed to address identified gaps, into district-level development plans across nine woredas.
- In **Costa Rica**, SCALA global and country teams applied UNDP's Effective Collaboration Action methodology to strengthen collaboration between the Ministries of Agriculture and Environment for joint planning and reporting on the agricultural and land-use component of the updated NDC.
- In **Mongolia**, in partnership with UNDP's [Climate Finance Network](#), a training workshop was held to strengthen government capacity on gender-responsive climate budgeting under the national Green Budgeting framework.

Strengthening frameworks for Measurement, Reporting and Verification (MRV) and Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E)

Under the provisions of the UNFCCC and its instruments, countries have outlined their mitigation and adaptation commitments, actions and targets in their NDCs and NAPs and are required to report on their progress. SCALA assists countries to meet the transparency requirements of the Paris Agreement and improve their contributions to the Enhanced Transparency Framework (ETF) by strengthening national institutions for monitoring, reporting and verification (MRV) and monitoring and evaluation (M&E) of adaptation.

In 2025, these efforts included:

- In **Egypt**, two M&E frameworks for the agriculture and water sectors were developed and rolled out, and government representatives were trained to operate these systems. The frameworks will feed into Egypt's national M&E system for tracking progress under its overall NAP.
- In **Nepal**, SCALA supported the review of the country's first [Biennial Transparency Report](#) (BTR) submitted to the UNFCCC in June 2025. The report incorporates elements of a SCALA roadmap to assist Nepal in transitioning from IPCC Tier 1 to Tier 2 methodologies for its Agriculture, Forestry and Other Land Uses (AFOLU) GHG inventory.

- In **Senegal**, the SCALA team supported the Ministry of the Environment to develop a NDC tracking system for the AFOLU sector, strengthening national capacity to monitor and report progress under the NDC3.0 and for the BTR.
- The SCALA global team also contributed to the technical experts' work underpinning the adoption of indicators for the Global Goal on Adaptation. This included contributing to the development of a shortlist of adaptation indicators for Target 9b on food and agriculture, from which final targets were selected.

Raising climate ambition through NDCs and NAPs

SCALA aims to support the integration and enhancement of agriculture and land-use priorities in partner countries' NAPs and NDCs. In 2025, the programme provided technical, financial and facilitation support to countries preparing and submitting their NAPs and third-round NDCs (or NDC3.0) to the UNFCCC. With SCALA's assistance, eight partner countries, **Cambodia, Colombia, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Ethiopia, Mongolia, Nepal** and **Thailand**, successfully submitted their NDC3.0s during the year.

- In **Ethiopia**, SCALA contributed to the development of the [country's NDC3.0](#), submitted to the UNFCCC in September 2025, by supporting the identification and prioritization of 26 adaptation and mitigation actions for the agriculture sector. The programme also helped establish a Climate-Smart Agriculture Forum to strengthen collaboration and knowledge-sharing among sector stakeholders and inform the NDC3.0 process.
- In **Colombia**, the SCALA team supported the development of the [country's NDC3.0](#), submitted to the UNFCCC in December 2025, by contributing to national workshops reviewing progress on NDC and NAP implementation, assisting the Ministry of Agriculture in defining enhanced adaptation targets, and facilitating territorial and sectoral dialogues in the Central Eastern Andean Regional Node to ensure local ownership of the updated NDC.
- In **Mongolia**, technical support was provided to the development of the [country's first NAP](#), submitted to the UNFCCC in April 2025. The NAP includes dedicated chapters on animal husbandry and arable farming, informed by insights generated under SCALA.
- At COP30 in Belém, the programme launched its flagship report [Agrifood systems in National Adaptations Plans: An analysis](#). The report reviews NAPs from developing countries to identify adaptation priorities and needs in agrifood systems and serves as a key reference to guide implementation and investment decisions.

Leveraging private sector engagement in climate action

SCALA recognizes that agrifood companies are essential partners in achieving global climate change goals. Private sector engagement is a core, cross-cutting component of the SCALA approach, integrated across all activities. In 2025, SCALA conducted assessments to identify business opportunities and barriers, developed briefs and roadmaps for private sector engagement in adaptation, carried out economic appraisals of climate solutions in key agricultural value chains, scaled pilot de-risking measures to encourage sustainable investment in agriculture and land use, and supported the development of bankable project concept notes to leverage additional finance for climate action.

- In **Costa Rica**, the certification for deforestation-free beef was integrated into the International Trade Centre's Standard Maps database, the world's largest free repository of sustainability standards, enhancing the certification's visibility and its alignment with global sustainability and trade frameworks.
- In **Cambodia**, a private sector study identified climate-smart investment opportunities and practical entry points for engaging the private sector in resilient cashew and cassava value chains. The findings are informing a Ministry of Environment-led REDD+ funding proposal for a Results-Based Payment

project, currently being developed through national consultations and engagement with Indigenous Peoples' networks to ensure inclusive investment.

- In **Uganda**, several promising, bankable business cases for climate-resilient interventions were identified within key agricultural value chains in the cattle corridor, including solutions such as solar driers or hermetic storage bags, with strong potential for private sector implementation. These solutions will be piloted to generate financial evidence that supports private sector investment.
- The SCALA global team also published the [second instalment](#) of its private sector engagement guidance series, outlining opportunities, barriers and risks to private sector involvement in agrifood systems, and a [brief](#) capturing lessons learnt from implementing private sector engagement activities under the programme.

The [SCALA Private Sector Engagement Facility](#) uses tools, lessons learned and partnerships developed by the programme to promote private sector engagement in climate action in countries beyond those supported by SCALA.

- In **Djibouti**, a value chain analysis of the vegetable gardening, livestock and artisanal fisheries sector identified opportunities to scale up climate-resilient practices, while highlighting key barriers related to infrastructure and finance. These insights are now informing the UNDP Resilience Impact Fund for the Horn of Africa (RIFHA)'s investment action plan in the country, with the aim of expanding climate-smart agribusiness and reducing food import dependency.
- In **Zambia**, an analysis examined the potential to develop a Payment for Ecosystem Services (PES) scheme in the Mkushi and Upper Lunsemfwa sub-catchments, alongside the creation of an environmental trust fund to secure long-term finance from downstream users, such as utilities and hydropower companies, to upstream restoration. This initiative is intended to serve as a replicable model for other catchments.
- In **Grenada**, a feasibility study assessed the potential of organic waste composting and sustainable business opportunities for the local private sector.

Promoting gender and social inclusion

NDCs and NAPs are more likely to succeed when they address gender and social inequalities and incorporate the contributions of diverse groups of women and men. Building on SCALA's [Gender and Social Inclusion](#) (GSI) Strategy, the programme is guiding gender-responsive project implementation and advocating for gender-transformative approaches in climate action.

In 2025, gender analyses were carried out or are ongoing as part of system-level assessments in **Cambodia**, **Côte d'Ivoire**, **Egypt** and **Uganda**.

- In **Nepal**, the programme provided technical assistance to integrate gender and social inclusion considerations into the Agriculture Development Strategy (ADS), helping ensure these dimensions are systematically reflected in its implementation.
- In **Mongolia**, the SCALA team contributed to the formulation of gender-specific targets and actions, recommended for integration into the country's NDC3.0 and Long-Term Low Emission Development Strategy (LT-LEDS), outlined in the [Gender Target Gap Assessment for NDC3.0 and LT-LEDS of Mongolia](#) published by UNDP's Climate Promise and the Ministry of Environment.
- In **Côte d'Ivoire**, gender-sensitive guidelines were developed, validated and prepared for publication to support government stakeholders in integrating climate ambition and gender considerations into planning and budgeting for the cashew and cassava value chains.

Contributing to dialogue and advocacy on agriculture and land use

Global NDC Conference: Co-organized a side-event on '[Accelerating the formulation and implementation of adaptation priorities: Leveraging NAPs, NDCs and NBSAPs for action](#)' with the NBSAP Accelerator Partnership at the Global NDC Conference 2025.

Bonn Climate Change Conference: Led a breakout session on '[Bridging the Gap: From Policy to Practice in EbA](#)' during the 11th Ecosystem-based Adaptation (EbA) Knowledge Day, organized by the Friends of EbA (FEBA) on the margins of the 2025 Bonn Climate Change Conference.

SCALA Webinar: Organized a webinar on '[Applying the Climate Action Review \(CAR\) Tool to prioritize and implement adaptation solutions in agriculture and land use](#)', highlighting country experiences from Mongolia.

NAP Expo 2025: Organized a side event at NAP Expo 2025 on '[Leveraging synergies on nature-based solutions for NAP implementation in agrifood systems](#)', showcasing country examples from Senegal, Zambia and Ethiopia.

Climate Week 2: Presented SCALA's approach, along with examples from Colombia on multistakeholder collaboration and from Costa Rica on sustainable soil management during the Agriculture Lab at the [Implementation Forum](#) as part of Climate Week 2 in Addis Ababa.

Asia Pacific Adaptation Network: Participated in three side events and technical sessions on 'Scaling up implementation of NAPs to ensure transformational adaptation', 'From Evidence to Action: Enabling Transformational Adaptation in Agrifood Systems' and 'From Fragmentation to Convergence: Indigenous and Local Action for Climate-Resilient, Nutrition-Sensitive Food Systems' at the [9th Asia Pacific Adaptation Network Forum](#) in Bangkok.

COP30: Organized a virtual side event on '[Advancing Climate Action in Agrifood Systems through National Adaptation Plans](#)' at COP30, which launched the flagship report '[Agrifood systems in National Adaptation Plans: A global analysis](#)'. SCALA was also highlighted by high-level representatives of Uganda and Cambodia during the side event '[From Farm & Food to Future: Driving Climate Action through NDC3.0](#)', at the NDC3.0 Partnership Pavilion.

SCALA Webinar: Organized a webinar on '[Shaping Climate Futures: Gender and Just Transition pathways after COP30](#)'.

2025 PUBLICATIONS

1. [Agrifood systems in National Adaptation Plans: An analysis](#)
2. [Feasibility assessment of compost potential in Grenada](#)
3. [Value chain assessment and exploratory market analysis for sustainable, MGAP-certified papaya in the Maldives](#)
4. [Investing in climate-smart dairy value chains in Egypt](#)
5. [Business plan for the apple value chain in Nepal](#)
6. [The implementation of the Livestock Tax Law: An opportunity for climate action - Mongolia](#)
7. [Policy brief on the significance of surface water harvesting structures in Mongolia](#)
8. [Empowering women in Egypt's livestock and dairy subsectors](#)
9. [Fast facts brochure about SCALA in Ethiopia](#)

10. [Challenges faced by the leather industry in Mongolia](#)
11. [Pathways to climate-resilient net zero supply chains: A guide for global agrifood businesses](#)
12. [Scaling up agroecological techniques in the millet, groundnut, and market gardening value chains](#)
13. [Training package on climate change discourse in agriculture and livestock management in Nepal](#)
14. [Building resilience in the Egyptian livestock subsector](#)
15. [Understanding opportunities, barriers and risks for private sector engagement in climate action for agrifood systems](#)
16. [Engaging the private sector in climate action - Lessons learned from the implementation of the SCALA Programme](#)
17. [Mongolia's domestic carbon market scheme for carbon sequestration in rangeland](#)
18. [Value chain assessment and exploratory market analysis for sustainable beef cattle products in Belize](#)
19. [SCALA programme workshop report: Ethiopia-Exercises and training on the Nationally Determined Contribution Expert Tool \(NEXT\)](#)
20. [Assessment of Côte d'Ivoire's Measurement, Reporting, and Verification and Monitoring & Evaluation Systems and Action Plan](#)
21. [Country market study for beef and dairy in Costa Rica](#)
22. [UNDP–FAO Climate Action Review Tool: Assessing the transformative potential of adaptation actions in the agriculture and land-use sectors](#)

The **Scaling up Climate Ambition on Land Use and Agriculture through Nationally Determined Contributions and National Adaptation Plans (SCALA)** is an initiative led by FAO and UNDP, implemented from 2021 to 2028, with funding from the German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Climate Action, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety (BMUKN) through the International Climate Initiative (IKI). SCALA responds to the urgent need for increased action to cope with climate change impacts in the agriculture and land-use sectors. The twenty-six-million-euro programme supports at least 12 countries in Africa, Asia and Latin America to build adaptive capacity and to implement low-emission priorities.

Country support includes strengthening policies, adopting innovative approaches to climate change adaptation and removing barriers related to information gaps, governance, finance, gender mainstreaming and integrated monitoring and reporting systems. To achieve this shift, the programme will engage the private sector and key national institutions.

SCALA supports countries to develop the capacity to own and lead the process to meet targets set out in their National Adaptation Plans and Nationally Determined Contributions under the Paris Agreement, and to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals. The SCALA initiative builds on another FAO-UNDP-led programme, Integrating Agriculture in National Adaptation Plans (2015-2020), which is currently phasing out.

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

www.fao.org/in-action/scala/en

**United Nations
Development Programme**

www.adaptation-undp.org/scala

International Climate Initiative (IKI)

www.international-climate-initiative.com

**German Federal Ministry for the
Environment, Climate Action, Nature
Conservation and Nuclear Safety (BMUKN)**

<https://www.bundesumweltministerium.de/en>

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