

Integrating Agriculture in National Adaptation Plans

NAP-Ag

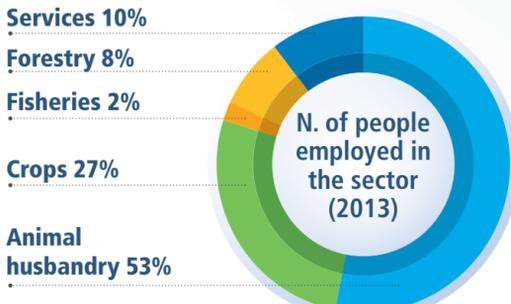
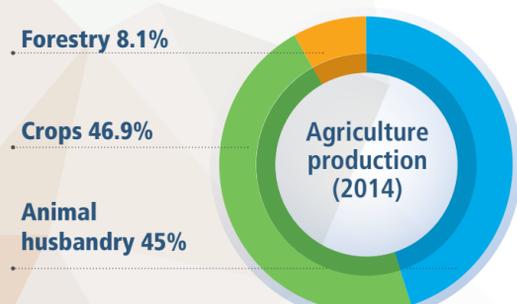
Uruguay



KEY ADAPTATION OBJECTIVES AND CONCERNS

Agriculture represents 70% of national exports. The population of Uruguay is 3.3 million. The amount of food produced feeds **28 million people**.

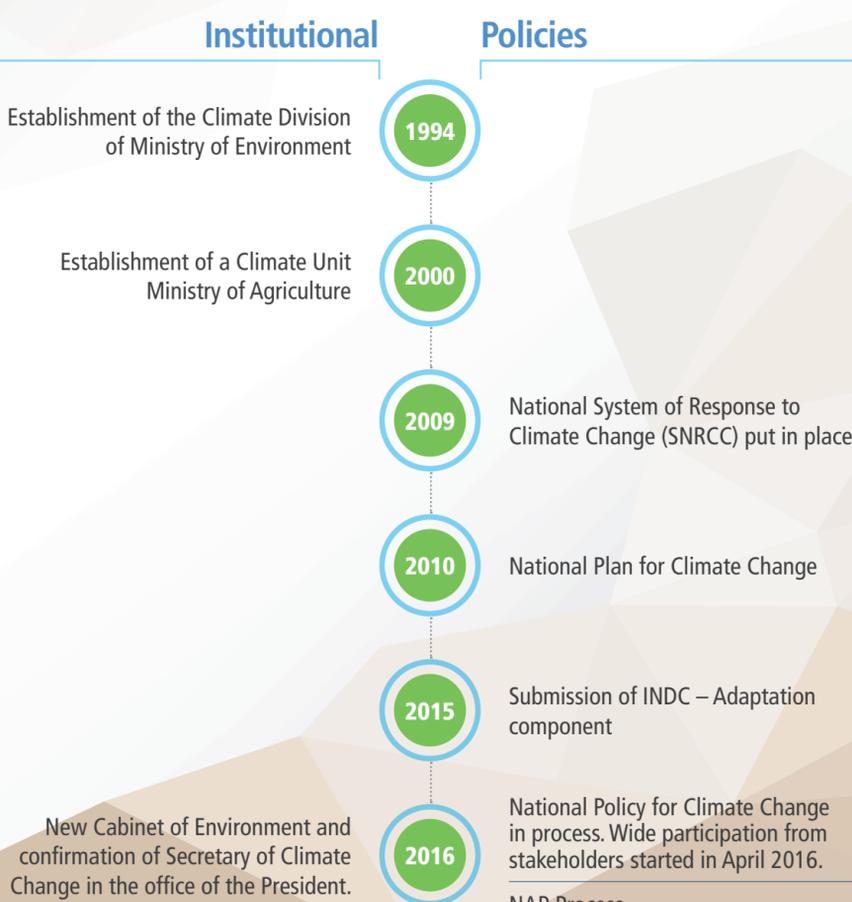
Over half of the farms (25 500 out of 44 000) are family-managed, **38% of farmers exploit small farms with herds below one hundred head of cattle.** These holdings are the most vulnerable to the challenges of climate variability and change.



KEY CLIMATE CHANGE VULNERABILITIES AND IMPACTS ON THE AGRICULTURE SECTORS

- Increase of frequency and severity of drought periods, effects over grass-fed beef.
- **Reduction in seasonal forage and loss of resilience of farm systems.**
- Increased risk of forest fires.
- Intense rainfall over short periods of time: waterlogging of soils, increased risk of soil erosion, and contamination of water sources.
- **Unseasonal frosts and their effect on animal husbandry and crops.**
- **Potential increase in pressure from pests and diseases.**
- Risks of land and forest degradation, loss of biodiversity and desertification, loss of resilience.
- Socioeconomic effects due to infrastructure failure, reduced production and failed crops.
- Change in turbidity and temperature of water on the Rio de la Plata.

NAP PROCESS TIMELINE



ADAPTATION ACTIONS UNDERTAKEN

- Adaptation measures in cattle production, water sources, feed and rangeland management.
- **Development of soil use and management plans to reduce erosion and preservation of organic matter in croplands.**
- Resettlement of population vulnerable to floods, and land-use planning.
- Development and strengthening of the National Protected Areas System, which contributes to the protection of climate change and variability vulnerable biodiversity and ecosystems.
- Restoration and maintenance of coastal ecosystems services.
- Development of research and data collection on the impacts and adaptation to climate change and variability.
- Development of information systems, climate services and monitoring programs, particularly for the environmental, agriculture and emergency sectors, and development of early warning systems, to support decision-making.
- Strengthening of weather, climate and water services.
- **Development, strengthening and decentralization of the National Emergency System.**

Lessons learned on key drivers for adaptation planning

1. A two way process is needed:
 - a. Top-down: provides a regulatory framework and policy tools to implement adaptation measures.
 - b. Bottom-up: Commitment of the stakeholders is key to drive the success of the plan.
2. The knowledge management process must be included in any adaptation planning to effectively capture develop and share lessons learned and to communicate results and experiences.
3. Researchers and academia are building blocks for the construction of sound climatic change policies.
4. Farmers and their organizations must be involved from the beginning.

