Agriculture and Food Security for small-scale food producers

Goal: By 2030, 300 million small-scale agricultural producers in low- and middle-income countries enhance their resilience to a changing climate, including climate shocks and extreme events, increase household incomes and food security, and reverse ecological decline—in line with multiple SDGs.

Climate change is already negatively impacting the lives and livelihoods of vulnerable farmers and exacerbating insecurity. Ninety-five million people experiencing severe food crises were in countries affected by climate shocks in 2017 and the impacts will intensify. Without urgent action the hard-won gains of the MDGs and SDGs could all too easily be eroded. The challenge of surviving these climate shocks is most severe for small-scale agricultural producers, who have limited livelihood alternatives, limited reserves, and limited access to finance, credit and insurance.

The Global Commission on Adaptation Action Track on Agriculture and Food Security focuses on building the resilience of smallholder producers to intensifying climate shocks and stresses. The Action Track is supported by a range of development partners, smallholders’ associations and other organisations from around the world. It mobilises resources including finance and expertise and looks forward to a ‘Year of Action’ to further the goals of food security and enabling smallholder farmers to adapt to climate change.

The Global Commission on Adaptation (GCA) seeks to deliver concrete and meaningful action through a set of Action Tracks that mobilize critical partners. Progress against action track goals and outcomes will be reviewed at high-profile moments during the GCA ‘Year of Action’ including the Adaptation Action Summit in October 2020 and the UN Food Systems Summit in 2021. The GCA managing partners – Global Center on Adaptation and World Resources Institute – will provide the secretariat for the Action Track.

Action Track Outcomes – initial focus

1. Double the scale of agricultural research through the CGIAR system to support 200 million small-scale producers adapt their farming systems, livelihoods and landscapes to be more climate resilient by 2030. This includes systematically embedding climate change in CGIAR’s work through its new 10-year strategy; and the implementation of the Two Degree Initiative, which will involve eight Regional Challenges with diverse partnerships.

2. Expand access to climate-informed digital agricultural advisory services for at least 100 million small-scale producers by 2030. This involves extending real-time surveillance and early warning systems, seasonal and long-term forecasts, and digital farmer advisory services.

3. Scale up access for at least 100 million small-scale producers to reach insurance, markets, finance, and productive safety nets. This convenes public and private investors to scale up innovative risk mitigation models, productive safety nets, and financing mechanisms to unlock private finance for agriculture, value chain development, and sustainable land use.

4. Improve access to and use of adaptation technologies and agroecological practices for 100 million small-scale producers. This initiative will foster scaled up efforts to improve access to appropriate adaptation technologies that deliver sustainable increases in agricultural productivity, expand rural entrepreneurship, and enhance the livelihoods of small-scale producers.

The way forward

This Action Track will be launched during UNGA by Bill Gates, Co-Chair of the Global Commission on Adaptation. A number of governments and development institutions stand ready to announcement commitment to its goal and financial support to help achieve them.

Additional commitments are invited from governments, private sector entities, and all others wishing to join this growing coalition

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GCA Food Security and Agriculture Action Track Partners

- Adaptation of African Agriculture Initiative
- African Development Bank
- The Alliance for Green Revolution in Africa
- Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research
- Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation
- BRAC
- CAB International (CABI)
- CGIAR
- DSM
- Esoko
- German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ)
- Global Environment Facility
- InsuResilience Global Partnership
- International Fund for Agricultural Development
- International Research Institute for Climate and Society, Columbia University
- Southern African Confederation of Agricultural Unions
- UK Department for International Development (DFID)
- United Nations Development Programme
- World Bank
- World Food Programme
- World Meteorological Organization

Organisations expressing support

- Ministry of Agriculture Ogun State government Nigeria, Department of Tree Crops and Rural Development
- Secretariat Agora30 de la Resilience au Tchad