

Update to FAO's Action Pledge 4:

Development of methods and tools related to agro-climatology

"AgroMetShell"

In the ambit of a World Bank-Government of Morocco comprehensive climate change study, FAO has developed new tools based on the FAO crop forecasting methodology to assess climate change impacts on crop yields. These are "adapted" tools that result from the collaboration between FAO, Moroccan agronomic research centres and university, as well as the National Directorate of Meteorology. The software easily handles the many iterations required for current and future risk assessments based on the statistical distribution of climate scenario based yields. The package also includes area-averaging tools and software to determine crop phenology, since future planting dates, harvesting dates as well as crop cycle length will vary as a function of new climate conditions. The methodology is currently being documented to make it available for technology transfer in other countries.

"RADAR"

Rapid Agricultural Disaster Assessment Routine (RADAR) is being incorporated into an agriculture disaster management project on a pilot basis in a flood-prone area of China as a pre-disaster impact assessment tool for early warning system. A report on RADAR will be available in print and on the web in October, 2008. The report introduces the concept with an application to a 1998 hurricane disaster in Honduras.