

IFAD and the Nairobi Work Programme



Fazlul Kader, FEDEC, PKSF

Adaptation to climate change is a central concern of IFAD. Apart from being a principal environmental challenge, climate change is ultimately a development issue. IFAD's target group is particularly vulnerable to climate change, as agriculture, one of the sectors most sensitive to climate variability, represents a main source of livelihood for most rural people. Consequently, IFAD has increasingly been integrating climate change concerns into its portfolio.

There are many ways in which IFAD could strengthen its engagement in climate change adaptation. Active participation in the Nairobi Work Programme on impacts, vulnerability and adaptation to climate change is one of them. While IFAD's Global Environment and Climate Change (GECC) Unit is the institutional focal point for the programme, adaptation-related work is taking place throughout the organization.

In 2008, the GECC Unit began implementation of the CLIMTRAIN initiative. This grant is a tailor-made climate-change training programme for IFAD's Programme Management Department. CLIMTRAIN sessions on adaptation were an occasion to undertake broad consultation in-house, as well as with the secretariat of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and other stakeholders – including colleagues from the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and the World Food Programme – to build the basis for an effective engagement of IFAD in the Nairobi Work Programme. The present notes are the outcome of brainstorming discussions undertaken during the first and second workshops of the CLIMTRAIN project.



Enabling poor rural people
to overcome poverty



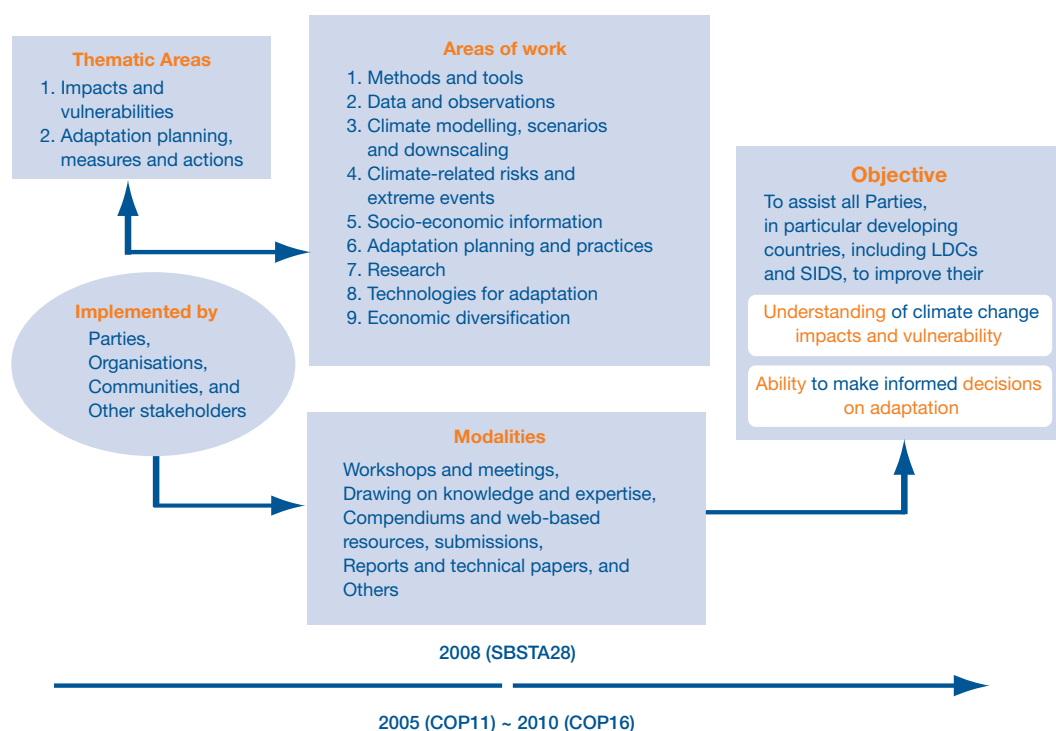
Background information

The Nairobi Work Programme (NWP) on impacts, vulnerability and adaptation to climate change is under the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice (SBSTA) of the UNFCCC. Its objective is to help all Parties to the Convention, in particular developing countries, to:

- improve their understanding and assessment of impacts, vulnerability and adaptation to climate change;
- make informed decisions on practical adaptation actions and measures to respond to climate change on a sound scientific, technical and socio-economic basis, taking into account current and future climate change and variability.

The Nairobi Work Programme comprises nine focal areas. Each covers a specific aspect of adaptation to climate change (figure 1).

Figure 1.
Nairobi Work Programme on Impacts, Vulnerability and Adaptation to Climate Change



Source: UNFCCC

A review of IFAD-supported loans and grants carried out by IFAD's Technical Advisory Division was presented during the first CLIMTRAIN workshop. It showed that IFAD has the expertise and skills to contribute to the following areas of the Nairobi Work Programme:

- improvement of agricultural techniques and technologies in the area of technologies for adaptation;
- economic and livelihood diversification to reduce risk;
- coping with disaster impacts and risk-preparedness in the area of climate risks and extreme events;
- promotion of research on adaptation options in agriculture;
- adaptation planning and practices.

Other areas of relevance to IFAD's work include:

- socio-economic information;
- methods and tools for IFAD that would be related to the impact of climate change on smallholder agriculture and the development or adoption of methods and tools for integrating adaptation into IFAD operations.

The Nairobi Work Programme: an evolving process

First phase of implementation: 2005-2008

In its first phase, action across the Nairobi Work Programme's areas was undertaken at all levels through workshops and expert meetings, submissions from Parties and organizations and compilation of web-based information on adaptation practices. Summary of the results of the implementation of the Nairobi Work Programme during its first phase is contained in document, FCCC/SBSTA/2008/12.

The three main outcomes during the first phase were:

1. Engagement of organizations. The programme involved over 100 intergovernmental (IGOs) and non-governmental organizations (NGOs), the private sector and other adaptation stakeholders. IFAD joined the Nairobi Work Programme in October 2007 and participated in the first NWP focal point meeting in December 2007 in Bali, Indonesia. The GECC Unit is IFAD's institutional focal point for the programme.
2. Support to NWP stakeholders through web-based tools. The "Compendium on Methods and Tools" and the "Adaptation Practice Interface" provide online support to all NWP stakeholders. These resources aim to facilitate stakeholders' efforts towards the achievement of NWP goals by enabling rapid links to effective practices and methods that have already been experimented. These tools are available from the UNFCCC Nairobi Work Programme website.
3. Launch of the first round of Calls for action. The objective of these Calls is to stimulate Parties and organizations to undertake new and innovative activities responsive to the gaps and needs identified in the Nairobi Work Programme. IFAD has provided inputs and examples of its work in the area of rural extension services. This initiative offers an opportunity to NWP stakeholders to participate in NWP implementation by responding to these calls through action pledges.

Second phase of implementation: 2008-2010

The Nairobi Work Programme is now in its second phase. It continues to conduct a broad range of activities in its nine work areas. In particular, activities under adaptation planning and practices have been emphasized. Specific activities include:

1. Enhancing engagement of organizations. The Nairobi Work Programme will continue to enhance its engagement with organizations, institutions, experts, communities and members of the private sector. IFAD attended the second NWP focal point meeting in December 2008 in Poznan, Poland, and has continued dialogue with relevant NWP partners.
2. Promoting regional centres and networks. A technical workshop is planned for 2010 to discuss how to enhance collaboration of regional centres and networks undertaking work relevant to climate change, in particular in the following work areas: methods and tools; data and observations; climate-related risks and extreme events; and modelling, scenarios and downscaling.
3. Producing a set of Calls for action. Seven Calls for action were developed in June 2008 for the areas of: methods and tools, data and observations, climate risks and extreme events, socio-economic information, and adaptation planning and practices.

During this second phase, IFAD is expected to participate more actively in the Nairobi Work Programme. The lessons learned in the CLIMTRAIN workshops will form the basis for engagement in NWP implementation.

Call for Actions identify priority actions under diverse areas of the Nairobi Work Programme in order to communicate them to the wider adaptation community and to Parties and organizations.

They represent a tool for developing plans of action – involving multiple stakeholders – to address commonly identified barriers. They are meant to stimulate action pledges by Parties and organizations that are working on climate change adaptation.

Action pledges provide an interactive way for Parties, IGOs, NGOs and research institutes to identify and commit publicly to undertake activities towards the objectives and expected outcomes of the Nairobi Work Programme, under specific areas of work, and to respond to:

- a call for action; or
 - other needs identified under the mandated activities of the programme.
-



IFAD/D. Rose

IFAD's contribution to implementation of the Nairobi Work Programme: A forward-looking perspective based on the CLIMTRAIN outcomes

For IFAD, the Nairobi Work Programme offers an opportunity to stimulate in-house knowledge generation on climate change adaptation, while at the same time increasing awareness, cost-effectively, of adaptation needs and best practices. In turn, IFAD's contribution to the Nairobi Work Programme will translate into advocacy and increased information for UNFCCC Parties and NWP partners on climate change adaptation in the context of rural development.

Lessons learned from the CLIMTRAIN workshops indicate that IFAD's strengths in relation to the Nairobi Work Programme are based on the following activities:

- sustain community empowerment, with a focus on vulnerable groups;
- promote access to land and natural resources, while at the same time encouraging their sustainable use in a context of increased climate variability;
- support adoption of community-based approaches to climate change adaptation in rural development;
- advance innovative risk management approaches, including microinsurance;
- address and understand climate change impact, with particular attention to the gender dimension;
- promote adaptation strategies at the local level that build on traditional and indigenous peoples' knowledge;
- promote and support pro-poor research with the aim of building scientific capacity, while influencing policy and institutional reforms.

During the first CLIMTRAIN workshop, and with the UNFCCC's participation, the following NWP activities were identified as relevant to future IFAD engagement:

- technical workshop on how regional centres and networks undertaking adaptation work can collaborate (first half 2010);
- further research on vulnerability mapping for analysis of the impacts associated with climate change in key areas – for IFAD that would be agriculture – taking into account economic, environmental and social indicators;
- increased efforts to identify, describe, apply and make available relevant climatic and non-climatic data and information.

Also, the CLIMTRAIN discussions identified several entry points for IFAD response to NWP calls for action. Following the example of other organizations, its involvement will capitalize on its current work and will expand efforts already undertaken to make them more responsive to the objectives and needs identified in the Nairobi Work Programme. For example, IFAD's current work on microinsurance represents an entry point for response to the NWP action pledge in the area of climate risks and extreme events. Further engagement in this area will explore the potential of this tool in more detail as an option for climate change adaptation. This effort will emphasize the success stories, but also increase awareness of the possible shortcomings and constraints related to use of these products. Moreover, IFAD is well placed to respond to needs and gaps related to research and to technologies for adaptation – owing to its experience and engagement in supporting research institutions and other bodies in testing, adapting and disseminating agricultural technologies and innovation that address climate variability.

Contact

Silvia Donato

Global Environment and Climate Change Unit
Programme Management Department
International Fund for Agricultural Development
Via Paolo di Dono, 44 – 00142 Rome, Italy
Tel.: +39 06 54592176 – Fax: +39 06 54593176
IFAD/GECC Registry: GECCregistry@ifad.org
www.ifad.org



Enabling poor rural people
to overcome poverty