



Global Donor Platform  
for Rural Development

draft 1. June 2016

## Concept Note

Work Stream “*Climate and Rural Development*”:

### **Climate resilience for agriculture and rural development: new opportunities to adapt**

#### **Background**

The negative impact of climate change on agriculture and rural development is well documented and its severity well accepted by all stakeholders. The Paris COP21 Agreement opened new windows of opportunity for agriculture and climate change to be jointly addressed by the global community. The issue of food security was explicitly mentioned in relation to climate change and the importance of safeguarding it and ending hunger is mentioned in the preamble of the agreement. Numerous publications, analysis and policy directives following the summit addressed the opportunities that agriculture offers to adapt to climate change not only in sustainable management of natural resources, but also to adapt economically to keep developing the rural space through an appropriate rural transformation.

Climate resilience and climate adaptation in agriculture, climate intelligent agriculture and climate-smart agriculture are terminology used to describe the way ahead in coping with the changing weather conditions. Many publications, manuals and guide books offer support mostly in technical terms and many approaches, strategies and programmes are being reported on.

In institutional terms, alliances and networks are being built like in Africa (Africa, East Africa and West Africa Climate-smart alliances) or in Asia (ASEAN Climate Resilience Network) or the work of IICA in Latin America. The Global Alliance on Climate-smart Agriculture (GACSA) has created three action groups (knowledge, investments and enabling) and offers engagement of governments, institutions, NGOs and the private sector.

Many development institutions have established portfolios for climate relevant interventions. The Global Donor Platform has undertaken a first analysis of donor reactions to the climate challenge in agriculture and rural development. However, many strategic and programmatic issues still need to be clarified and approaches agreed upon with regard to ARD and bilateral finance availability, the GEF and the Climate Finance and Facilities of the World Bank and the regional banks and funds, the Green Climate Fund and private sector investments.

Countries have shared their intention and willingness to work on linking agriculture and climate change. 80% of the INDCs discuss these linkages and considerable number of Least Developed Countries explains the lack of activities in this area with missing finance for adaptation and mitigation. Moreover in their Intended Nationally Determined Contributions (INDCs) to COP 21 of FCCC in December 2015 many of them name agriculture as one major vehicle to adapt to climate change and engage in national mitigation of greenhouse gases – [FAO has recently analysed](#) all INDCs against agriculture and natural resources management. Furthermore, National Adaptation Plans



Global Donor Platform  
for Rural Development

(NAPS) and NAMAs offer more opportunities for countries to redirect agriculture and rural development towards sustainability given the climate impact of the past and future.

**Basic conceptual considerations:**

Every work stream of the Platform is seen as part of the overall discussion in this forum on agriculture and rural development (ARD) and contributes to the broader engagement of Platform members under the Platform's Strategic Initiative Agenda 2030 in transforming the rural space in a sustainable way – economically viable, environmentally sound and socially consolidating.

Secondly, the work streams address issues from a donor perspective as outlined in the Strategic Plan 2016 – 2020 – what is the new role for the individual donor agencies and what are the collective actions in support of developing countries. The work stream “Climate and Rural Development” therefore offers a forum for a very specific discussion as a contribution to the debate within individual member organisations (internal outreach) and in networking and external outreach as an engagement in boarder policy fora, programming exercises and engagement of NGOs and the private sector. This work stream as others of the Platform, wishes to contribute specifically as a donor network without duplicating other fora, networks or alliances.

**Objectives**

The objectives of the strategic initiative are:

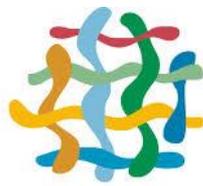
- (1) Knowledge creation and sharing about donor policies, strategies, approaches and programmes/portfolios and the identification of the different forms of engagement by the donor community;
- (2) Analysis of the developments in climate resilience support and engagement by governments in developing countries, the private sector and NGOs (observance of networks and alliances etc.);
- (3) Analysing new opportunities for donor support to developing countries with regard to positioning agriculture and rural development (ARD) and to enhance capacity with regard to NAPs, NAMAS, implementation of (I)NDCs and domestic budget allocations, and international climate finance (bilateral programmes, GCF, World Bank and regional development Banks and funds etc.);

**Overall concept for achieving objective 1**

The **objective 1** is pursued based on the first analysis of donor reactions to the climate challenge in terms of policies, strategies, programmes and budget allocations (published in June 2016). Regular updates and exchange of experiences, documentations and outreach activities in the form of information notes, interviews, virtual briefings and physical meetings will increase the common understanding of the Platform membership of successful approaches and limitations or challenges. The objective is formulated as a process of debate and knowledge/information exchange.

**Overall concept for achieving objective 2**

The concept for **objective 2** is in line with the Strategic Plan 2016 – 2020 of the Platform to match the donor support with ongoing debates of a broader nature which are specifically organised for the



**Global Donor Platform  
for Rural Development**

promotion of agriculture and rural development (ARD) to promote the engagement in climate resilience. Regular participation, contributions from a donor perspective and information sharing on regional and global alliances, networks are at the core for achieving this objective. This includes the negotiation process and follow-up of COPs/SBTAs etc. of FCCC.

**Overall concept for achieving objective 3**

The current instruments provided by the FCCC process as well as climate finance are only partially available for agriculture and rural development (ARD). While the positive role of ARD in climate resilience and mitigation is un-debated, the potential of NAPs and NAMAs as policy and programming instruments are not yet sufficiently used for ARD. Current INDCs, as analysed by FAO, clearly show the political will of many developing countries to engage in ARD more proactively under the national, regional and global climate regimes. In this regard, the Platform membership needs to observe and possibly engage in coordination work such as the upcoming conference of the ASEAN Climate Resilience Network.<sup>1</sup>

Matching finance is principally available, but not necessarily for ARD or the capacity of countries and the status of information on opportunities is insufficient to (for example) use the GCF Readiness Finance for preparing bankable projects and programmes which indeed induce transformational change as called for by the GCF. Since transformational change requires programmes with participation of NGOs and the private sector as well as an interministerial cooperation, the programmes proposed can be quite complex. The support of donors in this regard could catalyse the needed change on the ground if well focused. This objective is geared towards possible operations of donors in support to developing countries, but also strives for political support to ARD in climate finance in the decision-making bodies like in the board of GCF and others.

**Implementation:**

The concept and its objectives are being implemented by forming a working group headed by a member organisation of the Platform and supported by the secretariat of the Platform. An annual work plan guides the implementation. The latter is a living document which can be adapted to the needs to the working group at any time. The working group publishes its results as appropriate on the Platform's website by the means available (information notes, policy briefs, web-stories, virtual briefings, interviews and protocols of physical meetings). The Platform can provide a limited budget for the work stream and additional activities needed to be financed through supplementary funding or in-kind contributions as per Strategic Plan 2016 – 2020.

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<sup>1</sup> See: The Road to Enhanced Transparency for NDC Implementation: Understanding the Capacity Needs for the Paris Enhanced Transparency Framework in Agriculture and Land-use Sectors in Asia and Pacific. ASEAN conference Bangkok, 27 – 29 June 2016.