

# ROSA news

The online network on food and nutrition security, sustainable agriculture and rural development



Pastoralists in Niger. Photo: WFP / Rein Skullerud (Flickr)

The *News on Current Issues* article in this issue, No. 51, focuses on the importance of food security and sustainable agriculture to climate change in the context of the COP21 which will be taking place this month in Paris. *News from the European Commission* considers working with the African Union Commission on agriculture, food security and food safety with the Annual Action Programme (AAP) of the EU funded Pan-African Programme, adopted on 13 November 2015. It also introduces the new EU Emergency Trust Fund to address root causes of irregular migration and displaced persons in Africa, launched on 12 November at the Valetta Summit on Migration. Additional items in this issue include information on past and current conferences and events, and summaries of new, interesting resources.

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network, using the link at the bottom of this page. From June 2015, the ROSA network has become *the* online network on food and nutrition security, sustainable agriculture and rural development on Capacity4Dev.

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Happy reading!



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Food security *and* sustainable agriculture *in* climate change

# COP21

France is hosting the 21st Conference of the Parties to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP21) from 30 November to 11 December 2015. The conference is crucial because the expected outcome is a new international agreement on climate change, applicable to all, to keep global warming below 2°C. An important element of this will be a financial agreement which should enable support for developing countries and financing of the transition towards low-carbon, resilient economies before and after 2020. A key part of COP21, the [Lima-Paris Action Agenda](#) will be bringing together both state and non-state actors to accelerate cooperative climate action now and into the future in support of the new, universal climate change agreement. This article explains how food security and sustainable agriculture are closely linked to the climate change agenda.



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A woman collects water for her family, Burkina Faso. Photo: Ollivier Girard / CIFOR



Climate change adaptation in Guyana.  
Photo: EC Library

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*In a few days, the 2030 agenda will be put under its first big test, when the international community meets in Paris for the 21st Conference of the Parties on climate change. The EU remains committed to contributing our fair share to reach the target of USD 100 billion annually by 2020. We are determined to secure a new global climate agreement at COP21 that is ambitious, comprehensive and legally binding. And one that offers a fair deal to developing countries.*

Neven Mimica, European Commissioner,  
International Cooperation  
and Development

”

## Food security and sustainable agriculture

Food security and sustainable agriculture are at the heart of any agreement on climate change because climate change exacerbates the challenges faced by the agriculture sector, negatively affecting both crop and livestock systems worldwide. At the same time, agriculture is also contributing a significant share of the greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions that are causing climate change. According to a recent OECD report, agriculture is contributing roughly a third of all GHG emissions, some 17% directly through agricultural activities and an additional 7%-14% indirectly through land use changes.

Agriculture is a crucial sector for many countries, affecting both socio-economic development and food security issues. For this sector, the links between productivity, resilience and sustainability are very strong, and the associated challenges are exacerbated by climate change. Agriculture must thus achieve **the triple challenge** of adapting to climate change and contributing to mitigation, whilst managing to meet the crucial objectives of food security. These issues intersect around soils, prompting the French Government to launch an

international and multi-stakeholder initiative during COP21, namely **4/1000: soils for food security and climate** for the restoration and conservation of carbon-rich agricultural soils.

Climate change poses unprecedented challenges to farmers who must produce enough food to feed a growing population—expected to reach 9 billion by 2050—with a richer diet. Farmers will have to adapt their current practices to a different climate, marked by extreme weather events and changing seasonal patterns. Farmers in developing countries, often among the poorest, are particularly vulnerable to the effects of climate change. In recent speeches, FAO Director-General, José Graziano da Silva, and the French Agriculture Minister, Stéphane Le Foll, contend that targeted policies and investments in food security and agriculture should be central to climate change discussions because otherwise recent progress made in combating world hunger would be undermined. Research by the Global Sustainability Institute, a think tank partly funded by the British government, goes even further, forecasting catastrophic losses to the world food system and an unprecedented epidemic of food riots by 2040 if no action is taken to mitigate climate change.

## The El Niño weather event and its impact on food and nutrition security

El Niño is a periodic climate phenomenon defined by anomalously warm sea surface temperatures in the eastern and central tropical Pacific Ocean which affect local weather worldwide. El Niño extreme weather events, particularly drought and floods, have an impact on food and nutrition security in several countries. The heaviest impacts are concentrated in Central America and the Caribbean, Southern Africa, the Horn of Africa, Central and South Asia, South-East Asia and the Pacific.

The European Commission with the support of the Joint Research Centre, carries out an annual analysis to identify hotspots for food and nutrition insecurity at global level, including those linked to El Niño. This analysis guides the allocation of financial resources to deal with the most prominent international food crises. The Pro-Resilience Action (PRO-ACT), funded under the EU Global Public Goods and Challenges thematic programme, which addresses food crises and builds resilience also relies on this analysis.



## Agriculture as part of the solution

Despite this pessimism, technical solutions exist and underscore the potential of the agricultural sector to be part of climate change mitigation and adaptation solutions. However, the OECD argues that without consistent policy signals, efforts by farmers are unlikely to be sufficient to create a sustainable, productive and resilient agriculture sector. Poor and vulnerable farming communities will need support to improve their incomes and their resilience to an uncertain future. With the right tools to produce more food sustainably and access to more consistent sources of income, they have a chance to thrive. Agriculture can contribute to the sequestration or reduction of GHG emissions by taking advantage of already-existing practices and technologies or by adopting new ones. In the long-run, farmers might benefit from the positive effects of mitigation, including better nutrition, increased production and income. However, swift action and international commitment is required at the COP21 to make this possible. In some regions of the world and for vulnerable groups, climate change is already affecting health and livelihoods.

## Climate and gender

New research from IFPRI shows that there are gender differences in perceptions of climate change and the ability to adopt agricultural practices and technologies needed to increase resilience. These findings point to the need for integrating a gender perspective into research on climate change as well as programmes and projects focused on facilitating adaptation and mitigation on the ground.

### ROSA sources

OECD – Agriculture and climate change – September 2015 →

The Independent – Society will collapse by 2040 due to catastrophic food shortages, says study – June 2015 →

French government – 4/1000: soils for food security and climate →

IFPRI – Why paying attention to gender matters for climate change adaptation – November 2015 →

The Guardian – On Kenya's climate frontline, female farmers are building a secure future – November 2015 →

Human Rights Watch – 'There is no time left.' Climate change, environmental threats, and human rights in Turkana County, Kenya – October 2015 →

### Other sources

COP21 →

IISD – FAO highlights link between food security and climate change – October 2015 →

EU – Climate action: agriculture →

Neven Mimica – Sustainable development and climate action – November 2015 →





*Grinding millet, Mali.*  
Photo: EC Library

## Working with the African Union Commission on agriculture, food security and food safety

On 15 November 2015, the EU adopted the second Annual Action Programme (AAP) for the Pan-African Programme to be financed from the general EU budget.

The African Union-Support Programme (AUSP-III) of this AAP will support the African Union Commission (AUC) with €45M. This action includes agriculture, food security and food safety through a budget support to the AUC Department of Rural Economy and Agriculture (DREA) to fulfil its mandate in relation to the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP) implementation, including the Malabo Declaration. This mandate consists of facilitating overall continental policy decision and guidance; supporting AU legitimacy and authority; and convening and organising information support and reporting to the AU policy organs. The 2016 support will focus on:

- CAADP coordination at continental level;
- Sanitary and phyto-sanitary standards (SPSs) including strengthening cooperation on migratory pests and support to the African SPS Committee;
- Domestication of the continental geographical indications (GI) policy framework which plays a crucial role in boosting intra-African trade and supporting continental economic integration; and
- Organic agriculture, including support to national ecological agriculture movements, training and meetings.

Given the crucial role that animal resources play in agriculture, food security and food safety, institutional support will be provided to the AUC and its specific technical bodies, such as the AU Pan-African Tsetse and Trypanosomiasis Eradication Campaign (AU-PATTEC) and the AU Pan-African Veterinary Vaccine Centre (AU-PANVAC) to finance key staff and capacity building to manage and implement continental initiatives related to animal health and safety.

### Source

Annual Action Programme 2015 for the Pan-African Programme →

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*Nigerian woman and her children at the Dublino Centre.*  
Photo: EC Library

## EU Emergency Trust Fund

At the Valletta Summit on Migration on 12 November 2015, the European Commission President Jean-Claude Juncker launched the EU Emergency Trust Fund for stability and addressing root causes of irregular migration and displaced persons in Africa. The Fund is made up of €1.8 billion from the EU budget and European Development Fund, combined with contributions from EU Member States and other donors. So far, 25 EU Member States and 2 non-EU donors (Norway and Switzerland) have announced a total contribution of around €81.3 million. The Trust Fund will benefit some of the most fragile African countries located on the major African migration routes to Europe:

- Sahel region and Lake Chad area: Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Chad, the Gambia, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Nigeria and Senegal.
- Horn of Africa: Djibouti, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Kenya, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan, Tanzania and Uganda.
- North Africa: Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia, Libya and Egypt.

The Trust Fund will be supporting economic programmes that create employment opportunities, especially for young people and women, with a focus on vocational training and the creation of micro and small enterprises. It will also fund projects supporting basic services for local populations such as food and nutrition security, health, education and social protection, as well as environmental sustainability.

### Sources

Factsheet on the EU Trust Fund for Africa →

President Juncker launches the EU Emergency Trust Fund to tackle root causes of irregular migration in Africa →



12-15 October 2015

## Committee on World Food Security 42nd Session: 'Making a difference in food security and nutrition'

The 42nd session of the Committee on World Food Security (CFS 42) was convened at the headquarters of the FAO in Rome, Italy. Approximately 1060 participants attended the session which addressed a series of agenda items related to: CFS and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), the 2015 report on the [State of Food Insecurity in the World \(SOFI\)](#) and policy convergence. CFS 42 endorsed the [Framework for Action for Food Security and Nutrition in Protracted Crises](#) and recommendations on [Water for Food Security and Nutrition](#). The meeting also launched new areas of work, such as the role CFS will play in nutrition and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (2030 Agenda), and adopted its Multi-year Programme of Work (MYPoW) for the next biennium, including Open ended Working Groups (OEWGs) on nutrition and on the SDGs. Ongoing work streams were also covered including the [Global Strategic Framework for Food Security and Nutrition \(GSF\)](#), the outcomes of the [High-Level Forum \(HLF\) on Connecting Smallholders to Markets](#) held on 25 June 2015, the report on the findings of the [CFS effectiveness survey](#), and the priorities for 2016-2017.

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26-30 October 2015

## Sahel and West Africa Week

The Sahel and West Africa Week 2015 took place in Milan, Italy, focusing on the Expo's theme 'Feeding the Planet, Energy for Life' from a West African perspective. The Week brought together regional organisations, representatives of West African governments and OECD countries, and experts in several events. A seminar with West African and European civil society on resilience took place on 28 October, identifying convergence in how the concept of resilience is approached in both reflexion and practice in West Africa. There was also a [special session of the Food Crisis Prevention Network \(RPCA\)](#). On 30 October, a meeting of the Senior Experts Group of the [Global Alliance for Resilience \(AGIR\): Sahel and West Africa](#) took place. This was an opportunity to take stock, to clarify the position of AGIR in the complex resilience environment, specifically in the food and nutrition security sector, and to confirm its ability to optimize synergies and showcase local and international initiatives.

The Week was organised by the Sahel and West Africa Club and its Members and partners, by invitation of the European Union. For the event, the RPCA produced a 20 minute long [video](#).

→ [More information](#)

CFS 42 Plenary Day 1 Photo: ©FAO/Giulio Napolitano.



Sahel and West Africa Week 2015. Photo: Pomilio Buium/Senia Ferrente



27 October 2015

## Brussels Development Briefing 'Emerging donors and rising powers in agriculture'

This event discussed the key challenges and new opportunities to enhance South-South cooperation and triangular cooperation, focusing on emerging country donors such as South Africa, Argentina, Brazil, China, South Korea and India. The Briefing reviewed the key challenges and opportunities in South-South cooperation in agriculture and the lessons learned from research and practice. It looked at examples of successes in South-South and triangular partnerships across African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) countries. According to the OECD, **triangular cooperation** brings together different actors, including providers of development cooperation, partners in South-South cooperation and international organisations, to share knowledge and implement development projects. Brussels Briefings are regular, face-to-face events organised by the Technical Centre for Agricultural and Rural Cooperation (CTA) with partners, including the European Commission.

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Brussels Briefings. Photo: © CTA 2015

## Upcoming events

14-16 December 2015

31st Annual Meeting of the Food Crisis Prevention Network (RPCA) →

12-15 January 2016

Steps to Sustainable Livestock: an International Conference on sustainable ruminant livestock production →

### RPCA

Created in 1984, the RPCA is an international network for co-operation and co-ordination of food crisis prevention under the political leadership of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) and West African Economic and Monetary Union (UEMOA). It is co-animated by Permanent Interstate Committee for Drought Control in the Sahel (CILSS).

### Climate change impacts and mitigation in the developing world: an integrated assessment of the agriculture and forestry sectors

Published by the World Bank on 5 November 2015, this paper conducts an integrated assessment of climate change impacts and climate mitigation on agricultural commodity markets and food availability in low and middle-income countries (LMICs). The analysis uses the partial equilibrium model GLOBIOM to generate scenarios to 2080, demonstrating that climate change effects on the agricultural sector will increase progressively. By 2030, the impact of climate change on food consumption is moderate but already twice as large in a world with high inequalities than in a more equal world. In the long run, impacts could be much stronger, with global average calorie losses of 6% by 2050 and 14% by 2080. A mitigation policy to stabilize climate below 2°C uniformly applied to all regions as a carbon tax would also result in a 6% reduction in food availability by 2050 and 12% reduction by 2080 compared to the reference scenario. To avoid more severe impacts of climate change mitigation on development than climate change itself, revenue from carbon pricing policies will need to be redistributed appropriately. Overall, the projected effects of climate change and mitigation on agricultural markets raise important issues for food security in the long run, but remain more limited in the medium-term horizon of 2030.

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### Pastoralism pays: new evidence from the Horn of Africa

As competition for land and water resources intensifies, there is a growing need to re-evaluate the comparative social and environmental advantages of extensive pastoral production systems. Nine studies of hard-to-reach pastoral areas in Ethiopia and Kenya reaffirm that the value of pastoral systems is largely overlooked. Camel milk, goat meat, draught power and other goods and services provide subsistence products and household income; they also create employment, income opportunities and access to credit along their 'value chains'. Pastoral products contribute significant revenues to public authorities and support the provision of basic services in rural towns; with support, this productivity could grow.

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### Climate change & food security: challenges and options at global and national scales

On 10 November 2015, the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI) held this policy seminar to consider the impacts of climate change on agricultural production, food security, and resource use, raising important timescale and planning horizon issues not normally at the forefront of the more traditional economic development research agenda. As scientists, advocates, researchers, and political leaders were preparing to head to Paris for COP21, the panel of experts considered some of the most urgent aspects of climate change and agriculture.

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### The impact of climate change on costs of food and people exposed to hunger at subnational scale

Published by the Potsdam Institute, Germany, in October 2015 and funded by the World Bank, this study analyses climate change impacts on agriculture and potential implications for the occurrence of hunger under different socioeconomic scenarios for 2030, focusing on regions most affected by poverty. Results indicate that while average yields decrease with climate change in all focus regions, the impact on the costs of food is very diverse. Costs of food increase most in the Middle East and North Africa, where available agricultural land is already fully utilized and options to import food are limited. The increase is least in sub-Saharan Africa since production there can be shifted to areas which are only marginally affected by climate change and imports from other regions increase. South Asia and sub-Saharan Africa can partly adapt to climate change by modifying trade and expanding agricultural land. In the Middle East and North Africa, almost the entire population is affected by increasing costs of food but the share of people vulnerable to hunger is relatively low, due to relatively strong economic development in these projections.

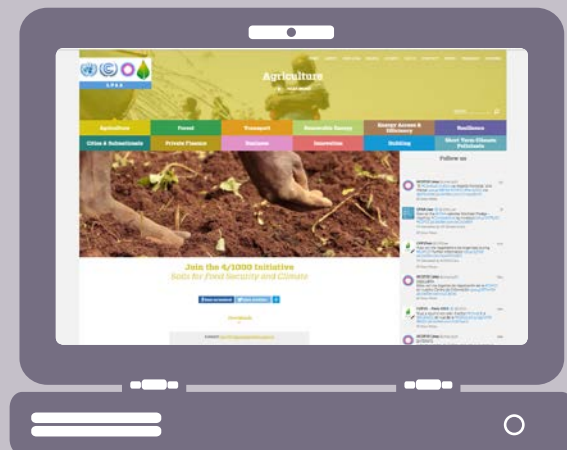
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## Why stunting remains a major challenge

Published on the World Economic Forum website in October 2015, this blog considers that the Global Hunger Index 2015 shows some encouraging results but that there are some big shocks: 795 million people still go hungry and more than one in four children are affected by stunting, a form of starvation in which the human body reduces its growth. Undernourished children are more likely to die in the first few years of life. If they survive, they have lower educational and income attainment. In some African countries, including Burundi, Eritrea, Madagascar and Rwanda, stunting is so prevalent that by 2030 almost half of the young adult population will be shorter than they should be.

→ [More information](#)



## 4/1000 Initiative: Soils for Food Security and Climate

The 4/1000 Initiative engages stakeholders in shifting towards resilient agriculture through sustainable soil management that generates jobs and incomes, thereby ensuring sustainable development. It consists of a voluntary action plan under the Lima-Paris Action Agenda (LPAA), backed up by an ambitious research programme. The official launch of the initiative will take place at COP21 in Paris on 1 December with the signing of a joint declaration by stakeholders.

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## Ending rural hunger

In September 2015, 193 countries agreed to Sustainable Development Goal 2: Achieving zero hunger by 2030. [Endingruralhunger.org](#) is a toolkit to review and follow-up on this global goal by providing insight into 116 developing countries' efforts to end rural hunger. It was launched in October 2015 by the Brookings Institute, USA.

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