

# ROSA Newsletter

## Views on current news

### Climate change talks: A weak Durban outcome for agriculture

The latest round of climate change negotiations took place in Durban, last December. For the first time, agriculture is part of a COP<sup>1</sup> decision and was widely discussed during the two weeks of negotiations. Simon Mwamba, Country Coordinator of Eastern and Southern Africa Farmers' Forum (ESAFF) Zambia took part in the Conference. In this interview, he shares his views on the weak Durban outcome. He presents the actions and vision that should be promoted to preserve rural communities' food security and livelihoods in a changing climate.

#### **Do you think that COP17 was a success with regard to agriculture and food security? Why?**

ESAFF thinks that COP17 was a failure with regards to agriculture. Of course we are happy that agriculture has finally been included in a COP decision. However, the decision is very short and several key issues remain unresolved. It also leaves room for interpretation and the promotion of fake solutions.

Many civil society groups are concerned that the vision for African agriculture that was discussed in Durban will worsen global climate change. We are concerned that soil carbon markets—brought about by some as a solution to promote “climate smart agriculture”—will not benefit smallholder farmers<sup>2</sup>. Carbon markets come with carbon offsets, which allow industrialised countries to continue to emit, while these countries should dramatically reduce their emissions. In addition, the race to control soils for carbon trading could worsen current land-grab practices in Africa.

#### **What do you think about current discussions on “climate smart agriculture”?**

Climate-Smart Agriculture is being presented as

sustainable agriculture – but the term is so broad that we fear it is a front for promoting industrial, “green revolution” agriculture too, which traps farmers into cycles of debt and poverty. We question the motives of large corporations involved in these discussions. Research shows that African producers' insufficient access to seeds and poor soils are part of the problem of African agriculture. Therefore, these corporations want to promote their fertilizers and their seeds. This is not the right approaches to promote sustainable agriculture in Africa. Such practices force smallholder farmers to be dependent on agrochemicals, while eroding the seed diversity that Africa needs for resilience to climate change and a food secure future.

ESAFF believes that climate smart agriculture should rely on agro-ecological practices. These are environmentally- and climate-friendly practices that keep the control of resources in the hands of farmers and make less use of external inputs. There are many examples of such practices in Zambia, for instance. Farmers use green or animal manure to fertilize their soils, or agroforestry for pest control. Therefore, the question is: how can we promote and disseminate those practices? In Zambia, we carry out practical training within the community (demo fields) so that people are able to see the results. We also teach trained farmers how to train other farmers.

<sup>1</sup> Conference of the Parties (COP) to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).

<sup>2</sup> See the Press release:  
<http://nosoilcarbonmarkets.wordpress.com/>

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### **Do you agree with the proposal to launch a work program on agriculture?**

The launch of a work program on agriculture was largely discussed in Durban, although no official work program was adopted in the last hours of the conference. We were concerned with the proposed orientations. It focused on mitigation while adaptation is the most important and pressing issue for small-scale farmers. Furthermore, most discussions on this potential work program took place without the participation of small-scale farmers. We ask for an agriculture work program that is developed with the participation of small scale farmers, recognises small-scale farmers' adaptation needs and addresses those needs.

### **Is the participation of farmers' sufficient in the climate negotiation?**

Farmers'—especially small-scale farmers'—participation in the climate negotiation should be increased. It should be increased at country level first. In addition, farmers should be included in country delegations. Some people say they are not aware of climate issues.

In fact, it is quite the contrary: they are the ones who face the impacts of climate change on the ground. Farmers also need to get more organised. There is a need for an umbrella organisation to bring farmer's voices together. Next year, we could also organise a Farmers' Day, where farmers could get together and share their views.

### **How is food security addressed in the climate change negotiations?**

There is a major gap in the negotiations: ensuring people's food security and nutrition is not given enough attention, while it will be threatened by climate change. We believe that the best way to fill this gap is to look at it from a right-based approach—referring to the Right to food and food sovereignty. In Durban, African farmer and civil society groups launched a “network of African organisations”, called the Alliance for Food Sovereignty in Africa (AFSA). We also released a report emphasizing that food sovereignty can cool the planet, while feeding the world and regenerating ecosystems.

## **Agenda**

### **Past events**

- **17th Conference of the Parties to the UN Convention on climate change** (Durban, 28th November – 10th December 2011): The main outcome of Durban is the launch of a new working group, the "Durban Platform", which will intend to reach an international agreement encompassing all countries. It is not known whether this agreement will be "legally binding". The second result is that countries agreed on the principle of a second commitment period of Kyoto Protocol. Again, the definition of precise rules and procedures for this commitment are postponed to next year. For the first time, in Durban, agriculture was included in a decision under the Climate Convention. This is a significant step forward, which was highly anticipated by many countries and observers. >>>

- **Agriculture and rural development Day at COP17** (Durban, 3 December): A group of 17 agricultural organisations hosted the Agriculture and Rural Development Day held in parallel with the COP17 negotiations in Durban. Around 600 agricultural experts – including policymakers and negotiators, journalists, farmers, NGOs and scientists – discussed objectives and modalities to allow for an increase in agricultural production while supporting mitigation and adaptation to climate change. >>>
- **COP17 Side event on "Nutrition and climate change: Making the connection to enhance livelihood resilience, health and women's empowerment"** (Durban, 4 December 2011): During the UN climate change conference, a side event on the link between nutrition and climate change was co-organised by Public Health Institute, the World Food Programme, UN Standing Committee on Nutrition and Action Against Hunger. >>>

- **Workshop on “Building resilience: Bridging food security, climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction”** (Rome, 9-10 November 2011): This event was organised by the WFP in the framework of the Knowledge Centre on Food Security, Climate Change and Disaster Risk Reduction. Participants started the 2-days workshop by agreeing on a common working definition of ‘resilience’. Different ‘resilience pathways’ have then been analysed through the presentation of ten case studies that had been selected among more than 20 applications from various organisations. From these case studies, lessons and challenges – both at operational and policy levels - have been identified. These in turn led to the identification and prioritization of recommendations in order to build resilience through projects and programs. [>>>](#)

### Upcoming events

- **17 January 2012:** Info Point Conference “The practical guide to contract procedures for EU external actions” [>>>](#)
- **17-19 January:** International Scientific Symposium on food and nutrition security information. From valid measurement to effective decision-making – Rome (Italy) [>>>](#)
- **22 February:** The European Food Security Conference: “Better farming for a sustainable European Food Supply” – Brussels (Belgium)
- **22 February:** CTA Brussels Briefing “New challenges and opportunities for pastoralism in ACP countries”
- **5-9 March:** Negotiations on the Voluntary Guidelines on land tenure – Rome (Italy)
- **26-29 March:** Reconciling food security, biodiversity and multiple ecosystem services in agricultural landscapes – London (UK)

For further information: [Upcoming events](#)

### EC’s latest news

- **Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF) 2014-2020** (7 December 2011): The European Commission adopted budget proposals for its external instruments from 2014-2020. The range of instruments will support developing countries as well as countries in the European neighbourhood and those that are preparing accession into the EU. The MFF regulations package includes: i) a Joint Communication to the European Parliament and the Council: “Global Europe” and ii) the legislative proposals for nine geographic and thematic instruments accompanied by a common implementing regulation. [>>>](#)
- **European Development Day** (Warsaw, 15-16 December 2011): The EDD 2011 focused on democracy and development, and in particular, on the themes of governance and human rights. It was also an opportunity to discuss the European Commission's Agenda for Change; a commitment to focus more on good governance and human rights as well as concentrate on the poorest countries, in order to make sure that its aid reaches those who need it most. [>>>](#)
- **Strengthening governance approaches for food security:** A call for proposals was launched in November 2011. This action will foster stronger participation in food security governance of key food security stakeholders belonging to some of the most vulnerable groups, thus calling for a bottom-up approach which will contribute to reducing the risk of these groups being marginalised socially, politically, and economically. Both existing networks and new networks of farmers', pastoralists' and fishermen's organisations will be supported at multi-country, (sub-) continental and global level. The deadline for submission of concept notes is : 7 February 2012 at 16:00 hrs (Brussels date and time) [>>>](#)

## New online documents

### ➤ Social transfers

*Learning lessons from the policy influence of the Regional Hunger and Vulnerability Programme (RHVP), Overseas Development Institute, RHVP - September 2011*

Drawing on the RAPID Outcome Assessment methodology, this report examines the influence of Regional Hunger and Vulnerability Programme (RHVP) on policy in southern Africa and shares lessons learned from these experiences. The methodology involved first assessing the changes seen in six key stakeholder groups over the life of the program; second, analysing the causes and influences behind these changes; and third, interpreting what lessons this has for future programmes similar to RHVP, and for DFID. >>>

*Rethinking cash transfers to promote maternal health: Good practice from developing countries, Overseas Development Institute - November 2011*

This Background Note reviews the evidence on conditional cash transfers (CCTs) to promote safe motherhood – a concept that spans not only care during pregnancy and childbirth, but access to family planning and equitable health services – comparing them to other approaches to maternal health programming in developing countries. >>>

*Cash transfers for maternal health: Design opportunities and challenges in low-resource settings, Overseas Development Institute - December 2011*

This Project Briefing provides an outline of the key elements to be considered when designing a cash transfer project that aims to improve maternal health outcomes in low-resource settings. >>>

### ➤ Climate change and food security

*Special report on managing the risks of extreme events and disasters to advance climate change adaptation (SREX), IPCC - November 2011*

This IPCC (Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change) special report is a summary for policy-makers of a larger report that will be published in February 2012. For the first time, it integrates expertise in climate science, disaster risk management, and adaptation with the aim of reducing and managing the risks of extreme

events and disasters in a changing climate. The report also evaluates the role of climate change in altering the characteristics of extreme events, and evaluates evidence from records for changes in extremes as well as trends in disaster-related losses. It also assesses experience with a wide range of options used by institutions, organisations, and communities to reduce exposure and vulnerability, and improve resilience, to climate extremes. >>>

*Climate-smart agriculture: Policies, practices and financing for food security, adaptation and mitigation, FAO – November 2010*

This paper has been published for the Global Conference on Agriculture, Food Security and Climate Change, that was held in The Hague, Netherlands (2010). This paper examines some of the key technical, institutional, policy and financial responses required to achieve the transformation to "climate-smart" agriculture. Building on case studies from the field, the paper outlines a range of practices, approaches and tools aimed at increasing the resilience and productivity of agricultural production systems, while also reducing and removing emissions. The second part of the paper surveys institutional and policy options available to promote the transition to climate-smart agriculture at the smallholder level. >>>

### ➤ Other themes

*Policy coherence for agriculture and rural development, Global Donor Platform for Rural Development - 2011*

The Global Donor Platform for Rural Development commissioned three studies to capture platform members' knowledge on key issues affecting the delivery and impact of aid in agriculture and rural development (ARD). This study is part of the series. The study traces progress toward greater coherence between agricultural and rural development policies and explores whether mounting interest in food prices, food security, water scarcity, energy and climate change has giving rise to a global agenda. >>>

*Aid to agriculture, rural development and food security, Global Donor Platform for Rural Development - 2011*

This study investigates current aid measurement and tracking procedures and discusses the need for improving transparency and accountability in agriculture and rural development (ARD) and



food security. It is the outcome of studies on donor agency practices with aid measurement (in Germany, UK, US and the World Bank), on country practices (in Malawi, Nicaragua and Vietnam), and desk studies on International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) and non-DAC (Development Assistance Committee) donors and private foundations in ARD and food security-all of which are published at [donorplatform.org](http://donorplatform.org). >>>

#### ➤ External links

##### *Global Strategic Framework for food security and nutrition. First draft, FAO, FSN - Upcoming*

A summary of the outcomes of the consultation on the draft zero of the Global Strategic Framework was presented at the 37th CFS session in October 2011. It contributed to the preparation of the First Draft of the GSF, which will be published and submitted for further consultation shortly. The Global Strategic Framework will be discussed at the 38th CFS session in October 2012. Visit the [FSN Forum](http://www.fsnforum.org) or contact the Team at [fsn-moderator@fao.org](mailto:fsn-moderator@fao.org) for further details.

##### *Bulletin No. 3 – “Food price volatility. The war of analyses” - November 2011*

**This bulletin is only available in French.** Faced with a multitude of writings, positions and negotiations on the thorny issue of food price volatility, this bulletin seeks to take stock of the discussions that have marked current events this year and open reflections on the impact of rising prices in Africa, especially for producers.  
<http://www.inter-reseaux.org/bulletin-de-veille/article/bulletin-de-synthese-sa-no3>

##### *Capacity4dev.eu Newsletter, EuropeAid Development Cooperation Directorate General, November 2011*

This issue of Capacity4dev's monthly newsletter is dedicated to the Busan High level forum on aid effectiveness. It also presents highlights of various EuropeAid projects, events and staff.  
<http://newsletter.capacity4dev.eu/>

##### *PRESENCA's and PRESISAN's weekly food security and nutrition Newsletter*

PRESENCA is the program for food and nutrition security in Central America and PRESISAN, the Regional Information System on food and nutrition security. Their weekly newsletter is available to the general public. Read the newsletters (in Spanish):

[http://www.sica.int/busqueda/busqueda\\_basica.aspx?IdCat=50&IdMod=3&IdEnt=915&Idm=1&IdmStyle=1](http://www.sica.int/busqueda/busqueda_basica.aspx?IdCat=50&IdMod=3&IdEnt=915&Idm=1&IdmStyle=1)

## Network activities

- **A discussion forum on the Durban climate change talks:** It proposes analyses on the inclusion of agriculture and food security in the international climate change negotiations, in particular on recent developments in Durban at the COP 17 Conference. If you are interested in participating to discussion, go to Forum > Open discussion forums > Durban Conference.

*This bulletin was written by the GRET team in charge of animating ROSA. The network is an initiative of EuropeAid.*

*The points expressed do not reflect the official position of the European Commission.*