The international community reached three landmark agreements in 2015. The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development outlines the ambitions of the international community to build an equitable, hunger-free and sustainable world. At the Third International Conference on Financing for Development, countries agreed on how to support the 2030 Agenda and invest in sustainable development. Finally, the Paris Agreement that was finalized in December 2015 and went into effect in November 2016 provides the framework we need to mount a comprehensive global response to climate change.

The Paris Agreement was built on the intended nationally determined contributions (INDCs) submitted by UNFCCC Parties. This bottom-up approach, grounded in country leadership, was vital to producing a successful outcome at COP21. The INDCs served as a basis for negotiations at COP21 and provided the foundation for the Paris Agreement. Unless a Party specifies otherwise, its INDC will become its first Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) upon submitting its instrument of ratification for the Paris Agreement.

As at 29 July 2016, 189 countries (190 Parties) had submitted a total of 161 INDCs and 22 NDCs to the UNFCCC, 21 of which were originally submitted as INDCs. The focus of FAO’s analysis is on developing countries and these were also considered by region. Well-targeted interventions in the agriculture sectors have the unique potential to deliver adaptation and mitigation benefits, as well as economic, environmental and social co-benefits – often simultaneously.

As the international community shifts its attention to the implementation of the Paris Agreement, all climate action will be guided by countries’ NDCs and relevant national policy frameworks. Countries will take the lead in taking transformative climate action in the agriculture sectors, but the international community must support developing countries in doing so.
The agriculture sectors (crops, livestock, forestry, fisheries and aquaculture) are featured prominently in the intended nationally determined contributions (INDCs) and NDCs and are among the foremost priorities in countries’ mitigation contributions and adaptation objectives:

- 89% of all countries and 86% of all developing countries refer to agriculture (crops and livestock) and/or land use, land-use change and forestry (LULUCF) when outlining their mitigation contributions.
- 67% of all countries mention climate-related hazards including extreme events, long-term impacts and variability phenomena.

**Synergies**

61% of all countries refer to the agriculture sectors both with regard to mitigation and adaptation. This is indicative of the potential to leverage mitigation-adaptation synergies in these sectors:

- 57 countries endorse or even prioritize actions based on the potential synergies between mitigation and adaptation in the context of the agriculture sectors.
- 32 countries specifically refer to the concept of Climate-Smart Agriculture (including 40% of all least developed countries).

**Co-benefits**

Mitigation and adaptation co-benefits refer to rural development and health, poverty reduction, ecosystem conservation and improving gender equality. As part of their co-benefits and beyond, as many as 75% of Sub-Saharan African countries refer to “gender” or “women” in their INDCs, making the region a global leader in integrating gender equality into sustainable development priorities.

**Planning & implementation**

- 28% of countries refer to National Adaptation Plans in the agriculture sectors.
- 60% of countries express the need for support related to technology transfer and capacity building.
- 100% of the least developed and 93% of developing countries highlight the need for financial support to achieve their mitigation and adaptation commitments.

**Priority areas for international support**

The NDCs implementation needs, identified by developing countries and international partners, point to a set of intervention areas that the international community should prioritize. These areas include:

- compliance with the enhanced transparency framework of the Paris Agreement;
- coherent policy frameworks for climate action in the agriculture sectors;
- research, analysis and tools;
- capacity development for implementation and action in the agriculture sectors;
- investment for the development of the agriculture sectors.