

# The CLIMTRAIN Project



Climate change is of particular relevance to IFAD's work because, apart from being an environmental problem, it is ultimately a development issue. Given IFAD's primary objective of benefiting poor rural people, its main challenge is to promote pro-poor approaches for both mitigation of and adaptation to climate change in a rapidly evolving context. This requires full comprehension of emerging trends in the climate change regime, including climate risk-sharing and transfer; reduction of emissions from deforestation in developing countries; and the role of land use, land-use change and forestry activities, to mention a few.

In April 2008 the **CLIMTRAIN project** was approved. CLIMTRAIN is a tailor-made, climate change training programme for IFAD's Programme Management Department (PMD). Its main goal is to support PMD in building its capacity in climate change mitigation and adaptation. The project will also contribute to:

- (i) strengthen in-house knowledge on climate change issues in the context of rural development;
- (ii) share knowledge by developing training materials not only to be used internally, but also disseminated externally to IFAD stakeholders;
- (iii) build new partnerships on climate change with other United Nations institutions and development actors, as well as reinforcing existing networks.

CLIMTRAIN consists of three workshops and one seminar focusing on the link between climate change and rural development:

- **First workshop** (July 2008): Climate Change and Agriculture: Setting the Scene. This workshop focused on: the context of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC); climate change science and its impact on agriculture; and existing financial mechanisms to support climate change activities. Working groups brainstormed how to integrate climate change into IFAD's country- and sector-specific operations.
- **Second workshop** (November 2008): Climate Change and Rural Development: Options and Instruments for IFAD. This workshop focused on: options for climate change



Enabling poor rural people  
to overcome poverty

adaptation in the agriculture sector; and instruments for engaging IFAD in adaptation-related work at the operational level. Attention was devoted to community-based adaptation, using concrete examples of local coping strategies and including the experiences of other United Nations agencies. The roles of micro-insurance and disaster risk management as adaptation options were also key elements of discussion. Internal and external instruments and partnerships were emphasized as tools for increasing IFAD's engagement in adaptation-related work. Internal instruments focused on IFAD's environmental and social assessment procedures. External instruments focused on CRiSTAL (Community-based Risk Screening Tool – Adaptation and Livelihoods). Partnerships discussed the Nairobi Work Programme and cooperation among the Rome-based United Nations agencies. Moreover, the synergies between rural development planning and national adaptation programmes of action (NAPAs) were considered.

- **Third workshop** (early 2009): Climate Change Mitigation. The workshop will discuss mitigation mechanisms, including reducing emissions from deforestation in developing countries (REDD); land use, land-use change and forestry (LULUCF), including afforestation/reforestation activities under the Clean Development Mechanism (CDM); the role of agroforestry; and payment for environmental services (PES).

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## International Fund for Agricultural Development

The International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) is a specialized agency of the United Nations dedicated to combating rural poverty in the world's most disadvantaged regions. Through both loans and grants, this international financial institution develops and finances programmes and projects that enable poor rural people to overcome poverty themselves.

IFAD reaches more than 10 per cent of the world's poor rural people living on less than a dollar a day. There are 187 ongoing IFAD-supported rural poverty eradication programmes and projects, totalling US\$6.2 billion. IFAD has invested more than US\$2.9 billion in these initiatives. Cofinancing has been provided by governments, project participants, multilateral and bilateral donors and other partners.

Working with partners, including poor people, governments, NGOs, financial and development institutions and the private sector, IFAD tackles poverty not just as a lender but also as an advocate. One of its priorities is to assist poor rural people in developing and strengthening their organizations so that they can advance their interests and remove the obstacles that prevent so many people, especially women, from creating a better life for themselves. In this way, they are able to participate more fully in determining and directing their own development.

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## Global Environment and Climate Change Unit

In May 2008 IFAD broadened the mandate of its Global Environment Facility (GEF) Unit. The renamed Global Environment and Climate Change (GECC) Unit serves as the technical arm of IFAD's Programme Management Department on climate change issues. Through this unit, IFAD promotes investments in adaptation and mitigation in its country portfolio and facilitates dialogue on operational and technical matters with the UNFCCC secretariat.

The GECC coordinator is also the focal point for the Nairobi Work Programme on impacts, vulnerability and adaptation. The unit will maintain its GEF operational function – designing impact-oriented projects that complement IFAD's investments – and will continue its participation in relevant environment-related international meetings and committees.



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