

Major Workstreams

Resilient Agricultural Practices in the context of Disasters

The SDGs speak specifically to the challenges of climate change, extreme weather, drought, flooding and other disasters. CFS prepared the Framework for Action for Food Security and Nutrition in Protracted Crises. Yet, there has been little effort to co-ordinate focus on resilient agricultural practices to address agricultural needs in the wake of immediate crises such as droughts and floods. Food aid systems are vital at such times, however methods to resume farming, sustain livelihoods of smallholders, and reinvigorate food production systems are under explored.

Contribution to the achievement of the SDGs:

This is based on SDG target 2.4:

2.4 by 2030 ensure sustainable food production systems and implement resilient agricultural practices that increase productivity and production, that help maintain ecosystems, that strengthen capacity for adaptation to climate change, extreme weather, drought, flooding and other disasters, and that progressively improve land and soil quality.

Relevance and global impact

The El Nino effect has been yet another stark reminder of the impacts of extreme weather, drought, flooding and the long term implications of climate change on farming.

<http://www.fao.org/emergencies/resources/documents/resources-detail/en/c/411003/>

A broad array of countries have been affected this year, with a huge impact on livelihoods, food security, and the need for humanitarian assistance. These recent impacts bely a longer term trend toward more extreme weather and the need for more attention, coherence and analysis on these issues.

CFS value added and contribution to CFS objectives

The UN system has a capable, robust system to respond to humanitarian food crises. The World Food Program and the rest of the UN system are continuously resourcing, improving and refining the response on an ongoing basis. Even in the face of growing demand and strains on resources. The Framework for Action for Food Security and Nutrition in Protracted Crises provides global guidance to respond to long term disruptions. It framed some of the most important measures to address the resilience and livelihoods of farmers and food systems in this context. In between these two contexts lies the necessity of building resilient agricultural systems in the face of disasters. The immediate needs of farmers, foresters, and fishers to replant, repopulate, and rebuild is acknowledged but is under-addressed in UN fora. The SDGs as the overarching framework, specifically call out the need to address adaptation in the face of disasters and would be a meaningful contribution towards the SDGs.

No duplication

While disaster response has received important and vital attention in UN fora such as Sendai, there has been very little focus specifically on the goals of including practices that increase capacity for adaptation to climate change, extreme weather, drought, flooding and other disasters. This would be a unique place where CFS could add value, drawing attention to the long term importance of resilience.