



Climate Change and Food Security – Perspectives from GEF Agencies

May 27, 4:00 - 5:30 pm

Steadily growing world population and the changing climate necessitates a focus on food security as one of the imminent challenges that the global environment faces. Understanding the risks of climate change and leveraging the opportunities that it presents is essential to maintain food security. The side event will showcase the approaches the different GEF agencies are taking towards addressing the issue, including initiatives and overall strategy towards food security in the changing climate. The event will be in the form of a Panel Discussion, with representatives from participating GEF Agencies. It will start off with short (10-12 mins) presentations from the GEF agencies, followed by discussion with the audience. Confirmed GEF Agencies include FAO, IFAD, UNEP, UNIDO, and World Bank. Below are highlights of some GEF Agency perspectives to be presented.

FAO- Climate Smart Agriculture (CSA) achieving multiple GEF objectives

FAO will present how the climate-smart agriculture (CSA) approach addresses the multiple objectives of sustainably increasing production, improving food security, reducing environmental impacts (including GHG emissions) and creating more healthy and resilient ecosystems and communities. FAO will showcase specific examples where a CSA approach has been applied at national level in Latin America: the presenter will show data in regards to the socio-economic and environmental context and how these were improved. Particularly the presentation will focus on the results of a GEF project on Climate-Smart Livestock in Ecuador, based on FAO's work on how to improve livestock production while reducing emissions by kg of product. The project also includes the reversal of land degradation and the increase of resilience to climate change.

IFAD – Approach to Climate Change and Food Security

IFAD is strategically complimenting GEF, and other sources of funding, in its regular investments to contribute to food security and productivity. Also, IFAD's work in promoting value chains; adoption of better technologies and practices; and policy discussion at the national level, have contributed to increase the collaboration between the main institutional actors, Ministries of Agriculture, Environment and Finance. This had led to a more coordinated approach to natural resources management and a more concrete food security strategy.





UNEP - Conservation of Agrobiodiversity for Adaptation and Resilience

Climate change presents a new challenge to farmers and rural communities around the world already coping with many other problems. Agrobiodiversity can play a significant part in providing the adaptability and increased resilience needed by farmers to meet the challenges of climate change and in improving the well-being of communities through increased incomes and better nutrition. The presentation will focus on experiences and lessons from UNEP/GEF supported initiatives that demonstrate mainstreaming agrobiodiversity conservation and sustainable use in agriculture production system and the role of agrobiodiversity to strengthen adaptability and resilience to cope with the main forces and drivers of change.

UNIDO - Agro-food value chains development and Food Security: The UNIDO Experience

The premise on which UNIDO rests its food security assistance is that, sound agricultural development calls for a holistic process of rural transformation, in a value chain from resource to processing industry and markets. Agribusiness development is a strategic priority for UNIDO, because of the critical role the sector plays in food and nutrition security, economic development, sustainable reduction of poverty, creating jobs and raising incomes, triggering growth in other sectors, expanding domestic markets and reducing rural-urban migrations. This presentation will highlight UNIDO's technical assistance services in food processing technology, rural entrepreneurship development, and the organization of supply chains and markets, contributing to the sustainable growth in the supply of safe food as well as adequate access to it.

WORLD BANK – Integrated Landscape Management for Food Security and Resilience

The World Bank is taking multi-country and multi-sectoral approach to address food security and climate change challenge. In the Sub Saharan African Region, the World Bank has piloted the Sahel and West Africa Program (SAWAP) in support of the Great Green Wall Initiative which showcases agricultural and biodiversity friendly measures to promote food security, production of ecosystem services and resilience. Thus leading to triple wins of increased productivity, increased resilience and increased mitigation. The presentation will highlight the innovative design of the program showing how through individual but related projects, sustainable land and water management (SLWM) activities follow an approach that takes into account social, economic, institutional and policy needs for sustainable landscape management at scale. In the Middle East and North African region an innovative partnership between the GEF and the World Bank Group has been under implementation since November 2011. The Desert Ecosystems and Livelihoods Program (DELP) focuses on strengthening biodiversity management and harnessing the value of desert ecosystem services and goods in order to improve daily standards of living for millions in the region. The presentation will showcase the programs multi-pronged approach that bolsters the values derived from sustainable management of Sahara and Arabian desert ecosystems.

