UN Climate Action Summit: Resilience and Adaptation strand

Agriculture and Food Security for small-scale food producers

Goal: By 2030, 300 million small-scale agricultural producers in low- and middle-income countries enhance their resilience to a changing climate, including climate shocks and extreme events, increase household incomes and food security, and reverse ecological decline — consistent with the sustainable development goals.

Context
Climate change is already negatively impacting the lives and livelihoods of vulnerable farmers and exacerbating insecurity. Ninety-five million people experiencing severe food crises were in countries affected by climate shocks in 2017 and the impacts will intensify. Without urgent action, the hard-won gains of the MDGs and SDGs could all too easily be eroded. The challenge of surviving these climate shocks is most severe for small-scale agricultural producers, who have limited livelihood alternatives, limited reserves, and limited access to finance, credit and insurance.

The Global Commission on Adaptation Action Track on Agriculture and Food Security focuses on building the resilience of smallholder producers to intensifying climate shocks and stresses. It incorporates an ambitious goal, diverse partnerships, a ‘Year of Action’ to build significant momentum on the five planned outcomes, and on-going implementation in the coming decade.

Structure and governance
The Global Commission on Adaptation (GCA) seeks to deliver concrete and meaningful action through a set of Action Tracks that mobilize critical partners. Progress against the above goal and planned outcomes will be reviewed at high-profile moments during the GCA ‘Year of Action’ including the Adaptation Action Summit in October 2020 and the UN Food Systems Summit in 2021. The GCA managing partners – Global Center on Adaptation and World Resources Institute – will provide the secretariat for the Action Track.

Outcomes by 2030:

3. **Scaled-up access for at least 100 million small-scale producers to insurance, markets, finance, and productive safety nets.** This initiative will convene public and private investors to scale up innovative risk mitigation models, productive safety nets, and financing mechanisms to unlock private finance for agriculture, value chain development, and sustainable land use.

4. **Expanded use of climate-informed digital agricultural advisory services for at least 100 million small-scale producers.** This initiative will involve the extension of real-time surveillance and early warning systems, seasonal and long-term forecasts, and digital farmer advisory services through development of platforms that will allow public, private, and civil society engaged in advisory services to facilitate delivery of advisories at scale.

5. **Improve access to and use of adaptation technologies and agroecological practices for at least 100 million small-scale producers.** This initiative will foster scaled up efforts to improve access to appropriate adaptation technologies (with a focus on agroecological practices tailored to individual needs) that deliver sustainable increases in agricultural productivity, expand rural entrepreneurship, and enhance the livelihoods of small-scale producers.

Roadmap for the Partnership
This Action Track will be launched during UNGA by Ban Ki-moon, Kristalina Georgieva and Bill Gates. Several governments are ready to pledge significant financial resources at the Climate Summit. The German Government, through BMZ, has already pledged support to build the resilience of 60 million smallholders via agroecological approaches, digital services and insurance. Others including the Netherlands and UK stand ready to announce their support.

Additional commitments are invited from governments, private sector entities, and all others wishing to join this growing coalition

Contacts:
GCA: Cristina.RdelRio@WRI.org and bruce.campbell@gca.org
BMGF: james.birch@gatesfoundation.org
BMZ: martin.kipping@bmz.bund.de; heiko.warnken@bmz.bund.de
DFID: R-Waterhouse@dfid.gov.uk