

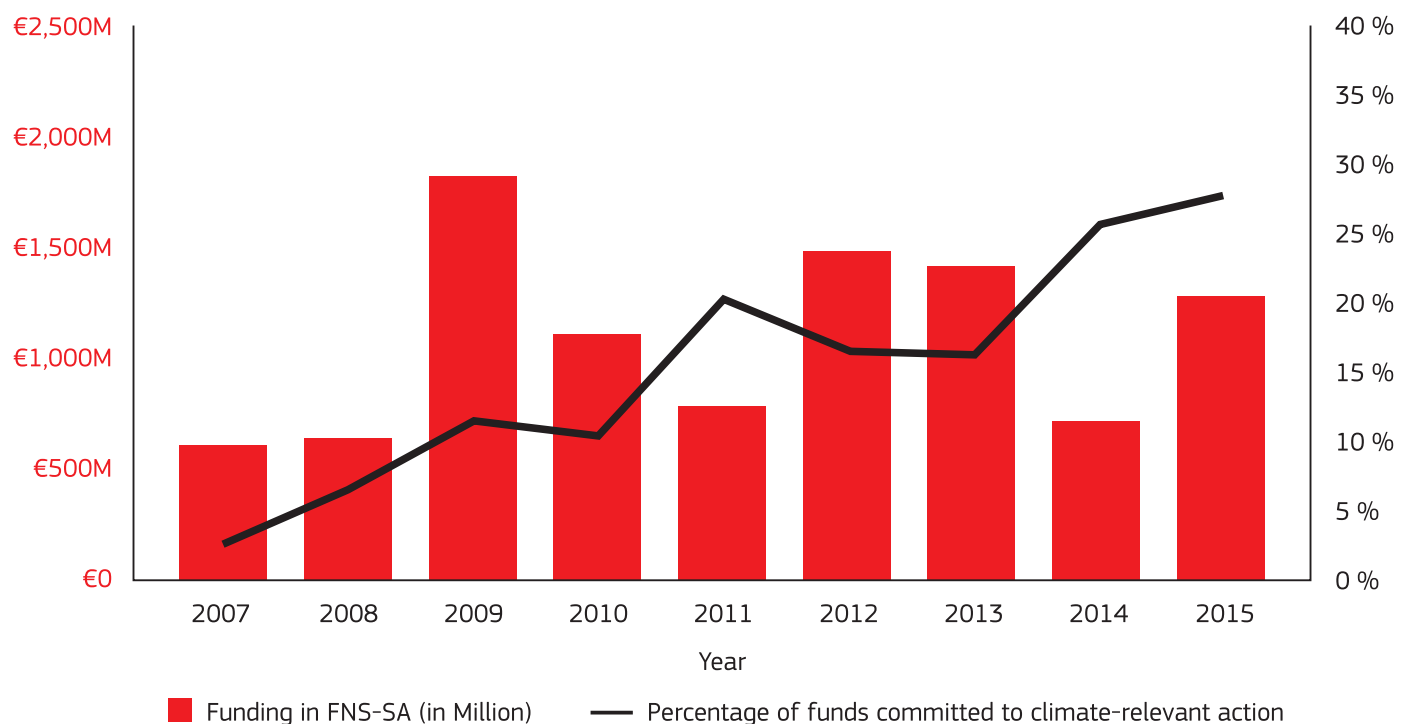


AGRICULTURE AND CLIMATE CHANGE

Embedding climate change in EU development cooperation for food and nutrition security and sustainable agriculture

STATE OF PLAY 2016

Already beyond our target of 20 % climate-relevant action in food and nutrition security and sustainable agriculture



In 2013, the EU committed to allocate at least 20 % of our budget to climate-relevant actions. This strong ambition was declared just three years ago. Yet in our development cooperation for food and nutrition security and sustainable agriculture (FNS-SA), we have already pushed well beyond the target. The share of climate-relevant actions in this area jumped from 13 % in the 2007–2013 programming cycle to 29 % in 2014–2015. Annual spending committed to new climate-relevant actions has more than doubled, increasing from €157 million in the 2007–2013 cycle to €297 million in the ongoing 2014–2020 cycle.

The relevance of any EU project to climate change adaptation and/or mitigation is evaluated using the Rio Markers created by the OECD Development Assistance Committee. Following these markers, each project's relevance can be tagged as “main” or “significant”. In the first case, the total budget of the project is considered climate-relevant. In the second case, 40 % of the budget is counted.

Adaptation and/or mitigation

Unlike in many other sectors, practices that help farmers adapt to change often reduce net greenhouse gas emissions too. In farming, adaptation and mitigation can be twin benefits, not competing needs.

In most cases EU funding to FNS-SA endeavours to satisfy both priorities at the same time, with adaptation and mitigation impacts resulting from promoting a set of locally-adapted agricultural practices in accordance with an approach that puts sustainability at the centre of our cooperation.

The EU's overall approach and response

Climate-relevant action came to be so rapidly embedded in the EU's cooperation on FNS-SA because it fits very easily into many of our key approaches.

This starts with **the EU's broader approach to sustainable agriculture**. Like climate action, sustainable agriculture binds together environmental, economic and social aspects of food production, and is necessarily context-specific: solutions need to be locally adapted and should consider local knowledge if they are to be useful for farmers to ensure sustainable resource management.

This is done at the **landscape level** with governance of watersheds, irrigation systems, forests, grasslands and croplands that involves all parties, from farmers to central governments. It is also done at the **farm level**, by providing farmers with relevant knowledge and incentives to adopt such practices as water conservation measures, improved stress-tolerant varieties, agroforestry and soil organic fertility enhancement through crop rotation, cover crops and minimum tillage. Most of these practices contribute both to adaptation and mitigation. What these landscape level and farm level solutions have in common is an aim to maintain, restore and enhance natural capital by ensuring sustainable management of soils, water and biodiversity. There is recognition that, given women's important role as smallholder farmers, their capacity for innovating and the barriers they often face in accessing new climate-smart technologies and practices, efforts must be made to target their particular needs.



Photo: European Commission

The Sustainable Land Management Programme (Phase II) of Ethiopia

In an entirely locally owned, multi-donor initiative, the EU, together with the World Bank, Norway, Finland, Germany and the International Fund for Agricultural Development, is supporting the government of Ethiopia in rebuilding its country's natural capital assets. Mitigating the causes of land degradation and its negative impacts on the structure and functional integrity of ecosystems promises to improve the livelihoods and food security of all land users: farmers, pastoralists and forest resource users.



Photo: F. Jacobs

Agroforestry in Timor-Leste

The Partnership for Sustainable Agro-Forestry in Timor-Leste aims to develop a sustainable, market-orientated agroforestry system. The diversified small farms driving this system will be more resilient to climate change, while also generating nutritious food, higher incomes and wider employment. At the same time, farmers will be contributing to the whole country's natural assets by establishing diverse perennial tree crops.



Photo: Dean Sewell/Oculi/Agence Vu for WaterAid

Mainstreaming climate in public policies is another major feature of our support of agricultural development in partner countries. This stems from one of the core principles of EU cooperation: **alignment with partner countries' public policies**, through continuous policy dialogue between EU delegations, national governments and a vast array of stakeholders, from civil society organisations to the private sector. EU budget support programmes in the agricultural sector, which involve the direct transfer of funds to a partner country's budget, have begun including climate change considerations in greater measure.

Enriching the evidence base for climate-smart agriculture

The EU supported the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations from 2012 to 2015 in its work with governments, research centres, universities and other institutional partners to make the transition to climate-smart agriculture (CSA) in Malawi, Vietnam and Zambia. The collection of a meta-database and country-specific studies have together provided an evidence base for climate-smart policies and investments.



Photo: NASFAM

Climate-smart Mauritius

The Republic of Mauritius has named CSA as one of the priority adaptation actions in its Nationally Determined Contribution. In response, an EU-funded project has been designed around using CSA to increase the resilience of smallholders to climate change in the island nation. Through this project, the Ministry of Agro Industry and Food Security and Rodrigues Regional Assembly Commission for Agriculture will provide CSA advice and services to smallholders, contributing to their sustainable livelihoods. The programme is funded by the Global Climate Change Alliance (GCCA+), an initiative funded under the 10th and 11th European Development Fund (EDF) that supports the 79 member countries of the African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) Group of States in their adaptation and mitigation responses.

Adaptation to climate change is also embedded in EU-funded projects for **increasing resilience** in arid and semi-arid zones. The Global Alliance for Resilience (AGIR) – Sahel and West Africa is a framework for fostering synergy and effectiveness in support of resilience in 17 countries. At the heart of this initiative, adapting to climate change and enhancing capacities in disaster risk reduction at the national and regional levels are essential to sustainably improving the agricultural production, incomes and food security of vulnerable households.

Beyond food security, **agricultural value chain** programmes also take climate change adaptation as a cross-cutting issue. The EU is active in developing new tools to assess to what extent value chain programmes are truly sustainable and climate-ready.

Impact and adaptation along the value chain

The Agriculture Financing Initiative (AgriFI) was created to increase the efficiency of EU international development investment in agricultural value chains. Accurate information from every link in the value chain is a pre-requisite for making decisions, and also gives insight into impacts. AgriFI's toolkit includes an evidence-based instrument of life cycle analysis, used to show the impacts of a value chain on human health, natural resources and ecosystem quality – including climate change adaptation and mitigation.

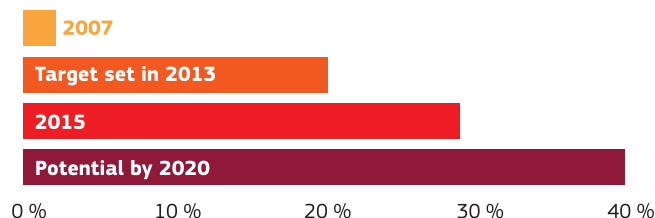
Since 2007, the EU has invested over €200 million in **agricultural research** to bring farmers the tools and knowledge they need to ensure food security for all in the face of climate change. Gathering more and more evidence about climate change impacts on agriculture and possible pathways for adapting and mitigating will be essential to increase the effectiveness of development cooperation. The EU is one of the main contributors to the CGIAR Climate Change, Agriculture and Food Security Research Programme (CCAFS), designed to address the challenge of global warming and declining food security on agricultural practices and policies.

Finally, building capacities in partner countries to improve the integration of climate in their **agricultural information and early warning systems** is another part of the EU approach. With extreme climatic events worsening, governments' response capacity depends on their ability to collect data and foresee threats. This is why the EU is supporting global, regional and national initiatives and partners such as the Permanent Interstates Committee for Drought Control in the Sahel (CILSS) to improve the links between climate information and agricultural practices, and to better trigger and target the response to food crises.

What comes next?

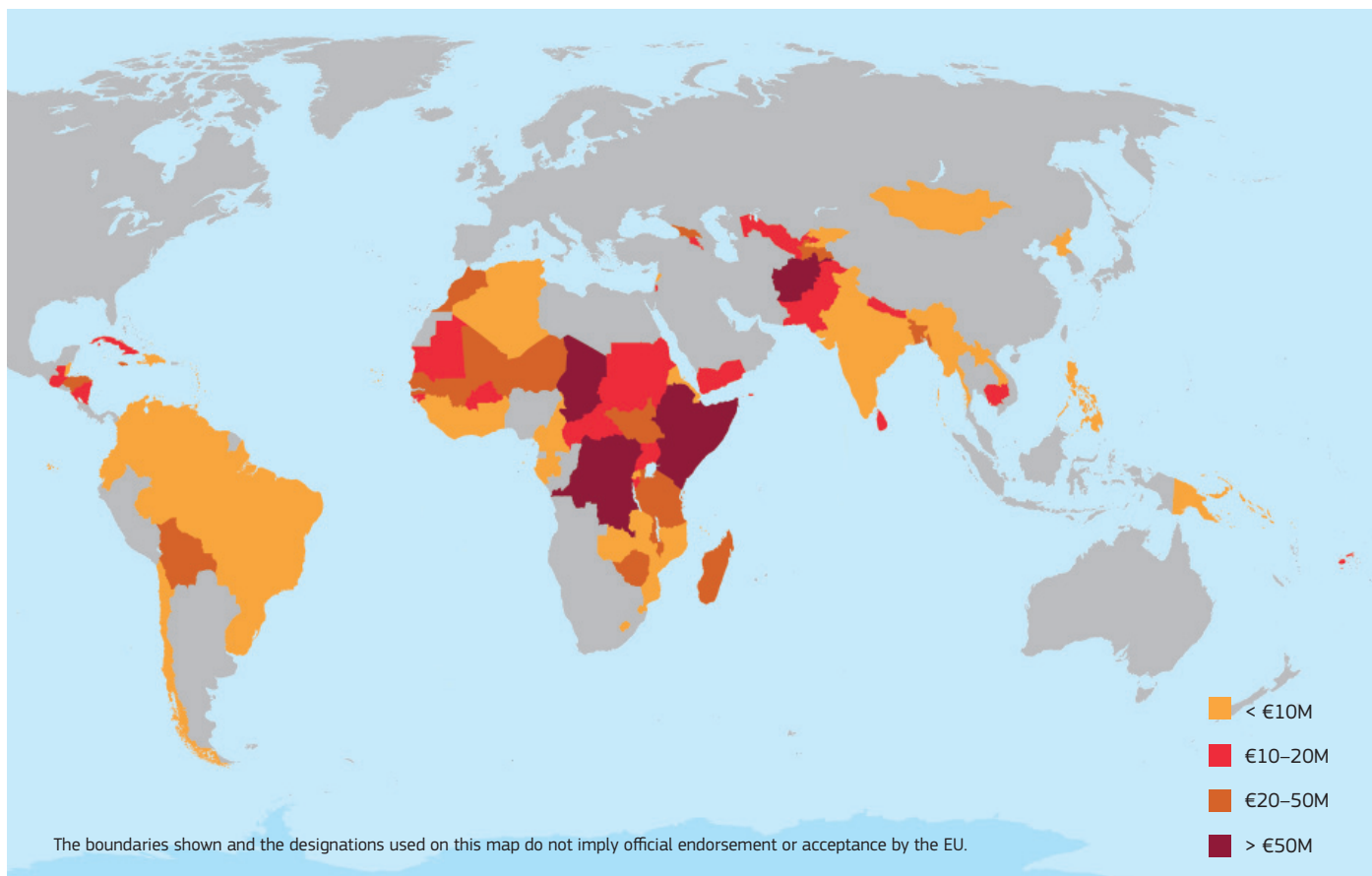
As a result of these efforts triggered by the 20 % commitment set in 2013, the EU's cooperation in FNS-SA is now 29 % climate-relevant. Reaching a level of 40 % by the end of the ongoing programming cycle, 2014–2020, is within our grasp.

Climate-relevant share of EU funding in FNS-SA: past, promise and potential



By doing so, we support a sector that is currently a significant greenhouse gas contributor in transforming itself, without undermining food and nutrition security in partner countries. In that context, the co-benefits between adaptation and mitigation will be of paramount importance as the EU intensifies efforts to help partner countries adapt their agriculture and food systems to a changing climate.

Climate-relevant EU development cooperation in the FNS-SA sector since 2007 (in Million)



Hundreds of EU projects in FNS-SA since 2007 have been climate-relevant, with more than half of the investment being targeted to support African initiatives. This is by design: the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change has established that Africa is the most climate-vulnerable region, due to the multiple stresses of poor infrastructure, poor governance and poverty. With temperatures likely to increase by between 1.5 °C and 4 °C in this century, crop yields could drop by 50 % and crop revenue by 90 %.

Total EU funding commitments for climate-relevant action in FNS-SA since 2007, by region (in Million)

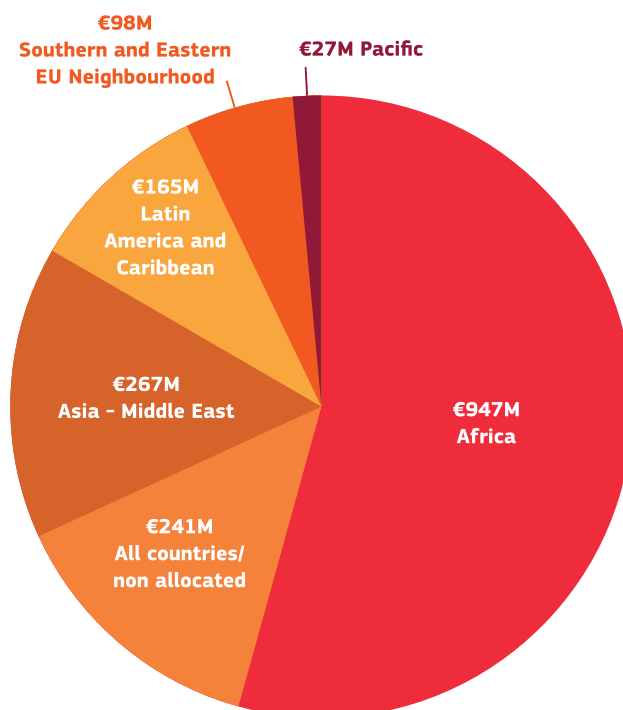


Photo: European Commission

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