



RESEARCH PROGRAM ON  
**Climate Change,  
Agriculture and  
Food Security**



## Agriculture is integrated into the Paris agreement

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*CCAFS Outcome Case*

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Year	2015
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Flagship	Policies and Institutions
Geographic focus	Global

### **Summary**

The significant role of agriculture in climate change has been underrepresented in previous years' discussions and agreements under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). CCAFS and partners in the global agriculture community have strived to address this imbalance through several years of engagement with parties and UNFCCC processes. As a result of these efforts, issues directly related to agriculture, such as food production and security are explicitly mentioned in the Paris Agreement concluded by the UNFCCC at its 21st Conference of Parties (COP21) in 2015. The preamble makes specific reference to safeguarding food security and ending hunger, and one Article details the importance of protecting food production when reducing greenhouse gas emissions. In addition, 80% of the Intended Nationally Determined Contributions (INDCs) submitted by countries committed to action on agricultural mitigation, and 90% of INDCs that include adaptation selected agriculture as a priority sector for action, thus creating a framework for climate action in the sector. Human rights, gender, ecosystems and biodiversity, all issues central to agriculture, are also featured within the Paris Agreement.

To ensure that a new climate change deal would not close the door on agriculture, CCAFS scientists provided several inputs to the climate change negotiations. These included:

- Provision of evidence on agriculture and food security under 1.5C and 2C futures to negotiators through the UNFCCC Structured Expert Dialogue
- Production of a guide to UNFCCC Negotiations on Agriculture, which was widely disseminated amongst parties and observers
- Formal submissions to the UNFCCC Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice (SBSTA) call on Agriculture in 2015
- Development and dissemination of policy briefs at key UNFCCC events, including SBSTA and COP21
- Provision of technical support to parties in the development of their INDCs and SBSTA submissions
- Strategic presence at the COP and SBSTA, including side events with a range of partners to give prominence to developing country perspectives

### **Key facts**

- The Paris Agreement recognizes: “the fundamental priority of safeguarding food security and ending hunger, and the particular vulnerabilities of food production systems to the adverse impacts

of climate change.”

- CCAFS briefs were downloaded more than 6,000 times in the 4 weeks surrounding COP21 and continue to be a source of information as agriculture remains on the agenda in the 2016–2017 SBSTA process.

#### **Lessons: key elements of success**

- Targeted knowledge products were developed to address knowledge needs of parties and observers, and these were disseminated at key events like SBSTA and COP21.
- CCAFS worked with a range of partners on different activities in order to achieve this outcome, including:
  - CGIAR Centers such as the Center for International Forestry Research (CIFOR), International Livestock Research Institute (ILRI), International Center for Tropical Agriculture (CIAT), World Agroforestry Centre (ICRAF) and WorldFish Center
  - Country governments including those of Kenya and Costa Rica
  - Advanced research institutes such as International Research Institute for Climate and Society, Fera, University of Copenhagen, University of Oxford and University of Vermont
  - Development partners such as Farming First and Technical Centre for Agricultural and Rural Co-operation ACP-EU (CTA)
  - Regional groups including Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA) and the African Group of Negotiators.

#### **Further reading**

- [Paris Climate Agreement unlocks opportunities for food and farming](#)
- [Agriculture is integrated into Paris UNFCCC agreement](#)

#### **Related research outputs**

- Meadu V, Coche I, Vermeulen S, Friis AE. 2015. The Paris Climate Agreement: what it means for food and farming. CCAFS Info Note.
- Hedger M, Campbell BM, Wamukoya G, Kinyangi J, Verchot L, Wollenberg L, Vermeulen SJ, Minang P, Neufeldt H, Vidal A, Loboguerrero Rodriguez AM, Friis AE, Millan A. 2015. Progress on agriculture in the UN climate talks: How COP21 can ensure a food-secure future. CCAFS Info Note.
- Richards M, Bruun TB, Campbell B, Gregersen LE, Huyer S, Kuntze V, Madsen STN, Oldvig MB, Vasileiou I. 2015. How countries plan to address agricultural adaptation and mitigation: An analysis of Intended Nationally Determined Contributions. CCAFS Info Note.
- Coffey K, Menghestab H, Halperin M, Wamukoya G, Hansen J, Kinyangi J, Tesfaye Fantaye K. 2015. Expanding the contribution of early warning to climate-resilient agricultural development in Africa. CCAFS Working Paper no. 115.
- Grace D, Bett B, Lindahl J, Robinson T. 2015. Climate and livestock disease: assessing the vulnerability of agricultural systems to livestock pests under climate change scenarios. CCAFS Working Paper no. 116.
- Mohan CV. 2015. Climate change and aquatic animal disease. CCAFS Working Paper no. 117.
- Smith J. 2015. Crops, crop pests and climate change – why Africa needs to be better prepared. CCAFS Working Paper no. 114.
- J Ramirez-Villegas, Thornton PK. 2015. Climate change impacts on African crop production. CCAFS Working Paper no. 119.
- Thornton PK, Boone RB, Ramirez-Villegas J. 2015. Climate change impacts on livestock. CCAFS Working Paper no. 120.

#### **RESEARCH IMPLEMENTED IN COLLABORATION WITH**



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