

Supporting climate-resilient food systems policies and institutions in Latin America



Policies and Institutions:

The Flagship on 'Policies and institutions for climate-resilient food systems' under the CGIAR Research Program on Climate Change, Agriculture and Food Security (CCAFS) supports the development and implementation of equitable policies that integrate climate change into agricultural policies, and vice versa. The Flagship works to better understand governance mechanisms, institutions and power dynamics that affect climate and food systems governance, and to integrate innovative climate tools and knowledge into decision making processes for more climate-resilient food systems.

Learn more: www.ccafs.cgiar.org

Project is led by:



This extensive project has struck up collaborations across Latin America to assist policy-makers incorporate the latest climate and agriculture science and tools in national adaptation and mitigation plans.

The project provides climate information to decision-makers, facilitates dialogue between key stakeholders and helps translate science into meaningful policy action for the region. By using latest climate and agriculture science to inform and guide relevant policies, Latin America will be better prepared to face climate change head on.

Led by the International Center for Tropical Agriculture (CIAT), the project collaborates with multiple stakeholders such as research institutions and national ministries of agriculture, environment, risk, and financial institutes in Colombia, Costa Rica, Guatemala, and Peru. The team works to identify key

priorities and ways to support the development of national level mitigation action plans (NAMAs) and national adaptation plans (NAPs) together with decision makers in each country.

The project seeks to guide more than national level policy processes and therefore works closely with the Central American Agricultural Council to support regional climate policy work and help create awareness about useful climate tools and models.

The team conducts continuous research on climate change impacts, mitigation opportunities, and climate-smart agriculture in the region, and facilitates knowledge sharing via established cross-country collaboration platforms. The work forms a crucial part of the CGIAR Research Program on Climate Change, Agriculture and Food Security (CCAFS) policies and institutions research in Latin America.



Photo: N. Palmer (CIAT)

Science-based support systems across Latin America

Because every country faces different challenges, all the research projects are based on each nation's specific needs. For example, in Costa Rica the project team supports the government's development of national mitigation plans. Here it feeds innovation research on, for example, future climate impacts and adaptation measures for coffee production into the country's mitigation plan.

To address challenges of drought, a team led by Bioversity International is co-developing an innovative action plan together with the Government of Guatemala. The work will provide institutionalized emergency actions to be carried out when a dry spell turns into acute drought. In Peru, a team under the International Potato Center (CIP) is working with the government to create and implement its first national mitigation action plan in agriculture. The team provides the science, data and know-how to successfully put together key mitigation activities for the Ministry of Environment.

Building climate negotiation and gender skills

Another focus is enhancing the capacity of Latin American country negotiators who attend the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) climate negotiations every year. A training was held in 2014 leading up to COP20 in Lima, Peru which prepared

negotiators to represent their countries to develop an agreement that simultaneously addresses climate change, agriculture and forestry.

The training included a gender-sensitization component as well, making sure gender is considered in adaptation and mitigation plans and policies.

Project deliverables

- Action plan for intensified cross-regional policy collaboration in Central America
- Creation of climate information systems in two additional Central American countries, based on the experience in Guatemala
- Study on opportunities to include climate-smart agriculture in the UNFCCC negotiation agenda
- A portfolio of climate-smart agriculture alternatives for preserving soil carbon stocks and mitigating carbon emissions in the High Andes wetlands and natural grasslands
- Capacity enhancement workshops with government representatives for strengthening negotiation capacity on topics such as climate-smart agriculture and REDD+.

Outcomes and targets

By the end of the project, the team will have contributed to the formulation of 2-3 gender-inclusive national-level policies. The project aims to contribute

to at least four NAMAs, one NAP, and one sub-sector NAP in the selected countries. Through capacity enhancing activities, climate conference delegates from Latin America will be more aware and make better use of scientific information on climate, agriculture, and food security.

The project 'Informing policies and institutions for climate-resilient food systems in Latin America' is led by the International Center for Tropical Agriculture (CIAT) together with Bioversity International and the International Potato Center (CIP), supported by the governments of respective countries. The project is part of the CGIAR Research Program on Climate Change, Agriculture and Food Security (CCAFS) policies and institutions research in Latin America.

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Learn more: <http://bit.ly/CIATLAM>

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