

Title: Adaptation for Smallholder Agriculture Programme (ASAP)

Background

Agriculture is one of the sectors most affected by climate change. There are three challenges: people in developing countries are already at risk of food insecurity; climate variability and extremes (especially floods and droughts) are the most frequent causes of crop failure; and, climate change will make these challenges harder. The poorest people are often dependent on agriculture for their livelihoods, and are the most vulnerable to stresses and sudden shocks. In addition to climate risks, population growth and changes in consumption are putting pressure on soil and water resources that sustain food production.

Agriculture is important for developing countries' economic growth, food and nutrition security, and overall development and rapid poverty reduction, at a minimum to help them progress to a less farm-dependent model of economic growth. Climate change puts these at risk and [2016 FAO State of Food and Agriculture report](#) estimated that continuing "a business as usual" will mean up to 130 million more people will be living in poverty by 2030. It underlined the need for action to support the World's 475 million smallholder farmers, and that the costs taking action on adaptation were much less than in action.

Responding to these challenges the International Fund for Agriculture Development set up the [Adaptation for Smallholder Agriculture Programme \(ASAP\)](#) in 2012. ASAP is a multi-donor programme. Donors include Canada, Belgium, Flanders, the Netherlands, Norway, Sweden, Switzerland, Finland, the Republic of Korea and the UK. Total committed funding is US\$366.5 million of which 65% is from the UK's Department for International Development (DFID).

Theme Adaptation:

The world's climate and weather patterns are changing. Global temperatures are rising, contributing to more extreme weather events, like flooding and droughts and heatwaves.

'Adaptation' involves changing the way we do things to prepare for the potential impacts of climate change. This means we will be better protected against negative impacts like flooding. It also means we'll be better prepared for new opportunities, like the chance to grow different crops.

The earlier we adapt, the less it will cost and the better equipped we will be to cope with potential changes in our climate.

Local Context

ASAP is a multi-country programme working in up to 47 developing countries.

What is being done

We are providing up to £147.5 million to ASAP helping make it the World's largest climate change adaptation programme focused on smallholder farmers. ASAP now has 36 approved projects countries and is expected to work in 11 more. It is making grants on top of IFAD loans, of up to \$3 billion, to make these investments climate smart.

ASAP grants are expected to include support to build small-scale water harvesting, water storage and irrigation systems. They will be used to provide farmers with improved seeds that are drought-tolerant, and help them access markets to sell their crops. Farmers will be supported to plant trees on their farms, and introduce soil and water conservation practices. The grants will help farmers access daily and seasonal weather forecasts (e.g. using text messages) so they know when best to plant and harvest crops. Examples of what ASAP grants are doing include:

- Supporting agribusinesses in [Rwanda](#) on post-harvest storage and warehouses that are climate resilient and energy efficient.
- Helping women and young people in [Nigeria](#) step up into more commercial agriculture that is climate smart.
- Enabling farmers to triple their maize yields in [Ghana](#).
- 240,000 farmers in [Bangladesh](#) cope with the impacts of floods.

IFAD is now building the evidence and knowledge from ASAP on climate smart agriculture, on nutrition, and female economic empowerment. It has setup a [learning alliance](#) with the CGIAR's [Climate Change Agriculture and Food Security Programme](#) (CCAFS). IFAD has produced [22 fact sheets](#) on a range of topics including on [gender](#), [mitigation in agriculture](#) and [economics of adaptation](#).

Expected Results

By the end of ASAP it is expected to have:

- Helped 8 million smallholder farmers to increase their incomes while become more resilient to the impacts of climate change.
- Supported better land management practices on over 1 million hectares of farm land.
- Made \$80 million of rural infrastructure climate resilient.
- Delivered 80 million tonnes of GHG emissions (CO₂e) avoided and/or sequestered.

IFAD is thus driving a major scaling-up of successful "multiple- benefit" approaches to increase agricultural output while simultaneously reducing vulnerability to climate-related risks and diversifying livelihoods.

Links to Further Info

IFAD website: [Adaptation for Smallholder Agriculture Programme \(ASAP\)](#)

Adaptation for Smallholder Agriculture Programme: [Annual Review Summary Sheet](#)