



CFS 51 Side Event 13 Summary Note

Integrating Climate and Nutrition: an essential action for zero hunger

FAO, Green Room, Hybrid event

25 October, 8:30-9:45 (CEST)

Event organisers / partners: Canada, New Zealand, the United Kingdom, FAO, Global Alliance for Improved Nutrition (GAIN), Global Agriculture & Food Security Program (GAFSP), Forest and Farm Facility, Global Panel on Agriculture and Food Systems for Nutrition, World Health Organization (WHO), SUN Movement, and UN-Nutrition Secretariat

Climate change and malnutrition are two of the greatest challenges facing humanity today and are intrinsically intertwined. This side event aimed to raise awareness about the critical nexus of climate change and nutrition, present the latest contributions to the evidence base developed under the auspices of the Initiative on Climate Action and Nutrition (I-CAN), and share Global Agriculture and Food Security Program (GAFSP) project examples and learnings from countries on the integration of climate and nutrition action.

The event was moderated by Ms. Lina Mahy, Technical Officer from the World Health Organization. She introduced the I-CAN: a multistakeholder, multisectoral flagship initiative launched at COP 27 by the Government of Egypt. The I-CAN aims to catalyse, mobilize, connect, and advocate for integrated climate-nutrition actions. Dr. Maarten de Groot, Deputy Permanent Representative of Canada to the Rome based agencies and Mr. Radio Save, Team leader, Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO), United Kingdom delivered joint opening remarks highlighting the importance of addressing climate change and nutrition with a systematic approach and integrated actions. The opening remarks

emphasized the support of Member States to the I-CAN and GAFSP's contribution to food security and nutrition and climate co-benefits.

Two technical reports were launched at this event. The first was led by FAO, entitled [*Climate Action and Nutrition : Pathways to Impact*](#), which summarized existing evidence on the relationship between climate change and four systems vital for good nutrition: agrifood, water, social protection, and health systems. The report outlined response options across each of the systems for integrated action with potential for positive impact on climate and nutrition outcomes. Ms. Nancy Aburto, Deputy Director, Food and Nutrition Division, FAO, presented the key messages of the report, including the abundance of evidence for multiple opportunities for impact, and the critical role of gender equity, inclusion and transformative action across all systems. The second report led by the Global Alliance for Improved Nutrition (GAIN), entitled [*Accelerating Action and Opening Opportunities: A Closer Integration of Climate and Nutrition 2023 I-CAN Baseline Assessment*](#) examined the current state of climate-nutrition integration. Ms. Jessica Colston, Environment Technical Lead, GAIN, presented the findings of the report which indicated a significant lack of integration between nutrition and climate in the areas of policy, action, and investment. Her presentation encouraged policymakers and scholars in the fields of climate and nutrition to think holistically about inherent connections across these two fields.

Following this, a panel discussion and open forum was facilitated by the GAFSP, a leading multilateral platform dedicated to addressing climate and nutrition issues in some of the world's most impoverished regions. Starting in 2019, the totality of GAFSP projects have been required to yield co-benefits in climate adaptation and mitigation. Additionally, 68% of GAFSP projects have already incorporated nutrition-specific or sensitive activities into their initiatives.

During the discussion, panelists showcased instances of integrated climate-nutrition actions, spanning from "farm to fork". These examples highlighted strategies employed in various projects, championed by local governments and farmer organizations, to confront the challenges posed by climate change and malnutrition affecting smallholder farmers and their communities.

Dr. Adama Tourè, the Program Manager for the GAFSP, delivered a comprehensive overview of GAFSP's significant efforts in addressing malnutrition and the climate crisis, emphasizing the strategic measures employed to foster seamless integration of these critical and interrelated concerns. Notably, Dr. Tourè highlighted the GAFSP's commitment to incorporating climate change mitigation and adaptation initiatives, as well as specific programs aimed at enhancing the nutritional well-being of targeted populations. Moreover, every proposal submitted to the GAFSP undergoes rigorous evaluation by an independent technical panel, which invariably includes both climate and nutrition expertise, to ensure the steadfast integration of climate and nutrition endeavours.

Dr. Phommy Inthichac, Deputy Director General of the Department of Planning and Cooperation in the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry of the Lao People's Democratic Republic, offered insights into the local context of climate change and malnutrition issues in Lao PDR, as well as the various community-based efforts to combat these challenges.

Mr. Julian Lampietti, Practice Manager for Global Engagement in the World Bank's Agriculture and Food Global Practice, underscored the organization's multifaceted commitment, which centers on the dual objectives of ameliorating malnutrition and confronting the intricate challenges posed by the ever-evolving issue of climate change. Mr. Lampietti's remarks showcased the depth of the World Bank's

experience and dedication to creating sustainable solutions at the intersection of nourishment and environmental resilience.

Mr. Musa Sowe, the Representative of the Network of West African Farmers and Producers Organizations (ROPPA), underscored the indispensable role of farmer organizations in the context of integrating climate and nutrition challenges in West Africa. He emphasized that these organizations are the primary actors leading any sustainable and nutrition-enhancing endeavors and cannot be excluded by any effort to achieve better integration between climate and nutrition.

Questions were taken from the floor about how nutrition-sensitive programmes access climate financing and trade-offs among the four systems to achieve nutrition and climate objectives.

The event concluded with closing remarks by Ms. Afshan Khan, UN Assistant Secretary-General and Scaling Up Nutrition (SUN) Movement Coordinator. She highlighted the world's malnutrition and climate change challenges, welcomed the two technical reports developed under the auspices of the ICAN, and thanked the panel discussion for putting these topics into context and called for further integrated actions.

These insights are crucial for removing knowledge barriers to integrated action and for advancing the efforts needed to address multiple national priorities simultaneously and reach the ambitions of SDG2 and SDG13, and the entire 2030 agenda.

More information:

FAO. 2023. *Climate action and nutrition: Pathways to impact*. Rome. <https://doi.org/10.4060/cc8415en>

GAIN. 2023. *Accelerating Action and Opening Opportunities: A Closer Integration of Climate and Nutrition (2023 I-CAN Baseline Assessment)*. Geneva. <https://www.gainhealth.org/resources/reports-and-publications/accelerating-action-and-opening-opportunities-closer-integration-climate-and-nutrition>

I-CAN website: <https://www.atachcommunity.com/our-mission/climate-action-and-nutrition-working-group/>

GFASP website: <https://www.gafspfund.org/>

Please find more information from the [event page](#).

The [recording](#) is available on the UN-Nutrition YouTube channel.