WHY IT MATTERS

1. While Africa accounts only for about 2–3% of global greenhouse gas emissions, it suffers disproportionately from climate change impacts. Water stress combined with more frequent droughts and heat events is putting additional pressure on already scarce water resources in many African countries. This has severe implications for sectors that depend heavily on water, such as agriculture and food. Throughout the continent, climate change is reducing crop yields, shortening growing seasons and increasing water stress. These effects are in turn driving the displacement of people within countries and across international borders. High water stress is estimated to affect about 250 million people in Africa and is expected to displace up to 700 million people by 2030.²

2. Improving and strengthening adaptive capacities of food systems in Africa is essential, as adaptive food systems address more than just hunger. The International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) found that economic growth from agriculture is 11 times more effective at reducing extreme poverty than any other sector.³ Actions that increase food system resilience, like agroecology, climate-smart agriculture, and sustainable land management techniques have multiple co-benefits for nutrition, biodiversity, poverty alleviation, and greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions reductions through increased carbon sequestration. This report assesses the integration of adaptation measures for food system transformation in 53 NDCs and 12 NAPs in Africa to identify opportunities for enhancing and accelerating progress.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Enhance Ambition:

1. Coordinate sectoral policies to ensure coherent and holistic policies and actions.

2. Value the role of Nature-based Solutions and Ecosystem-based Adaptation in promoting resilient food systems within NDCs and NAPs, especially through agroforestry and agroecology.

3. Maximize opportunities to reduce food loss.

Increase finance:

1. Redesign agri-food subsidies to support transformative food system approaches.

2. Increase climate finance for adaptation in agriculture and food systems, including capacity-building funding

3. Invest in research and innovation.

Scale and accelerate implementation:

1. Engage all relevant food systems stakeholders in implementation.

2. Invest in local food systems

3. Support and ramp up technological transfer and innovation.
RECOMMENDATIONS IN DETAIL

Enhance Ambition:

1. **Coordinate sectoral policies to ensure coherent and holistic policies and actions.** Policies must support a just transition to resilient, equitable and inclusive food systems, through participatory and inclusive approaches, especially considering the concerns of women, youth, Indigenous people, local communities, and other marginalized groups.

2. **Value the role of Nature-based Solutions and Ecosystem-based Adaptation in promoting resilient food systems within NDCs and NAPs, especially through agroforestry and agroecology.** These practices promote ecosystem diversification, which in turn provides livelihood diversification and poverty alleviation, while also advancing decarbonization.

3. **Maximize opportunities to reduce food loss.** Design and implement technologies and infrastructure that can withstand climate change impacts, including floods, storms, and extreme heat, have mechanisms for air circulation to prevent rot, and prevent pests.

Increase finance:

1. **Redesign agri-food subsidies to support transformative food system approaches.** Policymakers can redesign subsidies to encourage crop diversification, agroecology, agroforestry and Climate-smart agriculture to incentivize adoption of these practices.

2. **Increase climate finance for adaptation in agriculture and food systems, including capacity-building funding.** Countries in Africa need new and additional climate finance to implement adaptation measures while helping farmers access the capital and insurance mechanisms that safeguard against climate change risks, like crop or livestock loss. We also need specific financing for food systems in UNFCCC climate finance mechanisms.

3. **Invest in research and innovation.** Donors and investors can support governments in developing new food system innovations, including crops that are resilient to climate change, and help ensure their equitable distribution to farmers and communities.

Scale and accelerate implementation:

1. **Engage all relevant food systems stakeholders in implementation.** To tackle structural inequities, and knowledge gaps in climate and food governance, meaningful participation and inclusive policy development of underrepresented groups is key.

2. **Invest in local food systems.** Supporting local management of food systems according to communities’ indigenous or traditional agricultural and pastoral practices and building capacities of local communities can help to realize achieve adaptation goals.

3. **Support and ramp up technological transfer and innovation.** Donors and investors can aid governments by implementing technological transfer, sharing tools that already exist to reduce harvest loss – from early warning systems to food system pest and disease surveillance. Where new technology is found to be beneficial to communities, it must be made affordable and accessible as well. New innovative technologies for food systems adaptation – including monitoring systems, climate information, and risk management systems – are also necessary to prevent disease, and to reduce food waste and loss.
PROGRESS IN INTEGRATING FOOD SYSTEMS MEASURES IN THE NDCs

Sustainable Food Production and Ecosystem Considerations:

- 57% of NDCs and seven NAPs include soil conservation measures which are crucial for food systems adaptation. 58% of NDCs and 11 NAPs have crop diversification measures as part of the adaptation plans. 75% of NDCs and all 12 NAPs have included building irrigation systems to improve resilience of food systems.

- 58% of NDCs and nine NAPs have measures for sustainable and resilient livestock practices including for breeding and feed for livestock.

- 62% of all NDCs explicitly plan for agroforestry and 21% of NDCs plan for agroecology. Nine NAPs include agroforestry measures and three countries (Togo, Madagascar, and the Democratic Republic of the Congo) include agroecology in NAPs. 68% of NDCs and all 12 NAPs include Climate-smart agriculture measures for food systems adaptation.

- 30% of NDCs and 10 NAPs include plans to advance and promote sustainable aquaculture and fishing practices in freshwater. 17% of NDCs and Chad’s NAP plans for freshwater restoration measures. Aquatic ecosystem considerations need to be part of holistic food system adaptation policies.

- 51% of the NDCs and nine NAPs with coastal ecosystems include plans to develop marine aquaculture, including seagrass, algae, shellfish, and fishing. In general, 46% of NDCs and 75% of NAPs plan for marine restoration. Specifically, 46% of NDCs and six NAPs plan to protect and conserve mangroves as part of these efforts.

In the post-harvest components of food systems, measures for addressing food loss, food waste, and diets remain an area for improvement in the NDCs and NAPs in Africa.

1. 36% of African countries consider food processing measures in their NDCs while seven NAPs do.
2. 25% of countries in their NDCs and five countries in their NAPs (South Sudan, Sierra Leone, Chad, Cameroon, and Burkina Faso) include food storage interventions.
3. 32% of NDCs and seven NAPs plan for disease and pest monitoring in food value chains to ensure food safety.
4. Only four countries - 7% of NDCs, and Kenya in its NAP, include measures to change consumption patterns, through nutrition guidelines, dietary public awareness initiatives, and promoting the consumption of local foods.

Many NDCs and NAPs contain actions to support the equitable implementation of adaptation measures, but land tenure and measures for IPLCs and gender can be further improved.

1. 75% of NDCs and eight NAPs contain specific quantified finance allocations or needs for adaptation measures.
2. 55% of NDCs and all 12 NAPs consider livelihoods effects of food systems measures.
3. While 87% of NDCs mention gender, 58% of the NDCs and all 12 NAPs consider gender explicitly in their adaptation measures.
4. Only three countries have land tenure measures, and nine countries consider community-based or participatory land management in their NDCs. Madagascar and Burkina Faso include land tenure measures in their NAPs and six countries consider community-based management in their NAP.
5. 40% of NDCs and ten NAPs consider the role of **Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities (IPLCs)** in their adaptation measures in food systems.

**For more information**

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