

Increasing climate finance crucial to bring about sustainable transformation of agrifood systems

For agrifood systems to adapt to climate change and become more sustainable, improving the quality and quantity of climate finance contributions to the sector is critical - that was the main message at the launch of the Food and Agriculture for Sustainable Transformation Initiative (Fast) held at the 27th United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP27) in Sharm-El Sheikh, Egypt.



Source: [123RF](#)

Fast was developed and initiated by the Egyptian Presidency in close collaboration with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and other stakeholders.

Fast comes at a time when the risk of hunger and malnutrition among the most vulnerable groups is getting worse and the world's agrifood systems are increasingly impacted by climate variability and extreme weather events. Agrifood systems also contribute to the climate crisis, ecosystem degradation and biodiversity loss.

But the funding to transform agrifood systems to make them more sustainable, resilient and productive is grossly inadequate, and that is what this initiative hopes to address.

Agri food system transformation

Access to climate finance at both farm and country levels remains insufficient and Fast aims to implement concrete actions to correct this to transform agriculture and food systems by 2030 while supporting food and economic security and the environment.

Speaking at the event, FAO deputy director-general Maria Helena Semedo, pointed out that while overall climate finance flows have been increasing over the past decade, the share allocated to agriculture has been steadily decreasing.

The agriculture and land use sector received \$122bn in financing between 2000 and 2018, representing 26% of the global climate finance flows to all sectors.

"That is why bold transformative actions are now needed to boost investment in agrifood transformation, support countries in accessing climate finance, and ensure that appropriate financial resources reach small and medium-scale food producers," Semedo said.

Fast aims to make this possible by enhancing country capacities to identify and access climate finance and investment, giving stakeholders greater access to knowledge and developing guidelines and providing support in crafting appropriate climate action policies.

Promoting food security and diversity, empowering and engaging women, youth, Indigenous Peoples and people in vulnerable situations, and using science and innovation to improve agricultural practices across the value chains - these are some of the principles that will guide Fast's work.

"This partnership will rely on and harness the efforts started by previous initiatives such as the Glasgow breakthrough and will be nurtured by future (COP) Presidencies. Agriculture is higher than ever on the COP agenda, and FAO is committed to supporting all actors in their efforts to transform our agrifood systems to become more efficient, inclusive, resilient, and sustainable," said Semedo.

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