

RESPONDING TO THE CHALLENGES OF CLIMATE CHANGE AND ITS LINKAGES TO FOOD SECURITY AND NUTRITION

Dear Members of the FSN Forum,

My name is Stéphane Jost and I work as a Liaison officer for the Environment, Climate Change and Bioenergy Division of FAO. I was also part of the secretariat for the preparation of the High Level Conference on World Food Security: the Challenges of Climate Change and Bioenergy organised by FAO in Rome in June 2008. On the occasion of this year's World Food Day under the same theme: "**World Food Security: the Challenges of Climate Change and Bioenergy**", and in collaboration with the Climate Change Group within our Division, I am happy to launch on the FSN Forum a discussion on "**Responding to the challenges of climate change and its linkages to food security and nutrition**" in parallel to the launch of a new Electronic Newsletter called FoodClimate.

Climate change affects everyone, especially many vulnerable and food insecure people like small-scale farmers, fishers and forest-dependent people. They will be the most affected by climate change impacts. By affecting the availability of land, water and biodiversity, and the price of food, the rising demand for biofuels produced from food crops also has an impact on the poor.

During the High-level conference hosted by FAO in June 2008, the food crisis was on the spotlight of the global development agenda. Countries reaffirmed the need to invest more in agriculture and to carry out concrete action for adaptation to climate change in the agriculture sector. This year's World Food Day celebrations will give resonance to this topic once again and provide a good opportunity to continue dialogue among stakeholders and help find ways to make these promises a reality in a short period of time. This discussion launched on World Food Day invites you to share your ideas and concrete experiences related to this topic, especially on the following questions:

- 1) Climate change is expected to affect the incidence of malnutrition caused by, among other factors, more severe drought and erratic rainfall that may also change food consumption patterns. **What experience can you share regarding the impact of climate change and variability on food security, nutrition and dietary quality?**
- 2) Raising awareness of the possible impacts of climate change on food security in each community is essential in order to take action. **What successful strategies for communication and awareness-raising on the effects of climate change can you share?**
- 3) Producers, rural communities but also individuals and consumers have a role to play in adapting their practices and their consumption to limit the impact of climate change. **Do you have concrete examples of successful initiatives for adaptation to climate change and variability? Could you also share with us examples of climate change mitigation measures at the level of small-scale farmers?**

Your contributions in this forum will indeed generate a valuable source of information that can contribute to the generation of new ideas and the collection of concrete experiences on how to face climate change and its linkages to food security. This will help to prepare FAO's participation in the upcoming 14th session of the Conference of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol (COP) to be held in Poznan next December 2008. Concrete examples may also be very useful for the preparation of documents to be developed by FAO in 2009.

Thanking you in advance we look forward to reading your experiences on this subject.

Best regards,
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<http://www.fao.org/climatechange/home/en/>

Subscribe to **FoodClimate** FAO's newsletter on climate change and food security at

<http://www.fao.org/climatechange/home/newsletter/en>

Download the leaflet of the **World Food Day 2008** at

http://www.fao.org/fileadmin/user_upload/Get_Involved/WFD_leaflet_2008-en-web.pdf

Visit and consult background technical documents on the website of the "**High-Level Conference on World Food Security: the Challenges of Climate Change and Bioenergy**"

<http://www.fao.org/foodclimate/hlc-home/en/>