

Enhancing Resilience in African Drylands: Toward a Shared Development Agenda

Background

The World Bank, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI) have teamed up with a number of partners to prepare a report, slated for completion at the end of 2014, about strategies to reduce the vulnerability and enhance the resilience of populations living in dryland regions of sub-Saharan Africa. Based on analysis of current and projected future drivers of vulnerability and resilience, the report will identify promising interventions, quantify their likely costs and benefits, and describe the policy trade-offs that will need to be addressed when strategies are devised for the sustainable development of drylands.

Additional information is available at: <http://www.terrafrica.org/knowledge-management/african-drylands-report/#sthash.2PiONNmS.dpuf>

Overview

In conjunction with the IFPRI 2020 Conference *Building Resilience for Food and Nutrition Security*, the World Bank and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) are pleased to host the side event *Enhancing Resilience in African Drylands: Toward a Shared Development Agenda*.

The side event will showcase and discuss preliminary findings that are emerging from an ongoing study entitled *The economics of resilience in the drylands of Sub-Saharan Africa*. The study, which is being carried out by a broad range of partners including the World Bank, FAO, IFPRI-PIM, ILRI, ICRAF, ICRISAT, CIRAD, and WRI, is seeking to improve the understanding of the vulnerability of people living in drylands and to identify cost-effective interventions that can strengthen their resilience in the face of recurring shocks. The side event will begin with two brief presentations: (1) a presentation of preliminary findings of the study; and (2) a presentation on the rationale/justification for promoting integrated land management (ILM) in degraded drylands as promoted by the NEPAD-led partnership Terrafrica as well as on the foundations of a new flagship program developed under the revised Environment Action Plan that will support countries interested in sustainable land and watershed management (SLWM) interventions using ILM approaches.

The presentations will to be followed by comments from heads of leading organisations in the drylands development field, Djimé Adoum, Executive Secretary of CILSS, **Mahboub Maalim (to be confirmed)**, Executive Secretary, Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD), Djibouti and **Estherine Fotabong**, Director of Program Implementation and Coordination at NEPAD.

The session will conclude with a Q&A period during which participants will have the opportunity to react to the emerging findings and discuss their significance for policy making and program design.

Structure of the side event

Part 1: Presentations – 10h30 to 11h15

Presentation 1 – 10h30 to 11h05

The side event will begin with a brief presentation of the study by Raffaello Cervigni (Lead Environmental Economist, World Bank, USA) and Mohamed Manssouri (Senior Advisor, FAO, Italy). They will describe the scope of the study, highlight some preliminary findings emerging from a series of commissioned background studies, and discuss a range of interventions that can be expected to deliver benefits in the short- to medium term, as well as interventions with longer gestation periods whose payoffs would be realized over a longer time frame.

Presentation 2 – 11h05 to 11h15

Stephen Danyo (Senior Natural Resources Management Specialist, World Bank, USA) will elaborate on the integrated land management approach, which takes both a geographical and socio-economic approach to managing land, water and forest resources that form the foundation for meeting the goals of food security and inclusive green growth. He will further present the foundations of a new flagship program developed under the revised Environment Action Plan that will support countries interested in SLWM interventions using ILM approaches.

Part 2: Discussion – 11h15 to 11h30

The presentation of the study will be followed by a brief expert panel discussion featuring interventions from three discussants:

- a. Djimé Adoum, Executive Secretary, Permanent Interstate Committee for Drought Control in the Sahel (CILSS), Burkina Faso
- b. Mahboub Maalim (to be confirmed), Executive Secretary, Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD), Djibouti
- c. Estherine Fotabong (to be confirmed), Director of Programme Implementation and Coordination, New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD), South Africa

Part 3: Facilitated Q&A – 11h30 to 12h00

To conclude the side event, Karen Brooks, Director, CGIAR Research Program on Policies, Institutions and Markets, USA, will summarize the insights from the presentations and the discussants' remarks and facilitate a Q&A session. This segment will give attendees an opportunity to comment on the emerging study findings, react to the comments of the discussants, and discuss implications for policy making and program design.