



FOOD AND AGRICULTURE  
ORGANIZATION  
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Regional Office  
for Europe and Central Asia  
(REU)

# FAO and Adaptation to Climate Change in the European Region

## Selected Issues Proposed for the Ministerial Roundtable

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Twenty-sixth FAO Regional Conference for Europe ,  
Innsbruck, Austria, 26-27 June 2008

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## FAO summit, Rome, 6 June 2008

“We encourage the international community to continue its efforts in liberalizing international trade in agriculture by reducing trade barriers and market distorting policies. .... Addressing these measures ....will give farmers, particularly in developing countries, new opportunities to sell their products on world markets and support their efforts to increase productivity and production.”

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## Approach

- FAO can refer to multidisciplinary expertise in agriculture, forestry and fisheries
- Use an participatory approach involving farmers, scientists and policy makers in the policy decision making
- Focus on rural areas / household livelihoods and the corresponding national policies
- Emphasis on national and regional assessments for food security



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## Priorities

- Poverty reduction, through support to sustainable rural livelihoods and food security
- Food safety and quality
- Sustainable management of natural resources
- Institution and capacity-building to facilitate the transition to market economies in the rural sector



## Core Principles

- Demand driven and location specific interventions on climate change adaptation
- Building on existing strengths focusing on food security
- Strengthening institutional and technical capacities
- Climate change adaptation as an ongoing social learning process
- Climate change adaptation interventions at different scales and linking activities
- Inclusion of local perceptions and participatory approaches for prioritizing adaptation practices
- Beyond climate variability targeting future climate change risks and opportunities



## Core Principles

- Moving beyond data to decision support to provide opportunities for proactive decision making
- Ecosystem integrity and natural resource management in climate change adaptation
- A multi-disciplinary approach – toward a corporate FAO response
- Integration of climate change adaptation, disaster management and development
- Mainstreaming climate change concerns into development planning
- Learning from the field experience and feedback, advice to policy



# Options for FAO's Response

- Foster the Interdepartmental Working Group (IDWG) on Climate Change;
- Develop an integrated climate change programme
- Provide technical inputs, focusing on such issues as data and methodologies related to agriculture and climate change
- Reduce uncertainties/develop analyses with regard to the effectiveness of adaptation measures



# Options for FAO's Response

- Support countries in developing tools for the evaluation of the potential impacts of climate change and in assessing options
- Focus FAO's field programme on climate change issues
- Explore options for the creation of an intergovernmental trust fund to finance new FAO activities related to climate change