



Programme Highlights Report 2023

As part of climate solutions to meet the 1.5-degree target, transformation and systems approaches in agriculture are becoming more critical, as evidenced in the IPCC AR 6 Report. In the global discourse on climate change, food and agriculture systems are increasingly at the forefront, as is a need to transition from planning to implementing climate action. The adoption of the UAE Declaration on Sustainable Agriculture, Resilient Food Systems and Climate Action, through which 153 signatories committed to scaling up adaptation and resilience of their agricultural systems and to promoting food security and nutrition, further signaled the intent of the global community to place agriculture and land use at the core of the international climate agenda.

Through the SCALA programme, FAO and UNDP are helping countries accelerate climate action in agriculture and land use, specifically focusing on implementing NDC and NAP priorities. This includes facilitating shifts toward systems thinking that are foundational for transformative change; fostering multi-stakeholder collaboration and bringing the private sector into climate action spaces where it has not been actively engaged; triggering the integration of gender and social inclusion and strengthening monitoring systems for tracking mitigation and adaptation and reporting to the UNFCCC. SCALA also serves as a testing ground for piloting implementation action and feeds lessons learned back to the international negotiation processes through practical tools, guidance, and events.

Key messages

- Eleven countries are undertaking systems-level assessments, integrating gender and private sector engagement, which will inform policies and project development for transformative action;
- A hybrid (online and offline) Climate Action Review (CAR) tool has been finalized alongside an accompanying handbook, and will be published online for a global audience;
- SCALA has conducted M&E and MRV capacity needs assessments in several countries and provided technical expertise and training to local and national government representatives;
- In all SCALA countries, the Programme has supported the development of sectoral plans that incorporate NDC/NAP priorities on agriculture;
- Support and guidance were provided to advance private sector engagement in climate action, including for non-SCALA countries through the Private Sector Engagement Facility;
- SCALA participated in nine international events and fora where best practices and lessons learnt from SCALA countries were presented.

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

Strengthening the evidence base for transformative climate action

SCALA aims to translate NDC and NAP commitments on land use and agriculture into transformative and actionable climate solutions on the ground. Between 2021 and 2022, SCALA countries applied the Climate Action Review (CAR) Tool to screen their NDCs and NAPs and identify the transformative potential of climate solutions. Based on SCALA country experiences, challenges and recommendations, and feedback from country NAP practitioners at the 2022 NAP Expo, the tool and an accompanying handbook were refined for a wider global audience to guide transformative adaptation planning within the context of NDC/NAP implementation. It is scheduled to be launched in 2024.

SCALA supports countries in identifying, prioritizing, and unpacking transformative climate options in national plans and strengthening capacities for evidence-based decision-making. All countries are undertaking systems-level assessments (SLAs) to fill information gaps for implementing agriculture sector climate priorities and leveraging finance. Examples include:

- In **Uganda**, a systems-level assessment evaluating the resilience of five mixed-farming systems in the cattle corridor landscape was completed to generate local-level adaptation and mitigation solutions. These solutions will be integrated into local development plans and contribute to NDC implementation.
- In **Mongolia**, a study analyzing the impact of a new Livestock Tax Law on livestock herding practices has been finalized to identify climate solutions related to livestock management and draw recommendations and guidelines that can be used by local authorities to implement the Law in an optimal, consistent and participatory manner.
- In **Ethiopia**, the systems-level assessment focuses on identifying actionable entry points for transformative climate action in the three micro-watersheds through a community-based participatory watershed development approach, which will be used to inform local development planning and prepare project concept notes.

Throughout 2023, SCALA supported the application of methodologies and provided capacity-building where needed, drawing on expertise and tools available to UNDP and FAO. This included:

- The application of FAO's Adaptation, Biodiversity and Carbon Mapping (ABC-Map) Tool by sub-national government representatives in **Colombia**, providing inputs on adaptation, biodiversity, and carbon baselines for the certification of climate-resilient adaptation options.
- Capacity building for public and private sector actors on using the Recarbonisation of Global Soils (RECSOIL) tool in **Costa Rica** aims to promote soil organic carbon sequestration.
- The application of FAO's Self-evaluation and Holistic Assessment of Climate Resilience of Farmers and Pastoralists (SHARP) tool in **Uganda** by local government planners to evaluate the resilience of farming households.

Enhancing governance and integration of agriculture and land-use priorities

SCALA contributed to the integration of agriculture and land use priorities into broader government processes for climate planning, budgeting and monitoring.

- In **Thailand**, SCALA supported the development of the Climate Change Action Plan on Agriculture (CCAPA) (2023-2027) through technical coordination and input, culminating in its approval by the Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives.

- In **Côte d'Ivoire**, national stakeholders finalized and validated the NAP with technical inputs from SCALA on the agriculture sectors, including the selection of value chains.
- In **Colombia**, the Programme contributed to designing and piloting a community-level Loss and Damage Analysis tool, supporting the implementation of a Community Strategy for Loss and Damage Assessment. A cost analysis and monitoring tool for implementing and progressing the Integral Management Plan of Climate Change Plan for the agricultural sectors (PIGCCs) is also being developed.
- In **Cambodia**, SCALA supported the development and finalization of the Climate Change Priority Action Plan for the Agriculture, Forestry, and Fisheries Sector (2023-2030), which was validated at a national multi-stakeholder workshop. The Action Plan is expected to be approved by the Ministry and launched in early 2024.
- SCALA convened a validation workshop for the Agricultural Long-Term Low Emissions and Climate Resilience Development Strategy in **Uganda**, which the Ministry of Agriculture adopted in March 2023. SCALA is also supporting local government representatives in their efforts to mainstream NDC and NAP priorities into district-level development plans.

The SCALA global team, in collaboration with the Food and Agricultural Commodities Systems (FACS) team of UNDP, has been establishing a foundation for activities in SCALA countries on multistakeholder collaboration, coordination, and engagement. In March 2023, a Training of Trainers (ToT) series on Effective Collaborative Action was organized for SCALA global and country teams. The training aimed to enable deeper learning around systems change and collaboration in the context of climate action in land use and agriculture.

- Following the training, and at the country team's request, SCALA adapted the ECA methodology to establish a coordination mechanism for climate action between the Ministries of Agriculture and Environment in **Costa Rica**.
- SCALA also organized sessions on multi-stakeholder collaboration and systems leadership in **Uganda** as part of an MRV training program organized with the Ministry of Water and Environment.

Enhancing Frameworks for Measurement, Reporting and Verification (MRV), Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E)

Under the provisions of the UNFCCC and its instruments, countries have outlined their mitigation and adaptation commitments, actions, and targets in their NDCs and NAPs and are required to report on their progress. To ensure compliance with the transparency requirements established under the Paris Agreement and to enable countries to enhance their contributions to the Enhanced Transparency Framework (ETF), SCALA supports strengthening national institutions on MRV and M&E. In 2023:

- SCALA conducted trainings in four countries on enhancing NDC tracking in **Cambodia**, implementing sectoral NAPs in **Colombia**, Early Warning Systems in **Egypt**, and national climate change strategies in **Thailand**.
- In **Uganda**, SCALA collaborated with the Ministry of Water and Environment to organize a two-week training on the integrated MRV tool and its application.
- In **Senegal**, training was provided on applying the Ex-Ante Carbon-Balance (EX-ACT), NEXT, and NDC tracking tools to strengthen capacities to implement and track NDC progress.
- An in-depth assessment of the existing M&E and MRV systems for the NDC was completed in **Côte d'Ivoire** to identify technical and institutional gaps and corresponding needs.

- In **Cambodia**, SCALA worked with the GEF's Capacity-Building Initiative for Transparency (CBIT) programme to develop an M&E system for tracking NDC and adaptation priorities and to train government officials on its use.
- Technical support was provided on data management and accessibility of greenhouse gas information in **Mongolia**.

Leveraging private sector engagement in climate action

Food and agriculture companies and relevant private sector actors are key partners in meeting the global agenda for addressing climate change. Private sector engagement (PSE) is a core component of SCALA's overall approach, with a particular focus on developing bankable concept notes. In 2023, SCALA provided strategic guidance to enhance private sector engagement by supporting private sector mapping and value chain analyses, identifying business opportunities and conducting barrier analysis in **Thailand, Nepal**, and **Egypt**, and designing market-based instruments to reduce livestock emissions and document the impact of private investment and digital innovation in **Mongolia** and **Côte d'Ivoire**.

- In **Colombia**, SCALA is promoting de-risking measures for private sector engagement by developing a certification for agriculture adapted to climate change in the coffee, potato, and horticulture sectors in the Huila, Nariño, and Cundinamarca regions.
- In **Ethiopia**, field-level scoping and consultations were undertaken, and national government staff were trained to apply the UNDP-FAO value chain analysis toolkit as part of the systems-level assessment.
- In **Uganda**, SCALA contributed to a systems-level assessment that included a private sector mapping in the cassava, cocoa, beef, and banana value chains in the cattle corridor. The aim was to identify the role of private sector actors in climate action and gender integration.
- In **Senegal**, the programme conducted a private sector mapping study to explore business opportunities in agroecology in the millet, groundnuts, and market gardening value chains. The study identified national and international partners and opportunities for potential collaboration.
- The first instalment of the SCALA private sector engagement guidance series, '[Private sector mapping, outreach, and engagement in climate-responsive agrifood systems](#)', was published. It aims to support countries in identifying and mapping key private sector actors, prioritizing and segmenting prospective partners, and developing engagement plans.

The [SCALA Private Sector Engagement Facility](#) draws upon tools, emerging lessons, and partnerships developed under the programme to promote PSE in climate action beyond SCALA countries.

- In **Sao Tome and Principe**, a market study was conducted to assess the commercial viability of bio-inputs for producing organic vegetables and commodities for export. Linkages are being explored with the African Development Bank and the GEF to feed the results of this assessment into ongoing large-scale initiatives.
- In **Somalia**, a private sector and ecosystem mapping and an analysis of agricultural value chains will soon be initiated.
- The second call of the PSE Facility was launched in July 2023 with a focus on Small Islands Developing States (SIDS) and middle-income countries that are eligible for Overseas Development Assistance (ODA) and requests for support were received from nine countries.

Promoting gender and social inclusion

NDCs and NAPs are more likely to succeed when gender and social inequalities are addressed and the contributions of different groups of women and men are harnessed. SCALA is continuing to implement its [Gender and Social Inclusion \(GSI\) Strategy](#), guiding gender-responsive project implementation and advocating for gender-transformative approaches within climate action. In 2023, gender analyses were initiated or carried out as part of system-level assessments in Ethiopia, Mongolia, Nepal, and Uganda. For instance:

- In **Thailand**, SCALA has integrated gender and social inclusion into the update of the Climate Change Action Plan on Agriculture (CCAPA 2023-2027). This initiative aims to strengthen the involvement of women's representatives in climate-smart agriculture activities.
- In **Colombia**, workshops were conducted with local communities to promote participatory dialogues and unveil the hidden value of the relationship between gender and climate change.
- In **Costa Rica**, the implementation of the gender strategy, developed in collaboration with FAO and UNDP national gender experts, continues. Ongoing activities include targeted training for women ranchers, sensitization programmes for men, and other support initiatives to ensure that at least 50 women can participate in a new certification scheme and take on leadership roles in their communities.

Contributing to dialogue and advocacy on agriculture and land use

NAP Expo 2023: At this outreach event organized by the Least Developed Countries Expert Group (LEG) under the UNFCCC, the SCALA Programme co-organized a session on '[Transformative Adaptation Actions in the Agriculture and Land-Use Sectors](#).' SCALA also participated in a side event on gender and contributed to a webinar on gender analysis in NAPs organized by the NAP Global Network.

Global NDC Conference: SCALA led a breakout session on '[Implementing climate change in agriculture through an integrated water-energy-food-ecosystem nexus approach](#)'.

Asia Pacific Adaptation Forum: SCALA organized a side event on '[Planning for Adaptation and Resilience: Scaling up Climate Ambition for Resilience of Land Use and Agriculture Systems](#)', sharing experiences on NAP processes in Nepal and Mongolia, and sectoral planning processes in Thailand and Cambodia for resilient food systems. <https://eur03.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/GetUrlReputation>

Africa Climate Week: In collaboration with FAO and the Ban Ki Moon Centre, SCALA co-organized a session on '[Adapting Agrifood Systems and Ensuring Food Security in Africa amidst Climate Change](#).'


Latin America and Caribbean Climate Week: SCALA Colombia representatives contributed to a side event on '[Assessing Loss and Damage in Agrifood Systems](#)' by sharing SCALA's experience in territorialising Damage and Loss Assessment systems in the agricultural sector in Colombia.

Asia-Pacific Climate Week: SCALA organized a side event on 'Planning for adaptation and resilience: Scaling up climate ambition for the resilience of land use and agriculture systems', with examples from SCALA support in Cambodia, Mongolia, Nepal, and Thailand.

COP28: SCALA organized an event on '[Scaling up inclusive climate action through private sector engagement in agriculture and land use](#)' at the NDC Pavilion and contributed to an event on 'Moving from planning to implementation: solutions on how to accelerate transformative adaptation action in the agriculture and land-use sectors' at the Food and Agriculture Pavilion.

2023 PUBLICATIONS

- [Private sector mapping, outreach, and engagement in climate-responsive agrifood systems](#)
- [Addressing agriculture in National Adaptation Plans: Training materials](#)
- [Mongolia SCALA Inception Report](#)
- [Egypt SCALA Inception Report](#)
- [Thailand SCALA Inception Report](#)
- [Nepal SCALA Inception Report](#)
- [Cambodia SCALA Inception Report](#)
- [Colombia SCALA Inception Report](#)



Scaling up Climate Ambition on Land Use and Agriculture through Nationally Determined Contributions and National Adaptation Plans (SCALA), funded by the German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Nuclear Safety and Consumer Protection (BMUV) through the International Climate Initiative (IKI). SCALA responds to the urgent need for increased action to cope with climate change impacts in the agriculture and land use sectors. The twenty-million-euro programme will support at least twelve countries in Africa, Asia and Latin America to build adaptive capacity and to implement low emission priorities.

Country support includes strengthening policies, adopting innovative approaches to climate change adaptation and removing barriers related to information gaps, governance, finance, gender mainstreaming and integrated monitoring and reporting. To achieve this shift, the programme will engage the private sector and key national institutions.

SCALA supports countries to develop the capacity to own and lead the process to meet targets set out in their National Adaptation Plans and Nationally Determined Contributions under the Paris Agreement, and to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals. The SCALA initiative builds on another FAO-UNDP led programme, Integrating Agriculture in National Adaptation Plans (2015-2020), which is currently phasing out.

**Food and Agriculture Organization
of the United Nations**

www.fao.org/in-action/scala/en

**United Nations
Development Programme**

www.adaptation-undp.org/scala

International Climate Initiative (IKI)

www.international-climate-initiative.com

**German Federal Ministry for the Environment,
Nature Conservation, Nuclear Safety and
Consumer Protection (BMUV)**

[www.bmuv.de/en/http://www.bmuv.de/Navigation/EN/
Home/home.html](http://www.bmuv.de/en/http://www.bmuv.de/Navigation/EN/Home/home.html)

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