



Regional Strategy for Disaster Risk Management in the Agriculture Sector and Food and Nutrition Security in Latin America and the Caribbean (2018 - 2030)

With the assistance of:



Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations



UNISDR
The United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction

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Community of Latin American and Caribbean States - CELAC

With the technical assistance of FAO and UNISDR

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Acronyms

CAC	Central American Agricultural Council
CAN	Andean Community of Nations
CAPRADE	Andean Committee for Disaster Prevention and Response
CARICOM	Caribbean Community
CAS	Southern Agricultural Council
CCA	Climate Change Adaptation
CDEMA	Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency
CELAC	Community of Latin American and Caribbean States
CEPREDENAC	Coordination Center for the Prevention of Natural Disasters in Central America
CIAT	International Center for Tropical Agriculture
DRM	Disaster Risk Management
ECLAC	Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean
EWS	Early Warning System
FAO	United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization
FNS	Food and Nutrition Security
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
GTANGRD	High-level Working Group on Comprehensive Disaster Risk Management
IICA	Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture
ILO	International Labor Organization
NDC	National Determined Contributions
IPCC	Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change
LAC	Latin America and the Caribbean
MERCOSUR	Common Market of the South
NGO	Non-governmental Organization
REMAGIR	Meeting of Ministers and High-Level Authorities on Comprehensive Disaster Risk Management
SDG	Sustainable Development Goals
SICA	Central American Integration System
UN	United Nations
UNASUR	Union of South American Nations
UNISDR	United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction
WFP	World Food Program
WG-FF	Working Group on Family Farming and Rural Development

Prologue

The agricultural sector of most countries periodically faces serious losses and damages in crops and productive assets caused by disasters such as droughts, floods and animal and plant diseases. These reduce the income of the rural population and affect the production of food, jeopardizing the food and nutrition security (FNS) of the family farmers, and that of the general population. In addition, these adverse events undermine the livelihoods resilience, generating a vicious circle of poverty and vulnerability.

Latin America and the Caribbean is particularly vulnerable to disasters, as a large part of the population lives in areas exposed to threats, under precarious socioeconomic conditions and exclusion that diminish their ability to cope with these. In addition, the confluence of climate change with the degradation of natural resources creates in the region risk scenarios for which there is still a limited sectoral capacity for preparation and recovery.

The Community of Latin American and Caribbean States – CELAC calls to join forces to strengthen the disaster risk management in the region as a precondition to reach the agriculture sustainability, the development as a whole, and ultimately guarantee the regional FNS.

As stressed by the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 - the global tool adopted by countries to reduce significantly the losses related to disasters in their different manifestations – it is necessary to mainstream de disaster risk management in all processes linked to sustainable development.

The agriculture sector has a great potential of transformation and can become a model of adaptation and resilience against threats and disasters. The Strategy for Disaster Risk Management in the Agriculture Sector and Food and Nutrition Security in Latin America and the Caribbean 2018-2030 offers a timeframe and a feasible alternative to fulfill this purpose based on a coordinated, collaborative and efficient action amongst countries and sub-regions.

On behalf of the Ministry of Agriculture and livestock of El Salvador, pro-tempore president of the CELAC Working Group on Family Farming and Rural Development, I congratulate this important initiative and respectfully ask for the commitment of all the member countries to meet the challenge and generate the necessary leaderships for its implementation process



Orestes Fredesman Ortez Andrade
Minister of Agriculture and Livestock



The Strategy addresses risk management in a broad sense across crop and livestock production, forests, fisheries and aquaculture. The vulnerability of the fishing sector to hurricanes is a common threat in most Caribbean countries which presents opportunities for intercountry collaboration.

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1. Introduction

1. The Regional Strategy for Disaster Risk Management (DRM) in the Agriculture¹ Sector and Food and Nutrition Security (FNS) in Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC) was developed under the leadership of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC), which identified the need for a common tool to foster the collaboration and coordination among its member states with regards to DRM and Climate Change Adaptation (CCA) in the agriculture sector.
2. Moreover, the Strategy seeks to contribute to the CELAC Plan for Food and Nutrition Security and the Eradication of Hunger 2025 (FNS-CELAC Plan) which considers in its fourth pillar the stable production and timely attention to disasters of socio-natural origin that may affect the availability of food; and to the implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030.
3. The present document is the result of a process initiated in April 2016 with the technical support of the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNISDR). This process has involved several rounds of technical and political consultations in the development of the document. Furthermore, an “ad hoc Technical Committee” was established in February 2017 with the task of concluding its formulation.
4. The proposed Strategy developed by the ad hoc Committee was subject to a final technical validation in September 2017 when it was sent to the respective Ministries of Agriculture and DRM or Civil Protection authorities via CELAC’s 33 national delegations.
5. Recognizing the particular vulnerability of LAC to the impacts of climate change, the Strategy was approved during CELAC’s IV Ministerial Meeting on Family Farming and Rural Development, held on 12 and 13 December, 2017 in San Salvador, El Salvador.
6. The Strategy will foster collaborative, coordinated and coherent work amongst countries while prioritizing regional, sub-regional, multi-country and cross-border added-value measures that complement national actions for implementing the Sendai Framework within the agriculture and FNS sector.
7. The Strategy is first and foremost directed towards integrants of the Ministries of Agriculture and Rural Development and seeks to strengthen family farming in particular as the most vulnerable sector and that which is also the most affected by disasters. Agricultural production is likewise considered from a livelihoods perspective, emphasizing its connection with the FNS of small-scale producers and the population as a whole.
8. Acknowledging that the challenges relating to the resilience of the agriculture sector are multidisciplinary in nature, the Strategy calls for coordination and synergies beyond the sector, in particular with the competent authorities of environment, disaster risk management and civil defense.

¹ The agriculture sector will be considered throughout this document in its broadest sense, including the sub-sectors of crops, livestock, forests, fisheries and aquaculture.



2. Background

2.1 Context analysis

9. The agriculture sector in LAC contributes to 5% of Gross Domestic Product (GDP), accounts for 23% of its total exports², and employs 16% of the labor force and 58% of the rural workforce³. The agriculture sector not only plays a key role in the region's economy but also in the world's food supply in terms of exports, contributing 55% of the world's soybean, 45% of its sugar, 39% of its coffee, approximately 20% of its maize, chicken and beef, and almost 10% of the world's rice and wheat⁴.

10. According to the FAO and the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), agriculture has been the economic activity hardest hit by climate change. It is estimated that between 2003 and 2013, 22% of damage and losses caused by medium and high intensity disasters in developing countries occurred in the agriculture sector; 80% of drought-related damage and losses are concentrated in this sector⁵. In LAC, these losses were linked chiefly to floods (55%), drought (27%) and storms (10%), resulting in a 2.7% drop in expected growth in this sector and a 25% increase in food imports.

11. According to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), climate change will bring more frequent and intense, unusual or extreme events worldwide, such as hurricanes, floods, torrential rain or drought, and will have

a direct impact on productive systems. It will also likely have an effect on rainfall and temperature parameters, reducing the sector's productive agricultural potential in extensive areas of the region. Slow-onset events triggered by climate change must also be considered, such as the gradual rise in sea levels, melting glaciers, the invasion of new species and disease vectors, and the loss of biodiversity, all of which will have an impact on agricultural production.

12. The LAC region has been affected primarily by climate-related disasters, which account for 70% of emergencies⁶. According to the Germanwatch, *Long-term Global Climate Risk Index*, from 1995 to 2015, 4 out of 10 countries with the highest climate risk index were located in LAC⁷. The 2017 InfoRM Index for Risk Management identified 7 countries in the region among the 20 countries in the world most exposed to natural hazards⁸. In addition, the Caribbean concentrates a large number of Small Island Developing States (SIDS) that are highly exposed to sudden and slow onset climate-related disasters.

13. Extensive and/or slow-onset, small-scale, localized and recurrent disasters hit the agriculture sector particularly hard. Losses associated with these types of disasters, primarily hydro-meteorological in nature, have increased in recent years, which is indicative of the agriculture sector's

² IICA, FAO, ECLAC 2015. *Perspectivas de la agricultura y el desarrollo rural en las Américas: Una mirada hacia América Latina y el Caribe 2015-2016*. San José, Costa Rica.

³ ILO, 2016, *Panorama temático Laboral. Trabajar en el campo en el siglo XXI. Realidad y perspectivas del empleo rural en ALC*. Lima, Perú.

⁴ FAO 2015, *Panorama de la Inseguridad Alimentaria en América Latina y el Caribe. La región alcanza las metas internacionales del hambre*. www.fao.org/publications

⁵ FAO, 2016a. *The impact of disasters on agriculture and food security*, www.fao.org/3/a-i5128e.pdf

⁶ UNISDR, 2016. Concept Note - "First Meeting of Ministers and High-Level Authorities on the Implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 in the Americas" (<http://eird.org/ran-sendai-2016/eng/index.html>) and based on data from a study carried out by UNISDR and the OSSO Corporation (Southwestern Seismological Observatory) on disaster losses in LAC during 1999 and 2011.

⁷ Guatemala, Honduras, Haiti and Nicaragua: Germanwatch, 2017. *Global Climate Risk Index 2017. Who Suffers Most From Extreme Weather Events? Weather-related Loss Events in 2015 and 1996 to 2015*. <https://germanwatch.org/en/cr>

⁸ Chile, Peru, Ecuador, Colombia, Nicaragua, Guatemala and Mexico. <http://www.inform-index.org/>



The sustainable management of natural resources is an essential building block for resilience of the agriculture sector. Regional or multi-country coordination and territorial approaches facilitate the development of policies and the planning of shared resources across sectors and stakeholders for the application of ecosystem approaches as a basis for adaptation and disaster risk reduction.

greater risk of exposure to losses. In the region, there were 177 extensive disasters⁹ for every intensive disaster recorded¹⁰, which when viewed cumulatively, accounted for more than half of human deaths (22,424) and involved 90% of the affected population (115 million)¹¹.

14. The expansion of farm production in the region has largely taken place with an extensive use of inputs, and has caused soil degradation, loss of biodiversity and deforestation¹². The steady deterioration of natural resources observed in the region in all sectors is an equally critical factor to take into consideration in terms of disaster risks in the agriculture sector, as it compromises the capacity of ecosystems to adapt to climate change and continue providing essential services for disaster prevention and agricultural productionⁱⁱ.

15. The increasingly frequent crises in the food chain caused by cross-border epidemics and pests affecting animals and plants, together with food safety issues, are another major threat to rural livelihoods. Pests, pathogens and weeds are currently the cause of more than 40% of the losses in the world's food supply and shrinking rural income¹³. Between 2012 and 2013, the coffee rust affected 53% of central America plantations and generated export losses for 243 USD millions¹⁴.

16. Other key factors associated with disaster risks are inequality and poverty. At a global level, between 1975 and 2000, 68% of deaths caused by disasters occurred among the extremely poor population¹⁵. Women, children and people in vulnerable situations are disproportionately affected by disasters¹⁶. The poverty rate between 2003 and 2014 in LAC dropped from 43% to 28%, however, inequality and social exclusion are still major challenges. In 2014, the poverty rate for women was 18% higher than for men; in rural areas, it was twice as high as in urban areas, with 47.9% of the population living in poverty and 30% in extreme poverty. The region produces enough food to feed the entire population, however, 34.3 million people still go hungry¹⁷.

17. Almost 81% of farms in LAC are family farms; they supply between 27% and 67% of the local food; occupy 12% to 67% of farmlands, and generate between 57% and 77% of rural employment in the region¹⁸. However, they disproportionately concentrate the negative impacts of disasters, given their heightened vulnerability, owing chiefly to their high dependency on the climate, the degraded or low productivity lands they occupy, unsustainable practices and inadequate disaster preparedness and recovery capacities.

⁹ Mainly high frequency low severity disasters, although not associated exclusively with localized hazards. Please refer to the Glossary of Terms for a complete definition.

¹⁰ Mainly low frequency high or medium severity disasters associated with serious hazards. Please refer to the Glossary of Terms for a complete definition.

¹¹ UNISDR, 2016. Concept Note - "First Meeting of Ministers and High-level Authorities on the Implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 in the Americas" (<http://eird.org/ran-sendai-2016/>) drawing on data from the 2015 UNISDR and OSSO Corporation study "Impact of Disasters in Latin America and the Caribbean 1990-2013". http://www.unisdr.org/files/48578_impactodesastresamericalatinacaribe.pdf

¹² FAO y OPS, 2017. *América Latina y el Caribe. Panorama de la Seguridad Alimentaria y Nutricional*. Santiago 2017.

¹³ FAO, 2016b. *Increasing the resilience of agricultural livelihoods*. Web brochure. www.fao.org/resilience

¹⁴ Secretariat of Central America Economic Integration: <http://www.sieca.int/Noticias/NoticiasMostrar.aspx?SegmentoId=1&NoticiaId=174>, consulted on July 25th, 2017.

¹⁵ UNISDR, 2016. Op cit.

¹⁶ Sendai Framework for DRR, paragraph 4.

¹⁷ FAO, 2015. Op. cit.

¹⁸ FAO, 2014. *Family Farming in Latin America and the Caribbean: Policy Recommendations*. Santiago, Chile.

18. At a global level, women account for 43% of farm labour in developing countries and produce 60 to 80% of the food; nonetheless, they live in conditions of social, political and economic inequality where 30% are land owners, only 10% have access to loans and a mere 5% to technical assistance¹⁹. This situation leads to higher levels of vulnerability to disasters as well as food and nutrition insecurity since women not only play an important productive role at the farm level, but are also responsible for self-consumption production and the child care activities.

19. According to FAO projections in 2016, by 2050 food production will have to have increased 60% in order to feed the world's population²⁰. From the perspective of FNS in LAC, the agriculture sector's evident state of vulnerability to threats and crises is particularly critical. The impact of disasters not only produces immediate effects in terms of access, availability and utilization of food, but also undermines the capacity of small-scale farmers to address new crises time and again, holding them back in poverty and exposing them to a growing risk of food and nutrition insecurity.

2.2 Policy framework and priority international, regional and sub-regional agreements for disaster risk reduction

20. As follow-up to the implementation of the Hyogo Framework of Action 2005-2015 by United Nations

Member States, the Third World Conference of the United Nations for Disaster Risk Reduction was held in March 2015, in Sendai, Japan. On that occasion, the Member States adopted the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 (referred onwards as Sendai Framework). This framework is now the main instrument providing guidelines for “the substantial reduction of disaster risk and losses in lives, livelihoods and health and in the economic, physical, social, cultural and environmental assets of persons, businesses, communities and countries.” The Framework establishes 13 principles, 7 targets and 4 priorities for its implementation. The Sendai Framework's “people-centered” approach incorporates a human rights and gender perspective as key elements for achieving its goals and emphasizes in its guiding principles the need for coordination and coherence between the agendas of sustainable development, food security, health and safety, climate change and variability, environmental management and disaster risk reduction.

21. In September 2015, UN Member States affirmed their commitment to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, which establishes a transformative vision on economic, social and environmental sustainability in the context of an enhanced global partnerships, for the implementation of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), considering DRM and climate change mitigation and adaptation as elements inherent and essential to the development process. This is reflected in their explicit inclusion in SDGs 1, 2, 11, 13, 14 and 15 regarding poverty reduction, zero hunger, sustainable cities and communities, climate action and marine and

¹⁹ FAO <http://www.fao.org/americanas/perspectivas/seguridad-alimentaria/es/> last accessed May 10, 2017.

²⁰ FAO, 2016b. Op. Cit.

terrestrial natural resources. The “leave no one behind” principle of the 2030 Agenda in turn reinforces the gender perspective in its application and highlights the need to empower women for its effective achievement.

22. In December 2015, in the context of the 21st Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), the Paris Agreement was adopted to “strengthen the global response to the threat of climate change, in the context of sustainable development and efforts to eradicate poverty” and recognize “the fundamental priority of safeguarding food security and ending hunger, and the particular vulnerabilities of food production systems to the adverse impacts of climate change”. The Agreement also establishes that “when taking action to address climate change, (parties) must respect, promote and consider (...) gender equality, empowerment of women and intergenerational equity.”

23. Likewise, CCA appears as a high priority in the LAC region and it is included in all the national determined contributions (NDC). With regard to the agriculture sector, 94% of the countries mentioned adaptation actions²¹ and two-thirds food security and sovereignty²².

24. Acknowledging the synergy and complementarity of the three abovementioned instruments and advocating the collective regional action arrangements around the guiding principles established in the Sendai Framework, LAC countries adopted the Regional Action Plan for the Implementation of the Sendai Framework at the 5th Regional Disaster Risk Reduction Platform held in Montreal, Canada, in March 2017.

25. The LAC sub-regions have also made considerable progress in terms of policy and regulatory frameworks, as well as in the institutional structures that integrate DRM and climate change into the agriculture sector.

26. In the context of the **Central American Integration System (SICA)**, the **Coordination Center for the Prevention of Natural Disasters in Central America (CEPRENAC)** is undergoing a process of harmonization of the **Central American Policy for Comprehensive Risk Management 2018 - 2030 (PCGIR)** with the Sendai Framework and includes as one of its articulating axis the environment and climate change. Furthermore, the Central American Agricultural Council (CAC) adopted in June 29, 2017, the **Strategy for Sustainable Agriculture Adapted to Climate Change 2018 -2030**²³ (EASAC for the Spanish acronym) for the SICA region²⁴.

27. The Caribbean Community (CARICOM) within the framework of the Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency (CDEMA) counts with the **Comprehensive Disaster Management Strategy (CDM) 2014 - 2024**, which is also undergoing a process of harmonization with the Sendai Framework and whose third pillar is the integration of DRM in productive sectors. To support the implementation of this agenda in the agriculture sector, the task group on climate change, DRM and natural resources management was created, and the Standard Auditing Tool has been developed to evaluate the degree of integration of DRM and CCA in the sector.

28. The **High-Level Group for Comprehensive Disaster Risk Management of the Union of South American**

²¹ FAO, 2016d. The Agriculture Sectors in the Intended Nationally Determined Contributions: Analysis. Rome.

²² K. Witowski y D. Medina. El sector agropecuario en las Contribuciones Previstas y Determinadas a Nivel Nacional de América Latina. (Agriculture sector in the Intended National Determined Contributions) IICA. 2016.

²³ The EASAC is considered a key instrument to promote a more competitive, inclusive and sustainable agriculture adapted to the effects of climate change and climate variability, to increase productivity through the conservation and sustainable and efficient use of water, biodiversity, the soil and forest, in order to guarantee the FNS.

²⁴ SICA region includes Central American countries plus the Dominican Republic



Field work in Ayacucho, Peru. Rural women play a crucial role in agriculture and compared to men they have different vulnerabilities and capacities to face risk. A gender sensitive approach improves the quality of disaster risk management policies and programs in the agriculture sector as it allows these differences to be recognized and responded to appropriately.

Nations (GTANGRD/UNASUR) has a Plan of Action 2015 - 2019 and is currently developing a South American Strategy for Disaster Risk Reduction. In South America, great progress has been made at the sub-regional level as well, namely through the Andean Committee for Disaster Prevention and Assistance (CAPRADE) with the Andean Strategy for Disaster Risk Management (EAGRD) 2017 - 2030, adopted in May 9, 2017; as well as developments within the Meeting of Ministers and High-level Authorities on Comprehensive Disaster Risk Management of the Common Market of the South (REMAGIR/MERCOSUR). The Southern Agricultural Council (CAS) has also established a Technical Group for Risk Management and Agricultural Insurance and another for Public Policy on Climate Change.

2.3 DRM in the Agriculture Sector in the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States - CELAC

29. The CELAC, comprised of 33 countries in the region, was established to move progressively towards regional integration and operates as an Intergovernmental mechanism for political dialogue and consensus.

30. Since its creation in December 2011, CELAC has contributed to enrich the dialogue among LAC countries on issues such as social development, education, family farming, FNS, culture, funding, energy, the environment, DRM, and gender mainstreaming. In addition, it has helped the region view itself as a community of nations, capable of dialogue and of reaching consensus on issues of common concern.

31. In January 2015, CELAC adopted the FNS-CELAC Plan, which include four pillars and seeks to help “reach concrete results that will generate significant improvements in the quality of life of the inhabitants of the region, aimed at the eradication of poverty, especially extreme poverty, to guarantee food security and nutrition, with a gender approach and respecting the variety of eating habits, to face the challenges of food security and nutrition and move towards the eradication of hunger and the complete fulfillment of the Right to Food, especially for all vulnerable sectors.”

32. Consistent with pillar 4 of the CELAC-FNS Plan regarding the “stable production and timely attention to socio-natural disasters likely to affect food availability,” CELAC requested the support of FAO and the World Food Program (WFP) to develop “proposals on disaster risk reduction and humanitarian assistance to draft a Strategic Regional Agenda for Comprehensive Disaster Risk Management” for the agriculture sector, in the context of its 2014 Plan of Action. This was reaffirmed in the 2015 Plan of Action.

33. This concern was underscored both in the Political Declaration of Quito adopted at the 4th CELAC Summit, held in January 2016, and the Political Declaration of Punta Cana adopted at the 5th CELAC Summit in January 2017. At the latter, countries emphasized the need to establish common strategies to strengthen coordination in matters regarding disaster risk reduction. They also highlighted the region’s vulnerability to climate change and disasters, be they natural or man-made, acknowledging the importance of strengthening the implementation the

Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 and achieving all its goals in the region.

34. In response to this request, FAO and the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNISDR) have embarked on a process of consultations to identify the main challenges and opportunities for implementing the Sendai Framework in the agriculture sector in LAC. The process was framed around a virtual technical consultation and a political consultation in the context of the “First Meeting of Ministers and High-level Officials on the Implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 in the Americas,” held on June 8 and 9, 2016 in Asunción, Paraguay.

35. The output of this process was the publication of the document: *Guidelines and Recommendations for the Implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction in the Agriculture and Food Security and Nutrition Sector*²⁵, which provides a guiding framework for integrating DRM nationally and locally when planning policy and action for the sector’s resilient development.

36. Complementing the abovementioned document, the process went on to draft this *Regional Strategy for DRM in the Agriculture Sector and FNS*, which promotes further guidelines for regional coordination and collaboration among countries. The process involved a Technical Meeting of agriculture sector DRM focal points held in Santiago, Chile, in February 2017; an Agriculture Ministers’ Dialogue at the 5th Regional Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction held in Montreal, Canada, in March 2017; and the establishment of an ad hoc Technical

Committee mandated to draft the Strategy, which met in Antigua, Guatemala, in April, 2017²⁶.

37. This Strategy provides a sector response also to the recommendation of the First CELAC Meeting of High-level Authorities on Comprehensive Disaster Risk Management, held in April 2016, in Santo Domingo, to “strengthen, without delay, common strategies for coordinating comprehensive disaster risk management, resilience and humanitarian cooperation”.

38. It should be noted that the *Gender Strategy for the CELAC FNS Plan* was adopted at the 5th CELAC Summit held in January 2017. The Strategy aims to “guarantee the empowerment of women, so that its results benefit women and men alike” and in its fourth pillar identifies specific actions with respect to DRM and assistance during emergencies, developed for this purpose.

²⁵ <http://reliefweb.int/report/world/lineamientos-y-recomendaciones-para-la-implementaci-n-del-marco-de-sendai-para-la>

²⁶ Details of the process and the members of the *ad hoc* Technical Committee can be found Annex 1.



In 2016, Hurricane Irma devastated agricultural production in Cuba and other Caribbean islands. Countries can work together to address the threat of hurricanes, for instance, by collaborating to improve and integrate their early warning and response systems.

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3. Regional Strategy for Disaster Risk Management in the Agriculture Sector and Food and Nutrition Security

3.1 Scope of actions

39. This Strategy is conceived as a regional instrument that seeks to contribute from a sectoral perspective to the implementation of the FNS-CELAC Plan, the Regional Action Plan for the Implementation of the Sendai Framework and the corresponding instruments and efforts carried out at a sub-regional level in the framework of SICA, CARICOM, UNASUR, Andean Community and Mercosur.

40. Therefore, this Strategy seeks to establish a tool to identify and plan collaborative actions among LAC countries and sub-regions²⁷ and move forward in a coordinated, complementary and coherent manner in support of national and local actions, carried out by counties in order to implement the Sendai Framework. This will be possible if policy benchmarks are developed, regulations and methodologies are standardized, synergies and exchanges are generated, and other relevant regional actions are carried out.

41. Sub-regional or multi-country approaches that comprehensively address cross-border hazards or geographical areas with common agro-ecological characteristics (ecosystems, watersheds, etc.) will be promoted as they usually are more effective and can also benefit from economies of scale.

3.2 Approach

42. In this Strategy, DRM refers to “the application of disaster risk reduction policies and strategies to prevent new disaster risk, reduce existing disaster risk and manage residual risk, contributing to the strengthening

of resilience and reduction of disaster losses”²⁸. DRM must therefore be dealt continuously and must be introduced directly into all processes linked to sustainable development.

43. Disaster risks can be extensive and intensive, frequent and rare, sudden and slow-onset, from natural causes (geological, meteorological, hydrological and climate-related), man-made (technological and environmental degradation) and linked to the food chain (health and markets). A multi-hazard approach will be considered that recognizes that they can be sole, with sequential, accumulative and/or interrelated effects.

44. In the context of the Strategy, the agriculture sector will be considered in its broadest sense to include the agriculture, livestock, forestry, fishery and aquaculture sub-sectors. Agricultural production will be considered from a livelihoods perspective, emphasizing its connection with the FNS of producers and the population as a whole. The Strategy seeks to strengthen family farming in particular, since it is the segment most vulnerable to and affected by disasters.

45. The Strategy is primarily geared to ministries responsible for agriculture, livestock, forests, aquaculture and fishing, since they represent the regulatory bodies for these sectors²⁹.

3.3 Objective

46. “Prevent new and reduce existing disaster risks in the agriculture sector through the implementation of integrated and inclusive economic, structural, legal, social, health, cultural, educational, environmental,

²⁷ Southern cone, Andean region, Central America and the Caribbean.

²⁸ Definition of the Open-ended Inter-Governmental Expert Working Group on indicators and terminology relating to disaster risk reduction. United Nations General Assembly. December 2016.

²⁹ These ministries have different names, depending on the country; in some cases they include all sub-sectors, whereas in others they do not. In the latter case, the Strategy will focus on government ministries that encompass each one of these productive sectors.

technological, political and institutional measures to strengthen resilience.”

47. To achieve this, the Strategy seeks to:

- Encourage collaborative, coordinated and coherent action among countries and prioritize actions with regional, sub-regional and multi-country added value to strengthen the mainstreaming of DRM and CCA into the agriculture sector.
- Generate a coordinating framework for collaboration between sectors involved in building the agriculture sector’s resilience and the population’s FNS.

48. The Strategy will have a time frame that ends in 2030, coinciding with the time frames established for implementing the Sendai Framework and the 2030 Agenda.

3.4 Core Guidelines

49. The core guidelines define the approaches for cross-sector interventions in line with the four SFDRR priorities that should create an enabling environment for achieving the Strategy objective.

a) Promote a synergistic approach to DRM, CCA and natural resources management as a key element in reducing the vulnerability of agriculture sector and increasing its resilience.

This guideline will be especially relevant in the context of public policy development, inter-institutional coordination, land use and territorial planning, and the development, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of good practices and technologies for sustainable agriculture adapted to the climate .

b) Foster coordination and complementarity of DRM measures between the agriculture sector and the governing authorities of DRM and civil protection systems in their different levels of intervention.

This guideline will address the technical and thematic feedback from one sector to the other on policy design and for coordinating sector DRM measures, and in the context of the definition and monitoring of indicators that provide information on DRM developments in the agriculture sector.

c) Strengthen the implementation of the gender approach as a key element for ensuring the efficiency and effectiveness of DRM practices.

Particular attention will be placed on promoting the empowerment of rural women by facilitating their access to information, training and productive agricultural resources while promoting their full participation in the development of policy and plans and in the implementation of programs and projects for DRM and CCA in the agriculture sector.

d) Develop and strengthen partnerships among the public and private sector, civil society and the academic and scientific and technological community.

Although governments hold the primary responsibility to provide support and assistance to the agriculture sector to build resilience, DRM is also recognized as a task that calls for the involvement and collaboration of society as a whole. It is therefore vital to promote the empowerment and involvement of all stakeholders in order to move forward together and generate a culture of DRM.



Livestock absorbs a large part of the economic impacts of disasters in the agriculture sector. Assessing losses and damage from disasters across the agriculture sub-sectors and across countries through a common methodology would contribute to countries' monitoring towards the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals and the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction.

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e) Promote collaborative approaches to address cross-border hazards among countries that share watersheds, ecosystems and agro-ecological regions.

This guideline will be implemented, among others, to groups of countries located in the Central American Dry Corridor, the South American Chaco, the Andean region, the Caribbean hurricane corridor or those that are affected by events caused by the El Niño Southern Oscillation (ENOS) phenomenon. The development and sharing of information on risk characterization and monitoring, and good practices for agricultural resilience, institutional capacity building in common issues and similar approaches, the joint mobilization of technical and financial resources, and the development of mechanisms for dialogue among countries and among sectors for decision-making will be encouraged.

f) Foster South-South and triangular cooperation.

Cooperation and collaboration among LAC countries will be considered a primary mechanism for knowledge management and capacity-building in DRM and CCA in the region's agriculture sector.

3.5 Specific Measures

Priority 1: Understand disaster risk in the agriculture sector and FNS

50. Promote, at the regional, sub-regional and multi-country level, **the standardization and harmonization of methodologies and formats for data analysis, comparison and aggregation on disaster risks** include gender analysis in their configuration and presentation.

51. Harmonize methods and tools for **assessing damage and losses caused by disasters in the agricultural sectors** considering the economic, social and environmental dimensions.

52. Strengthen and link at a regional, sub-regionally or multi-country level, **the different disaster risk information management and monitoring systems**, including Early Warning Systems (EWS), providing comprehensive analysis and proper understanding for **informed decision-making**, both at the producer level and at the level of government and other stakeholders associated with the agriculture sector and FNS.

53. Reinforce sub-regional and regional platforms and/or networks to link the academic, scientific and technological community with policy-makers and other relevant agriculture sector stakeholders to promote: i) **dialogue among countries and institutions**; ii) **disaster risk information and knowledge sharing**, and iii) **good practices and technologies for the resilience of rural livelihoods**, focusing specifically on the conservation and use of agro-biodiversity, the appreciation and capitalization of ancestral practices and indigenous women and men, and technology that addresses the specific needs and interests of women farmers.

Priority 2: Strengthen risk governance in the agriculture sector and FNS

54. Promote, at the regional, sub-regional and national level: i) mainstreaming of elements that contribute to agriculture sector and FNS resilience in cross-cutting DRM and CCA **strategies, policies and plans**, and ii) mainstreaming of DRM and CCA in the respective agriculture sector instruments.

55. Encourage collaborative action on exchange and mutual learning among countries to **strengthen technical and institutional capacities of the ministerial departments in charge of agriculture, livestock, forestry, aquaculture and fisheries** throughout the entire planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation cycle of DRM and CCA policies in the sector. This should include

the capacities for monitoring and reporting damage and losses in the agriculture production, livelihoods and FNS.

56. Promote a regional **mechanism for monitoring developments in the mainstreaming of DRM in the agriculture sector** (based on global and national indicators for the SDGs and the Sendai Monitor), in coordination with the respective regional and national monitoring and accountability mechanisms of the DRM Systems.

57. Promote and strengthen regional and sub-regional **interagency coordination mechanisms** to avoid duplications and foster the coherence of DRM actions between the agriculture sector and the Environment, Health and Women's Affairs Ministries, and other relevant sectors to enhance the resilience of rural livelihoods and FNS.

58. Reinforce minimum standards among regional, sub-regional and national institutions for addressing **plant and animal health and food safety cross-border crises**, improving the pre-emptive stages (monitoring and preparedness).

59. Promote cross-border cooperation for **policy and planning with a view to implementing ecosystem approaches for shared resources**, in particular, watersheds and marine-coastal resources, to increase resilience and reduce disaster risk in the agriculture sector.

Priority 3: Invest in disaster risk reduction for resilience in the agriculture sector and FNS

60. Foster sub-regional harmonization or alignment of **land use planning regulations and agriculture and food production standards** that incorporate mid-term risk assessment and channel public and private investments

generating an enabling environment for a sustainable agricultural development that is resilient to the climate, is risk-sensitive and competitive in the medium and long term.

61. Foster the development of technical cooperation mechanisms among countries and specialized organizations for sharing **good practices, economic and financial instruments for disaster risk-sensitive public investment in the agriculture sector** and for **risk transfer**, focusing particularly on the development of insurance schemes to help both reduce disaster risk and recover from the impact they generate, and address the needs of family farms.

62. Promote **resource mobilization** through development and humanitarian funding mechanisms, climate funds, and public-private partnerships **at the regional, sub-regional and multi-country level** for DRM and CCA of rural livelihoods, including the productive and the agrifood chain assets.

Priority 4: Enhance disaster preparedness for effective response and a better recovery, rehabilitation and reconstruction in the agriculture sector and FNS

63. Foster the **interconnection and interoperability between and within regional, sub-regional and national level early warning systems**, and within the agriculture sector and the national authorities responsible for coordinating disaster risk assistance at national level, to ensure proper delivery of information on agricultural and FNS hazards for **timely decision-making** by producers, government and other relevant stakeholders.

64. Foster regional, sub-regional or multi-country exchange and/or the development of **mechanisms, contingency protocols and Standard Operating Procedures for effective response in agriculture sector** that considers situations linked to cross-border hazards, includes indicators and specific warning criteria, and considers differentiated treatment of women and girls.

65. Create or strengthen regional, sub-regional and multi-country coordination and collaboration mechanisms for the **delivery of a timely response and the rehabilitation, recovery and reconstruction in the agriculture sector and FNS**, which include the creation of reserves of food and production inputs, as well as actions for the restoration of ecosystems functionality.

66. Promote sharing of good practices and collaborative actions for **capacity development for formulating livelihood rehabilitation, recovery and reconstruction plans that incorporate disaster risk reduction and/or the “build back better” approach³⁰**, ecosystem approaches and involve women in their formulation taking into consideration their distinctive productive needs.

³⁰ Please refer to the Glossary for a detailed description of the “build back better approach”.



4. Implementation Arrangements

67. The Working Group on Family Farming and Rural Development (WG-FF), through its designated officials and with the support of FAO and UNISDR, will provide strategic advice to the process of implementing the Regional Strategy on DRM in the Agriculture Sector and FNS in LAC.

68. Based on the proposals derived from the process of developing the Strategy, work will continue with the DRM focal points of the Ministries of Agriculture through the ad hoc Technical Committee. With FAO and UNISDR support, this committee will be responsible for:

a. Managing the operational mechanisms for the Strategy's implementation;

b. Periodically reporting to the WG-FF on the Strategy's progress;

c. Establishing an Advisory Group composed of international cooperation agencies and research institutions that can support, at the request of the ad hoc Technical Committee, the implementation of the Regional Strategy.



The IVth Ministerial Meeting on Family Farming and Rural Development of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States - CELAC, took place from 12 to 13 December 2017 in San Salvador city, El Salvador.

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Glossary of Terms

Agriculture Sector

In the context of the Strategy, this term is considered in its broadest sense and includes the agriculture, livestock, forestry, fishery and aquaculture sub-sectors.

Build Back Better*

The use of the recovery, rehabilitation and reconstruction phases after a disaster to increase the resilience of nations and communities through integrating disaster risk reduction measures into the restoration of physical infrastructure and societal systems, and into the revitalization of livelihoods, economies and the environment.

Climate Change Adaptation (IPCC definition)

Climate change adaptation refers to an adjustment in natural or human systems in response to actual or expected climatic stimuli or their effects, which moderates harm or exploits beneficial opportunities. There are several types of adaptation, among them, preventive and reactive, public and private, autonomous and planned.

Disaster Risk*

The potential loss of life, injury, or destroyed or damaged assets which could occur to a system, society or a community in a specific period of time, determined probabilistically as a function of hazard, exposure, vulnerability and capacity.

Disaster Risk Management*

Disaster risk management is the application of disaster risk reduction policies and strategies to prevent new disaster risk, reduce existing disaster risk and manage residual risk, contributing to the strengthening of resilience and reduction of disaster losses, and to sustainable development.

Disaster Risk Reduction*

Disaster risk reduction is aimed at preventing new and reducing existing disaster risk and managing residual risk, all of which contribute to strengthening resilience and therefore to the achievement of sustainable development.

Exposure*

The situation of people, infrastructure, housing, production capacities and other tangible human assets located in hazard-prone areas.

Measures of exposure can include the number of people or types of assets in an area. These can be combined with the specific vulnerability and capacity of the exposed elements to any particular hazard to estimate the quantitative risks associated with that hazard in the area of interest.

Extensive disaster risk*

The risk of low-severity, high-frequency hazardous events and disasters, mainly but not exclusively associated with highly localized hazards. Extensive disaster risk is usually high where communities are exposed to, and vulnerable to, recurring localized floods, landslides, storms or drought. Extensive disaster risk is often exacerbated by poverty, urbanization and environmental degradation.

Family Farming³¹**

Family farming includes all family-based agricultural activities, and it is linked to several areas of rural development. Family farming is a means of organizing agricultural, forestry, fisheries, pastoral and aquaculture production which is managed and operated by a family and predominantly reliant on family labour, including both women's and men's. Both in developing and developed countries, family farming is the predominant form of agriculture in the food production sector. At national level, there are a number of factors that are key for a successful development of family farming, such as: agro-ecological conditions and territorial characteristics; policy environment; access to markets; access to land and natural resources; access to technology and extension services; access to finance; demographic, economic and socio-cultural conditions; availability of specialized education among others. Family farming plays an important socio-economic, environmental and cultural role.

Gender approach**

"The gender approach considers the different opportunities that men and women have, the interrelationships between

³¹ Official FAO definition: <http://www.fao.org/family-farming-2014/home/what-is-family-farming/es/>

them and the different roles that are socially assigned to them”³². “This approach allows the identification and analysis of existing asymmetries between women and men in specific contexts and areas”³³.

Hazard*

A process, phenomenon or human activity that may cause loss of life, injury or other health impacts, property damage, social and economic disruption or environmental degradation. Hazards may be natural, anthropogenic or socio-natural in origin. Natural hazards are predominantly associated with natural processes and phenomena. Anthropogenic hazards, or human-induced hazards, are induced entirely or predominantly by human activities and choices. This term does not include the occurrence or risk of armed conflicts and other situations of social instability or tension which are subject to international humanitarian law and national legislation. Several hazards are socio-natural, in that they are associated with a combination of natural and anthropogenic factors, including environmental degradation and climate change. Hazards may be single, sequential or combined in their origin and effects. Each hazard is characterized by its location, intensity or magnitude, frequency and probability. Biological hazards are also defined by their infectiousness or toxicity, or other characteristics of the pathogen such as dose-response, incubation period, case fatality rate and estimation of the pathogen for transmission. Multi-hazard means: i) the selection of multiple major hazards that the country faces, and ii) the specific contexts where hazardous events may occur simultaneously, cascadingly or cumulatively over time, and taking into account the potential interrelated effects. Hazards include (as mentioned in the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030, and listed in alphabetical order) biological, environmental, geological, hydro-meteorological and technological processes and phenomena.

Intensive disaster risk*

The risk of high-severity, mid- to low-frequency disasters, mainly associated with major hazards. Intensive disaster risk is mainly a characteristic of large cities or densely populated areas that are not only exposed to intense hazards such as strong earthquakes, active volcanoes, heavy floods, tsunamis or major storms but also have high levels of vulnerability to these hazards.

Resilience*

The ability of a system, community or society exposed to hazards to resist, absorb, accommodate, adapt to, transform and recover from the effects of a hazard in a timely and efficient manner, including through the preservation and restoration of its essential basic structures and functions through risk management.

Vulnerability*

The conditions determined by physical, social, economic and environmental factors or processes which increase the susceptibility of an individual, a community, assets or systems to the impacts of hazards.

**Definitions drawn from the report of the Open-ended Intergovernmental Expert Working Group on Indicators and Terminology Relating to Disaster Risk Reduction. United Nations General Assembly. 1 December, 2016.*

³² FAO, Document repository [online], *II. The Gender Perspective*, 2.1 The Concept of Gender. In <http://www.fao.org/docrep/004/x2919s/x2919s04.htm>

³³ FAO, 2017. Gender Strategy for the FNS-CELAC Plan. Santiago, Chile, 2016.



Woman watering a nursery in Marigot, Haiti. The use of nurseries and greenhouses makes it possible to restore agricultural production more quickly when a disaster has occurred and was found to be a resilient recovery measure

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i Between 2005 and 2010, forest conversion due to the expanding agricultural frontier in the region grew 3.95 million hectares per year, reaching a land use conversion rate that is three times higher than the global rate, with the highest greenhouse gas emissions in the region; Extensive market-based single-crop plantations, together with extensive livestock farming are a serious threat to biodiversity and create the risk of soil degradation; currently 200 million hectares of degraded lands in the region are a result of mining and agricultural activity with unsustainable practices; between 2005 and 2010, fish stocks in LAC dropped from 20 to 12 million tonnes, likely due to overfishing. FAO 2016, Directrices Voluntarias para Políticas Agroambientales en América Latina y el Caribe (Voluntary Guidelines for Agro-environmental Policy in Latin America and the Caribbean). Santiago, Chile.

ii The Sendai Framework (paragraph 6) specifically identifies unsustainable uses of natural resources, declining ecosystems as disaster risk drivers.

iii Sustainable agriculture adapted to the climate or climate-smart agriculture is the technological approach that contributes to increasing the resilience of productive systems when faced with climate variations, promoting environmentally sustainable practices and reducing the carbon footprint wherever possible.

Annex 1: Strategy Formulation Process

<p>JANUARY 2014</p>	<p>IV CELAC Summit held in Quito, Ecuador, approval of FNS-CELAC Plan, which in its fourth pillar promotes “Stable production and timely attention to socio-natural disasters that can affect food availability”</p>
<p>2014 and 2015</p>	<p>CELAC, in the context of its 2014 and 2015 Action Plan, identifies the need to develop “proposals on disaster risk reduction and humanitarian assistance for the elaboration of a Strategic Regional Agenda for the Integrated Disaster Risk Management” and requests technical support from FAO and the WFP for this purpose.</p>
<p>APRIL 2016</p>	<p>Regional online consultation with the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction country focal points (representatives of National DRM Systems and civil protection authorities); the DRM focal points of Agriculture Ministries; and other key informants from the environmental sector, intergovernmental organizations and other institutions related to the subject.</p> <p>→ The priorities to be addressed in the context of the Strategy’s development were identified.</p>
<p>JUNE 2016</p>	<p>Parallel Session for the Agriculture Sector during the First Meeting of Ministers and High-Level Authorities on the Implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 held in Asunción, Paraguay. Agriculture authorities from Bolivia, Bahamas, Guatemala, Guyana, Paraguay and Peru participated.</p> <p>→ Challenges and opportunities posed by the implementation of the Sendai Framework in the agriculture sector and FNS in the region were discussed.</p>
<p>JUNE 2016</p>	<p>International meeting of Ministers and other High-level Officials of the Agriculture sector held in Lima in June 2016, which resulted in an agreement to work on various issues including the establishment of a platform for exchanging DRM-related experiences in the agriculture sector in LAC.</p> <p>→ Chile’s Agriculture Ministry made a commitment to lead this process.</p>
<p>DECEMBER 2016</p>	<p>Publication of the “Guidelines and Recommendations for the Implementation of the Sendai Framework in the Agriculture and Food and Nutrition Security Sector”, which draws on the outcomes of the virtual consultation carried out in April and the Ministers’ Meeting held in Asunción.</p> <p>• http://www.unisdr.org/files/54350_54350guidelinesendaiframeworkagric.pdf</p>
<p>JANUARY 2017</p>	<p>V CELAC Summit held in Punta Cana, Dominican Republic, where countries underscored the need to establish common strategies to enhance coordination with respect to disaster risk reduction, drew attention to the region’s vulnerability to climate change and to disasters of natural and anthropogenic origin, and acknowledged the importance of strengthening the implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2010 and to meeting its targets in the region.</p>
<p>FEBRUARY 2017</p>	<p>Regional Technical Meeting of DRM Focal Points from Ministries of Agriculture convened by the Ministry of Agriculture of Chile and held on 22 and 23 February, 2017 in Santiago, Chile. This meeting involved the participation of 14 country representatives, the CELAC pro-tempore presidency, representatives of international cooperation and United Nations agencies (FAO and UNISDR as co-organizers, PMA, IICA, CATIE and CEPAL), and representatives of sub-regional organizations (CAC, CAS, CDEMA and CCCCC). The meeting results were:</p> <p>→ The identification of the guiding principles of the Regional Strategy,</p>

<p>FEBRUARY 2017</p>	<p>→ The “Ad hoc Technical Committee” was established and tasked with the formulation of the final Regional Strategy. The Committee is composed of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - One country representative of the DRM department of a Ministry of Agriculture from each LAC sub-region: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Chile for the Southern Cone, o Bolivia for the Andean Region, o Guyana for the Caribbean, and o Guatemala for Central America; and - Four representatives of sub-regional organizations working on mainstreaming DRM in the agriculture sector: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Technical Group 3 (on risk management and agriculture insurance) of the Agricultural Council of the South (CAS), o Andean Community of Nations (CAN), o Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency (CDEMA), and o Technical Group on Climate Change and Comprehensive Risk Management of the Central American Agricultural Council (SICA/CAC).
<p>MARCH 2017</p>	<p>5th Regional Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction in the Americas held in Montreal, Canada.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Side event and Panel of sectoral authorities for the presentation of the Regional DRM Strategy in the Agriculture Sector and FNS in LAC (draft 1). The event involved the participation of Agriculture Authorities of Argentina, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Haiti, Jamaica, Mexico and Paraguay, and several representatives of the regional and national DRM Systems. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> → The countries reiterated their support for the development of the Strategy, as well as to the relevance of a regional tool such as this. - Communiqué by the CELAC Pro Tempore Presidency (PTP) on DRM in the Agriculture Sector for FNS in LAC: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> → The commitment of the PTP to carry on with this agenda and a call to countries and DRM stakeholders to work towards the development of the Strategy were both emphasized.
<p>MARCH 2017</p>	<p>The inputs obtained in Montreal were integrated and the draft 2 of the Strategy was developed and sent for consultation and feedback to all the DRM focal points of the Ministries of Agriculture of the region.</p>
<p>APRIL 2017</p>	<p>Ad hoc Technical Committee Meeting held in Antigua, Guatemala. During this meeting, the inputs sent by the countries regarding the draft 2 were analyzed, the contents of the final Strategy Proposal (draft 3) were defined and a proposal for the implementation arrangements was developed.</p>
<p>MAY TO AUGUST 2017</p>	<p>Formulation of the final text of the Strategy Proposal through several cycles of review within the Technical Committee.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> → Final Strategy Proposal (draft 3) submitted by the ad hoc Technical Committee to the CELAC PTP. This was done through the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Chile on behalf of the Ministry of Agriculture of Chile, as acting secretariat of the Committee.
<p>SEPTEMBER 2017</p>	<p>For the final round of technical validation, the Strategy Proposal was sent to the 33 national CELAC delegates, who in turn resent it to their respective Ministries of Agriculture and DRM and Civil Protection Authorities.</p> <p>→ The Strategy Proposal was deemed technically validated.</p>
<p>DECEMBER 2017</p>	<p>Presentation and adoption at the ministerial level of the Strategy during CELAC’s IV Ministerial Meeting on Family Farming and Rural Development held on 12 and 13 December, 2017 in San Salvador, El Salvador.</p>

Annex 2: Ministerial Declaration of CELAC on Family Farming and Rural Development, San Salvador, El Salvador, December 13, 2017



MINISTERIAL DECLARATION OF CELAC ON FAMILY FARMING AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT

San Salvador, El Salvador, December 13, 2017

The member countries of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC), gathered in San Salvador, El Salvador, on December 13, 2017, on the occasion of the IV Ministerial Meeting on Family Farming and Rural Development of CELAC, agree:

1. To urge all CELAC member states to strengthen the existing coordination mechanisms to achieve the coordinated implementation of the 2018 Action Plan (in annex), with the support of the Pro-Tempore Presidency (PTP).
2. To request the member states to reaffirm their commitment to the Ad-hoc Working Group on Family Farming of CELAC and to the Subregional spaces of policy dialogue for Family Farming, such as the Specialized Meeting on Family Farming of the Southern Common Market (REAF / MERCOSUR), the Central American and the Dominican Republic Commission of Family Farming of the Central American Integration System (CCAF / SICA) and the Andean Dialogue Group (GDA), strengthening the participation of the civil society.
3. To request the support and accompaniment of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the Latin American Integration Association (ALADI) and the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), for the identification of the 100 territories with the highest rate of hunger and undernourishment in the region, in order to prioritize the reactivation of the implementation of the FSN CELAC Plan in those territories, actively involving social organizations actively involving social organizations working in family farming.
4. To strengthen the mechanisms of South-South Cooperation and the exchange of experiences between the member countries and the different subregional integration organizations such as the Southern Common Market (MERCOSUR), the Andean Community of Nations (CAN), the Central American Integration System (SICA), and the Caribbean Community (CARICOM).
5. To reinforce actions on family farming and rural development, to contribute to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG), within the framework of the 2030 Agenda, in order to reduce poverty and inequality.



6. To reactivate, with the accompaniment and support of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the implementation of the Plan for Food Security, Nutrition and Hunger Eradication of CELAC 2025 (FSN-CELAC Plan) in the countries of the region, through the execution of national plans and strategies, and urge those countries that do not have these instruments to move forward on its elaboration.
7. To articulate efforts and deepen actions with the CELAC Working Group on the Advancement of Women to contribute to the implementation of the Gender Strategy of the Plan for Food Security, Nutrition and Hunger Eradication 2025, approved at the V Summit of Chiefs and Heads of State, held in Punta Cana, Dominican Republic in January 2017.
8. To recognize the vulnerability of CELAC states, particularly those in the Caribbean and Central America, to climate change, manifested in hurricanes, prolonged droughts, and other frequent and devastating extreme events that impact the capacity of family farming and sustainable production.
9. To adopt the *Regional Strategy for Integral Disaster Risk Management in the Agriculture Sectors and Food and Nutrition Security in Latin America and the Caribbean*, which provides a response to the request from CELAC in 2015, which it is expected to contribute to the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC) to face the adverse effects of the phenomena associated with climate change.
10. To invite intergovernmental organizations on family farming and rural development, national systems and authorities responsible for disaster risk reduction and civil protection and other relevant actors, to work together to strengthen the resilience of the agricultural, livestock, forestry, aquaculture and fishing sectors, guaranteeing the food and nutritional sovereignty of our peoples, as well as the livelihoods of family farmers.
11. To recognize the progress made in different countries regarding the construction and implementation of public policies on family farming and rural development strategies and reduction of poverty and inequality, and the need to continue strengthening legal frameworks and generate the necessary institutional arrangements for its articulated implementation.
12. To strengthen public policies, particularly those that contribute to the development of agroecological family farming with cultural and territorial identity, and therefore to the economic, social and environmental sustainability of rural territories, with emphasis on communities in conditions of vulnerability.



13. To promote the participatory construction of public policies with a territorial approach with the active involvement of social organizations working in family farming and indigenous peoples in order to have instruments of an inclusive nature, supporting the initiatives and progress made by countries promoting family farming with the application of intercultural principles.
14. To encourage participatory construction and the implementation of public policies aimed at generating attractive opportunities for rural youth and families, promoting diversification and social and technological innovation regarding the dynamics of the territory.
15. To strengthen the articulation of programs and strategies of social protection and productive inclusion in the countries and rural territories in order to improve the quality of life of families and rural development, through intersectoral work.
16. To promote the access of family farming to productive assets, inclusive and pluralistic, financial and non-financial rural services, prioritizing strategic investments in social infrastructure, support for production in rural territories, to strengthen family farming, development rural development and overcoming territorial asymmetries, implementing changes to curricular programs with a food sovereignty and family farming approach, promoting of the value and benefits of family farming.
17. To facilitate the access of family farming to markets, through the strengthening of institutional purchasing programs, the promotion of local markets, the generation of links between rural, peri-urban and urban areas, the recognition of their cultural, social and environmental value.
18. To acknowledge the role of family farming in reducing food losses and waste, given its participation in all food systems, from production and sale to the assurance of proper family nutrition.
19. To follow up on the agreements reached at the Latin American and Caribbean Meeting of Rural Youth, held in Panama City in October 2017 and the rural youth agenda agreed upon at that meeting.
20. To recognize the importance of the efforts undertaken by PARLATINO in the elaboration of framework laws that contribute to the recognition, promotion and impulse of family farming, rural development and food and nutritional security.
21. The Ministers and Agricultural Authorities of CELAC recognize in a special way the work of FAO in the region, in priority areas related to the Human Right to Food, the reduction of poverty of our rural populations, mainly through the FSN CELAC Plan for the



achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals, within the framework of the 40th Anniversary of the establishment of the National Offices of the Organization, in the countries of CELAC.

22. We highly appreciate the achievements of the Central American and the Dominican Republic Commission of Family Agriculture (CCAF) in support of the technical group on family farming and FSN, within the framework of the Central American Agricultural Council (CAC), through which progress has been made in the development of an institutional and legal framework for Family Farming, in the producers registry, spaces for dialogue, differentiated public policies and request the continuity of the support of the FAO to move forward with these initiatives.

23. The ministers and agricultural authorities acknowledge the participation of social organizations representing family farming in regional integration spaces, in drafting and implementation of policies to promote food sovereignty in the region

24. We suggest that all of the CELAC countries support the approval of the Decade of Family Farming in the United Nations General Assembly.

25. Request FAO to initiate the necessary steps to propitiate the establishment of a Technical Secretariat of the Ministerial Meeting on Family Farming and Rural Development of CELAC and the Ad-hoc Working Group, which would have as its main objective the follow-up of the current Plan of Work and its fulfillment, as well as providing support to the Pro Tempore Presidency in the programs, plans and activities in progress.

26. Adopt the Action Plan 2018 of the Ad-hoc Family Farming Working Group of CELAC in the terms of the attached document in annex 1 of this declaration.

The meeting also expresses its thanks to:

- FAO and the Ad-hoc Family Farming Working Group of CELAC for the support provided in the implementation of the 2017 Action Plan; and the organization of the IV Ministerial Meeting, reiterating the importance of keeping this support.

- The United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNISDR) for its support in holding this meeting and its coordinated work with FAO and the CELAC member states, for the participatory construction of the *Regional Strategy for Disaster Risk*



Management in the Agricultural Sector and Food and Nutrition Security in Latin America and the Caribbean.

- The Pro Tempore Presidency of CELAC and the Government of El Salvador for the hospitality and facilities provided for the IV Ministerial Meeting on Family Farming and Rural Development of CELAC and its working group, held in San Salvador, El Salvador, on December 12 and 13, 2017.

27. Hold the V Ministerial Meeting on Family Farming and Rural Development of CELAC in Panama City, Panama in 2018.



Appendix 1.
Action Plan of the Ad-hoc Working Group on Family Farming and Rural Development of the CELAC 2018

The Ad-hoc Working Group on Family Farming and Rural Development of CELAC, gathered on December 12, in San Salvador, El Salvador, adopts the Action Plan 2018, described below:

1. Draft a program for the promotion of South-South Cooperation on family farming topics and territorial rural development to contribute to the development of families and the reduction of rural poverty in the countries of the region.
2. To facilitate the exchange of experiences among member countries of the CCAF, REAF MERCOSUR, GDA and CARICOM on the following topics: a) family farmers registry; b) mechanisms for family farming inclusion in markets c) institutional purchasing systems; d) financial services for family farming.
3. Develop and implement, in collaboration with FAO and other partners, a research program aimed at studying the dynamics and transformation of rural poverty in Latin America and the Caribbean.
4. Build, in coordination with FAO and the Parliamentary Front against Hunger, a group of public policy proposals on social and technological innovation.
5. Support the Latin American Network of Rural Extension Services (RELASER) for the implementation of a platform for knowledge exchange on family farming and rural development, including the Caribbean subregion, with the objective of strengthening the work of rural organizations.
6. Support the elaboration of a training program for organizational strengthening and institutional capacity building on sustainable production of goods and services in silvo-agropastoral and aquaculture-fishing systems for family farming, to provide new opportunities for productive linkage.
7. Support the creation of a forum on agricultural production systems with an agro-ecological approach and biocultural diversity in the territories with a green jobs approach, including the most vulnerable population groups.
8. Support the implementation of the rural youth agenda agreed in October 2017 at the Regional Meeting on Youth in Latin America and the Caribbean.



9. Promote, with the support of the FAO, the strengthening of family farming through the implementation of awareness-raising actions that contribute to the prevention and reduction of food loss and waste, and the promotion of responsible consumption.
10. Promote, within the framework of South-South Cooperation, forums for discussion and exchange of experiences on the integration of fisheries and aquaculture in policies on family farming, in order to broaden the diversification strategies of family productive systems.
11. Prepare a manual on policy formulation for artisanal fisheries for the diversification of livelihoods, based on the identification of successful cases of productive inclusion in fishing communities of the region.
12. Support, in conjunction with the FAO and United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNISDR), an operational mechanism for the implementation of the Regional strategy for integral disaster risk management in agriculture sectors and food security and nutrition in Latin America and the Caribbean, which will give priority to identifying opportunities for South-South Cooperation between the countries of CELAC.
13. Organize in the first half of 2018 in Guatemala, the meeting for the execution of the operational mechanism of the Regional strategy for integral disaster risk management in agriculture sectors and food security and nutrition in Latin America and the Caribbean.
14. The ad-hoc Technical Committee of the Regional Strategy for Disaster Risk Management will present its progress in the VI Regional Platform for Disaster Risk Management of the Americas, to be held in Cartagena de Indias, Colombia, from June 20 to 22, 2018, to strengthen the role of the agricultural sector and family farming, in the regional efforts to implement the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030
15. Implement in an accelerated manner with the support and facilitation of FAO, initiatives and actions within the framework of the FSN-CELAC Plan that contribute to improve the quality of life of the population of the 100 territories identified as those with the highest rates of hunger and undernourishment in the region, with the participation of social organizations that work in family farming.
16. Strengthen and expand existing national spaces for policy dialogue on family farming and indigenous peoples, and implement producer registries in member countries.

