



Ministerial Meeting on Food Security and Climate Adaptation in Small Island Developing States Milan, Italy, 14-16 October 2015

Session 3: Resilience of agriculture and fisheries to climate change and disasters

Small island developing states (SIDS) are highly dependent on imported food due to their remoteness and limited land and natural resources, making them particularly vulnerable to excessive volatility of international food prices. Surrounded by oceans and seas, fisheries contribute to SIDS' sustainable development economically and socially, providing a source of income and livelihoods for people in those countries. However, adverse impacts of climate change, such as an increase in frequency of extreme weather events and sea-level rise, disproportionately affect already vulnerable SIDS and impede their efforts to achieve sustainable development. In many countries, deforestation and the failure to manage forests have taken away the soils capacity to store water and led to erosion, causing considerable damage to farming systems.

The Global Assessment Report on Disaster Risk Reduction 2015 highlights that SIDS are particularly challenged by disaster risk due to their size, location and characteristics of their economies, and estimates that in some countries average annual loss (AAL) in relation to social expenditure is equivalent to over 100 per cent of the amount that those countries are able or willing to spend on education, health, and social protection.

The SAMOA Pathway reaffirmed the crucial role of health marine ecosystems, sustainable agriculture, sustainable fisheries, and sustainable aquaculture for enhancing food security and access to adequate, safe and nutritious food and providing livelihood. It also called for enhancing the resilience of agriculture and fisheries to the adverse impact of climate change, ocean acidification and natural disasters. In addition, *Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030* reaffirmed that it is critical to build resilience in the area of disaster risk reduction in SIDS and provide particular support through the implementation of the *SAMOA Pathway*.

This session will discuss how existing mechanisms and programmes in the areas of agriculture and fisheries can best be utilized to develop a robust food security system to adverse impact of climate change. It will examine examples of on-going mechanisms and programmes in those areas and how they are supporting in developing robust food security system and sustainable fisheries. It is important to draw linkages between the implementation of the *SAMOA Pathway*, *Sendai Framework on Disaster Risk Reduction*, and the *2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development*.

Questions for discussion:

1. Which of the existing mechanisms /programmes supporting the areas of agriculture and fisheries can best be utilised to develop a robust food security system in preparation for climate-related disasters, and how can they be strengthened?
2. The Sustainable Development Goal 2.4 aims to ensure food production systems and implement resilient agricultural practices that increase productivity and production. How can we work together to achieve this goal by 2030?