

ENHANCING SUSTAINABILITY AND RESILIENCE TO EFFECTS OF CLIMATE CHANGE IN CITY REGION FOOD SYSTEMS

Today, about 55 percent of the world's population lives in urban areas, a proportion that is expected to increase to 68 percent by 2050. The majority of this growth will be in Africa and Southeast Asia. The rapid urbanization and the estimated nine-billion world population by 2050 creates enormous challenges to conventional food production and food and nutrition security. At the same time, climate change is posing additional challenges, affecting cities and their surrounding areas. The number of reported climate shocks and stresses (such as droughts, floods, storms, etc.) has almost doubled in the last two decades. An increase in climate change related risks is affecting processes, key infrastructures and stakeholders along the entire food system, in particular, the most vulnerable food system actors. Increasing food prices resulting from disruptions in production and transport directly impact consumers, especially low-income groups in city regions that are highly dependent on purchased food. Cities are requesting support to plan interventions to make food systems more sustainable, inclusive and resilient to shocks and stresses, with strong rural-urban linkages, including and emphasizing the role of small-scale farmers, scaling up resilient and sustainable practices and improving the food system in a holistic manner. The COVID-19 pandemic has added new challenges in meeting the food demands of city region populations, and food chains have been disrupted, worsening already precarious conditions in vulnerable areas. Those traditionally vulnerable have been particularly affected, while new vulnerabilities have also been created. Against this background, the city region food systems (CRFS) programme was established. The programme has been demonstrating its effectiveness in strengthening rural-urban linkages and integrating sectors for a more sustainable and resilient food system. The need now is to combine the assessment work based on past and present data with future scenarios on multiple shocks and stresses in the city region contexts.



GOAL

The project assists in reducing risks and vulnerabilities in CRFS caused by multiple shocks and stresses, such as climate and pandemics, by promoting integrated resilience strategies, policies and action plans and by reinforcing food and production systems in three city regions in sub-Saharan Africa and Asia. Special attention is given to improving and scaling up small-scale agricultural practices that are contributing to building resilience to multiple shocks and stresses in CRFS.

IMPACT

The project aims to improve sustainability and resilience to the effects of climate change and pandemics in CRFS in selected countries/cities, resulting in improved food security and nutrition for the population.

KEY FACTS

Latest Approved Budget

USD 2 565 587

Duration

December 2018 – June 2023

Resource Partners

Federal Government of Germany - Federal Ministry of Food and Agriculture (BMEL)

Beneficiaries

National and local government institutions dealing with agriculture; urban planning; other government institutions involved in agriculture and disaster risk prevention and response; research and development institutions; public and private sector extension services, including front line Non-governmental Organizations (NGOs), farmers unions and associations of agricultural producers or workers

APPROACH

Building on the experience and knowledge gained during the GCP/GLO/509/GER project, this project works with countries and local authorities to build resilient CRFS by strengthening rural-urban linkages and providing assistance to local governments and food actors in understanding bottlenecks and opportunities for improving the resilience of food systems and livelihoods in a given territory. It also assists in defining interventions to increase multirisk resilience in CRFS, with a specific focus on smallholder producers. It will be based on three main pillars: i) A multisectoral approach: a food system approach that goes beyond value chains; ii) Territoriality: context-specific solutions across the urban-rural spectrum “Looking beyond city limits”; and iii) Multilevel governance for resilience: inclusive governance of food actors that connects national and local governments.

The project outputs include:

- establishing inclusive governance platforms to secure local ownership, food actors’ engagement and overall long-term resilience and sustainability;
- developing multi-risk and vulnerability profiles of the CRFS, including the identification of key vulnerable subsectors and actors and estimates of potential economic losses;
- developing strategies to improve the resilience of the local food system and plan interventions;
- improving capacities of city officials and core vulnerable stakeholders on resilient good practices, especially of urban and peri-urban producers;
- conducting a global study analysis of lessons learned from major shocks in city region food system, focusing on impacts and responses to crises with strong transformative potential in relation to local food policies and strategies; and
- establishing a community of practice, fostering city-to-city cooperation and knowledge exchanges among stakeholders and policy-makers on existing good practices to increase resilience in CRFS.



SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS



Partners

Resource Centres on Urban Agriculture and Food Security (RUA), Consortium of International Agricultural Research Centres (CGIAR)-International Water Management Institute (IWMI), Wilfrid Laurier University

Project Code

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Project Title

Building climate resilient city region food systems through adapted production systems

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