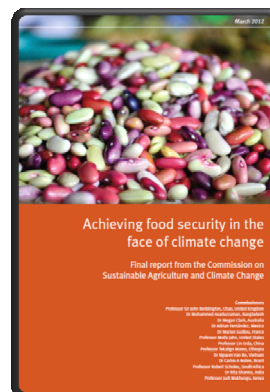


# "Achieving food security in the face of climate change"

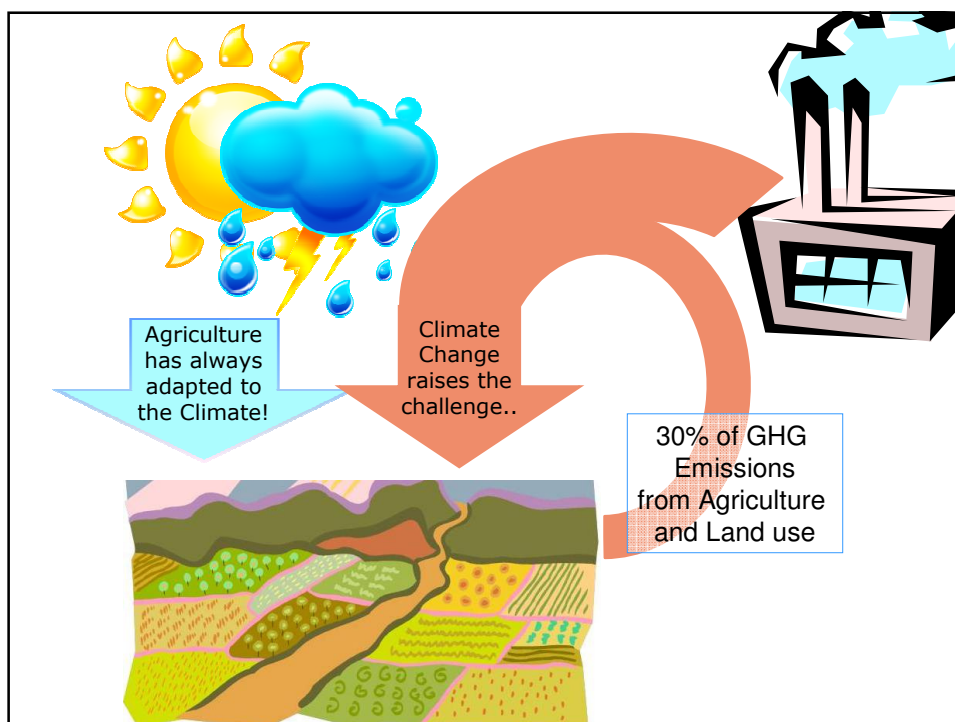
- some comments on the Commission report

Peter Holmgren, FAO  
23 May 2012



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## Issues of Scope and Boundaries

- Mismatch between title and contents?
  - Agriculture production or
  - Food security or
  - Food consumption issues?
- Strong focus on agriculture production
  - and on value chain / consumption patterns,
  - less on safety nets



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## Scope and Boundaries, cont.

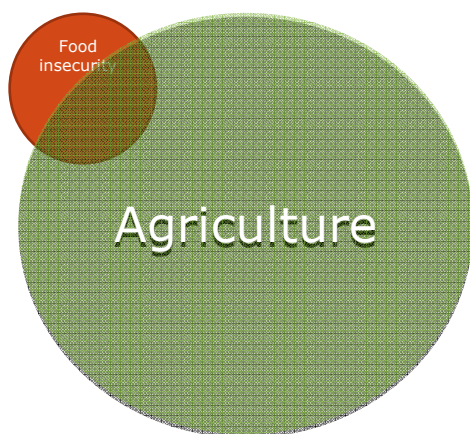
- What about non-food products and services?
  - They are a big part of the sustainability equation
- Sustainable sometimes only environment
- Intended for UNFCCC?



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## Food insecurity and Agriculture



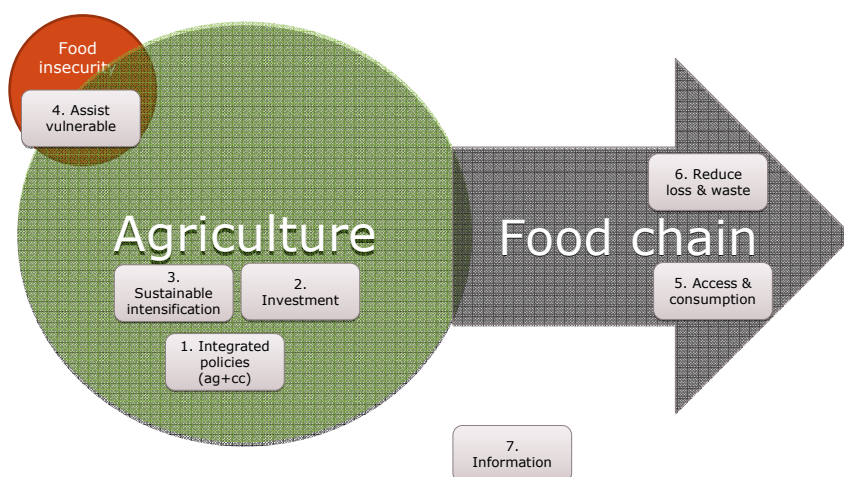
- 1 in 7 is malnourished!
  - More than half depend on agriculture!
- But most agriculture is for the not food insecure
- All agriculture relates to climate change
- All agriculture needs to be sustainable
- So where is the Commission's focus?



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## Commission focus



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## 1. Integrate food security and sustainable agriculture into global and national policies

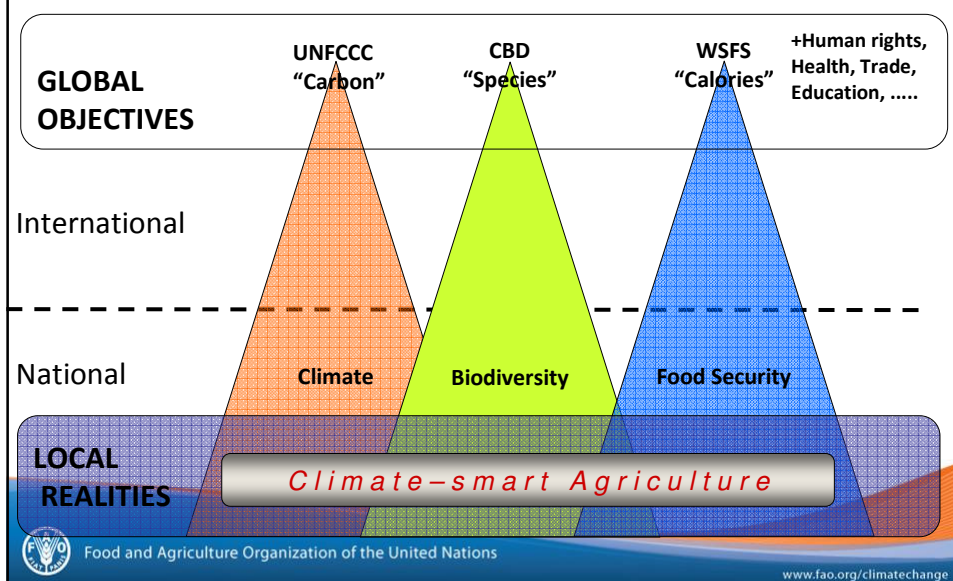
- (How) can UNFCCC help?
  - Agriculture work programme slow and structurally linked to mitigation
- Are there other vehicles?
- How well can inter-governmental processes address multiple goals?



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## A Sustainable Development landscape



## 2. Significantly raise the level of global investment in sustainable agriculture and food systems in the next decade

- Must go beyond ODA and public sector funds!
- Can large-scale private finance be attracted by the sustainable agriculture proposition?
  - And how can public funds leverage this by reducing risks for all involved?
- Access to fair and equitable finance necessary complement to land/sector reforms



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## 3. Sustainably intensify agricultural production while reducing greenhouse gas emissions and other negative environmental impacts of agriculture

- How do we measure success?
- Suggestion for sustainable agriculture metrics:
  1. Farmer income/return
  2. Biomass / Organic matter in the landscape
  3. Use of non-renewable energy per unit of output
- Keep it simple...



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4. Develop specific programmes and policies to assist populations and sectors that are most vulnerable to climate changes and food insecurity

- Include off-farm measures.



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5. Reshape food access and consumption patterns to ensure basic nutritional needs are met and to foster healthy and sustainable eating patterns worldwide

- Two distilled messages:
  - Smart eating -> better health
  - Smart buying -> less environmental impact
- Public and/or private sector investments in education and awareness



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## 6. Reduce loss and waste in food systems, targeting infrastructure, farming practices, processing, distribution and household habits

- Possibly largest potential of all for reducing human impact on environment
- Food system uses 30% of energy
  - But 80% of this is beyond the farm gate
- For livelihoods and food security
  - Focus on on-farm losses and marketing losses
- For reducing environmental impact
  - Focus on energy use and waste
  - Strong synergies with private sector interests



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## 7. Create comprehensive, shared, integrated information systems that encompass human and ecological dimensions

- Systematic, long-term, transparent and inclusive monitoring is central
- Remote sensing is not a very versatile tool for this
- Better involvement of established knowledge/institutions for monitoring and statistics needed
- Participatory monitoring should be explored



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## Climate-smart Agriculture - 3 pillars

SUSTAINABLY INCREASES  
FARM PRODUCTIVITY AND INCOME



REDUCES AGRICULTURE'S  
CONTRIBUTION TO CLIMATE CHANGE  
- greenhouse gas emissions  
+ carbon storage on farmlands



STRENGTHENS RESILIENCE  
TO CLIMATE CHANGE AND VARIABILITY



## FAO's 3 main messages for Rio+20



Eradicating hunger and improving human nutrition are fundamental to achieving the Rio vision of sustainable development.

1



For healthy people and healthy ecosystems, food consumption and production must be sustainable.

2



More inclusive and effective governance of agricultural and food systems is essential to achieving the Rio vision.

3

FAO at  
RIO+20

[www.fao.org/rioplus20](http://www.fao.org/rioplus20)



## Concluding remarks

- Commission report timely and a very important contribution
- Strong alignment on key actions
  - Including at Rio+20
- Opportunities for new and innovative partnerships
- Don't miss out on Governance issues

