



Programme Highlights Report 2024

2025 is a pivotal year for climate action. As the world marks the 10th Anniversary of the Paris Agreement, countries are at a critical juncture to prioritize their climate action for agriculture and land use. The first [Biennial Transparency Reports](#) (BTRs) submitted in 2024 by Parties to the Paris Agreement provide a comprehensive overview of countries' climate action. Countries can use this information to outline their strategies for climate action through the third round of Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) and finalize their National Adaptation Plans (NAPs), both due in 2025. These milestones offer countries a strategic opportunity to integrate ambitious targets for agriculture and land use into their national climate plans, to ensure that agrifood systems in their countries are resilient, adaptable, and contribute meaningfully to global climate goals and commitments.

Key messages

- Nine countries completed systems-level assessments that analyse climate risks and opportunities in agriculture value chains to identify actionable entry points for transformative climate action. These assessments also consider Gender and Social Inclusion (GSI) and give recommendations for private sector engagement. The findings guide climate strategies, policy decisions, project development and updates to NDCs and NAPs. Three other countries are currently finalizing these assessments.
- SCALA provided expertise and training to local and national government representatives in nine countries to strengthen governance and monitoring frameworks for climate action in agriculture and land use.
- Across all SCALA countries, the programme supported the integration of transformative climate action in agriculture and land use in national and local plans.
- SCALA provided guidance and support to strengthen private sector engagement in climate action, including for non-SCALA countries, through the [Private Sector Engagement Facility](#).
- SCALA launched the [Climate Action Review \(CAR\) tool](#), a practical step-by-step online and offline tool to help guide climate change practitioners to prioritize transformative climate actions. The accompanying handbook helps users prioritize adaptation actions through a participatory process.
- SCALA shared best practices and lessons learnt from programme countries in eight international events and forums.

In the lead-up to these critical milestones, the SCALA programme, a joint initiative of UNDP and FAO, has been supporting twelve countries across Africa, Asia, and Latin America to strengthen climate planning and action in agrifood systems. In 2024, the programme continued its support to enhance national and local capacities, improve multistakeholder collaboration, and promote gender and social inclusion, so that countries can implement existing climate targets, build knowledge for evidence-based decision-making, prepare for more ambitious climate commitments, engage the private sector in climate action and strengthen monitoring systems that track mitigation and adaptation for reporting to the UNFCCC. Through practical tools, guidance, and inclusive processes, SCALA strengthens the capacities of countries to elevate their climate ambitions and drive transformative change in their food and agriculture sector.

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

Strengthening the evidence base for transformative climate action

SCALA supports countries to translate their climate plans into concrete, on-the-ground implementation of their climate action strategies. Multistakeholder teams analyse the agriculture and land-use priorities outlined in countries' NAPs and NDCs and identify those with the highest potential for transformative change. Subsequently, stakeholders address information gaps related to these priorities through comprehensive systems-level assessments. The SCALA global team provides resources, capacity and technical support based on specific country requests.

The [Climate Action Review \(CAR\) Tool](#) and its accompanying handbook were [officially launched](#) by SCALA at COP29 in Baku in 2024. It is a practical, step-by-step online and offline tool to guide climate change practitioners to prioritize transformative climate actions. This tool was used by 10 SCALA countries, to examine their NDCs and NAPs for climate actions, and to identify those that have greater transformative potential. Stakeholders across the globe can use it to identify the entry-points for actionable transformative change in the agriculture and land use sectors, from adaptation actions included in NDCs and NAPs and other strategic frameworks. The tool's flexibility makes it easy to align it with diverse country contexts and strategic priorities.

Throughout the year, SCALA country teams made significant progress in addressing information gaps that are critical for transformative climate action. This successfully contributed to informed decision-making and the effective mobilization of finance for climate action. Examples include:

- In **Colombia**, country teams completed 32 risk and vulnerability assessments to monitor climate risks in agricultural sub-sectors and catalogued 15 traditional adaptation practices for farming from local communities and indigenous populations.
- In **Senegal**, SCALA identified and prioritized agroecological practices that enhance adaptation, resilience, and carbon storage within the millet, groundnut, and vegetable gardening value chains in the Groundnut Basin and the Niayes area. The assessment identified barriers to the adoption and scaling up of these systems, examined financing mechanisms, and explored gender-specific climate risks associated with them. Based on these findings, SCALA is partnering with La Banque Agricole, Senegal's leading finance provider for agricultural small and medium enterprises (SMEs) and farmers, to increase accessibility to climate investment resources for local SMEs and businesses. This collaboration will facilitate the implementation of agroecological techniques and practices.
- In **Nepal**, SCALA conducted assessments on the preservation and market potential of climate-resilient crop varieties in community seed banks and community-based production systems. The findings include recommendations for improving policy coherence, strengthening institutions and enhancing capacities.

Enhancing governance and integration of agriculture and land use priorities

SCALA aims to strengthen multistakeholder coordination and institutional capacities to effectively integrate NDC and/or NAP priorities on land use and agriculture into national, subnational, or sectoral policies, plans and budgets. This approach is crucial for achieving significant impact in sustainable development, building resilience and combating the impacts of climate change as it increases collaboration between politicians, government officers, civil society organizations, business leaders, small and medium-sized businesses, academics, Indigenous Peoples, local communities, and other key stakeholders. In 2024, SCALA supported the integration of agriculture and land use priorities into broader government processes for climate planning, budgeting, and monitoring across all participating countries.

- In **Ethiopia**, SCALA collaborated with the Ministry of Agriculture to identify barriers to the adoption of Climate Smart Agriculture (CSA), an important pillar of the country's NDC, NAP and Climate Resilient Green Economy (CRGE) strategy. The programme is now working to develop incentive mechanisms to enhance CSA uptake. To advance the implementation of NDCs and NAPs, the programme identified key implementation gaps and supported the development of local implementation plans for the Sidama, Benishangul Gumuz, Afar and Tigray regions to address these challenges. Training sessions were also conducted in the Amhara, Harari, and Oromia regions to strengthen the capacity of regional planners in integrating priority climate actions and recommendations from the systems-level assessment into three-year district-level development plans.
- In **Cambodia**, SCALA global and country teams provided technical assistance to align emissions reduction targets under the Pentagonal Strategy and the Circular Strategy on Environment with the goals outlined in the NDC and the country's Long-Term Strategy for Carbon Neutrality.
- In **Nepal**, a capacity gap assessment was completed for Agriculture Knowledge Centers (AKCs) and the Veterinary Hospital and Livestock Service Expert Center (VHLEC). Based on the findings, training sessions were organized to strengthen the capacity of AKCs and VHLECs officers in the Koshi and Karnali provinces, enabling them to integrate NDC and NAP priorities for agriculture and land use into their planning and budgeting.

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. SCALA assists countries to meet the transparency requirements of the Paris Agreement and improve their contributions to the Enhanced Transparency Framework (ETF) by strengthening national institutions for monitoring, reporting and verification (MRV) and monitoring and evaluation (M&E).

In 2024, these efforts included:

- In **Côte d'Ivoire**, a comprehensive report analyzing existing MRV and M&E systems identified technical and institutional gaps and needs. These findings will inform the institutional processes required to establish integrated national MRV and M&E systems.
- In **Cambodia**, the SCALA team helped develop the hardware and interface for an M&E system, and trained government representatives to operate the system. These efforts are part of a broader initiative to design a national M&E framework that will track NDC and adaptation priorities. SCALA also contributed to the drafting of two chapters of Cambodia's BTR, on GHG emissions and removals and on adaptation, which will also serve as Cambodia's Adaptation Communication.

- In **Senegal**, a technical workshop was held to build the capacity of stakeholders from Agriculture, Forestry and Other Land Use to identify NDC indicators and collect data on NDC implementation. Participants successfully selected key indicators for monitoring adaptation and mitigation measures in the agriculture and forestry sectors. This workshop resulted in the development of a data collection framework that will support Senegal's next NDC update and the preparation of its 2025 BTR.

In addition, SCALA aims to support the integration and enhancement of agriculture and land-use priorities in partner countries' NAP and NDCs. SCALA has also been actively involved in the preparation of the third round of NDC updates in **Cambodia, Côte d'Ivoire, Mongolia, Nepal, Senegal, and Uganda**.

- In **Egypt**, SCALA supported the formulation of the NAP by strengthening the evidence base for adaptation practices and priorities in the agriculture, water and land-use sectors and helped design an M&E system for the NAP.
- In **Mongolia**, a workshop on '[Integrating Gender Equality into the Nationally Determined Contribution of Mongolia](#)' identified gaps in gender equality and social inclusion that will be addressed in the country's NDC. A report on this workshop was submitted to the NDC 3.0 Navigator, shared lessons learned and best practices in Mongolia for strengthening gender considerations into its next NDC. In addition, SCALA is actively supporting the NDC update process and is formulating recommendations to boost targets related to livestock and arable farming.

Leveraging private sector engagement in climate action

Food and agriculture companies and relevant private sector actors are key partners in achieving global climate change goals. In 2024, SCALA worked on building consensus and partnerships with the private sector. To encourage increased private investment, the programme conducted a mapping of private sector stakeholders, value chain analyses, and assessments of business opportunities and barriers. It also helped with the design of market-based instruments and promoted de-risking measures to incentivize and encourage sustainable investments in the agriculture and land-use sectors.

- In **Egypt**, a private sector roundtable on climate action in the livestock and dairy sectors brought together over 60 participants, including representatives from private sector associations, companies, cooperatives, and producers. The roundtable provided a platform to identify and discuss climate-related challenges in the sector and to share innovative practices that companies are using to reduce emissions.
- In **Senegal**, the SCALA team is assisting La Banque Agricole in finalizing a Green Climate Fund (GCF) funding proposal to provide climate financing opportunities to agricultural MSMEs and farmers to implement climate-smart agriculture. This initiative promotes agroecological investments that are aligned with Senegal's NDC targets.
- In **Thailand**, SCALA collaborated with Chiang Mai University to conduct a study on incentive structures for improved manure management and biogas adaptation by livestock value chain actors.

The [SCALA Private Sector Engagement Facility](#) uses tools, lessons learned, and partnerships developed by the programme to promote PSE in climate action in countries beyond those supported by SCALA.

- In the **Solomon Islands**, a feasibility study assessed the potential of using biogas to generate electricity and gas for heating, cooking, and lighting. The study aimed to improve cost recovery, diversify clean energy sources, and reduce pollution, and carbon footprint. It also explored the production of organic fertilizer from municipal waste.
- In **The Gambia**, a country-wide assessment of biogas resources identified opportunities for sustainable private sector investment and pathways for scaling up biogas production. The findings of this assessment will inform the preparation of The Gambia's NAP and National Development Plan,

including strategies to replace firewood and charcoal from unsustainable sources with alternative fuels for cooking.

- In **Equatorial Guinea**, a detailed mapping and analysis of the coconut value chain was completed to guide climate policies and support the development of climate-resilient and gender-inclusive initiatives in the value chain.

Promoting gender and social inclusion

NDCs and NAPs are more likely to succeed when they address gender and social inequalities and incorporate the contributions of diverse groups of women and men. Building on SCALA's [Gender and Social Inclusion \(GSI\) Strategy](#), the programme is guiding gender-responsive project implementation and advocating for gender-transformative approaches in climate action.

In 2024, gender analyses were carried out or are ongoing as part of system-level assessments in **Colombia**, **Costa Rica**, **Egypt**, **Ethiopia**, **Mongolia**, **Nepal**, and **Uganda**. For instance:

- In **Costa Rica**, a [roadmap](#) promoting gender and social inclusion in the livestock sector was developed with over 70 women producers. The roadmap supports the implementation of gender-responsive climate actions in the sector and will strengthen the Ministry of Agriculture's information system.
- In **Uganda**, SCALA organized capacity-building workshops for six local governments in the cattle corridor to support them in integrating gender and social inclusion priorities in local development plans and budgets.
- In **Colombia**, guidelines have been developed to certify climate-adapted agriculture practices, enabling rural microentrepreneurs and stakeholders to access resources and drive inclusive climate action.

Contributing to dialogue and advocacy on agriculture and land use

NAP Expo 2024: At this outreach event organized by the Least Developed Countries Expert Group (LEG) under the UNFCCC, the SCALA Programme co-organized a side-event on '[How inclusive and cross-scale stakeholder engagement can drive transformational adaptation](#)', with the NAP Global Network and UNCDF. On the sidelines of NAP Expo, SCALA also organized its 4th Advisory Group meeting.

SCALA Webinar: SCALA organized an online seminar on '[Integrating climate change into planning and budgeting for agriculture and land use](#)', highlighting country experiences from Uganda and Nepal.

SCALA Webinar: in collaboration with the UN Secretary-General's Adaptation Pipeline Accelerator (APA) initiative, SCALA organized an online seminar on '[Integrated solutions for Nature and Climate Change Adaptation](#)', highlighting country experiences from Ethiopia.

Regional Forum on NDC 3.0 in Asia: SCALA contributed to two thematic sessions on Adaptation and on Land Use and Forestry/Agriculture.

SCALA Webinar: In collaboration with the UN Secretary-General's Adaptation Pipeline Accelerator (APA) initiative, SCALA organized an online seminar on '[Enhancing Private Sector Engagement for Adaptation](#)', highlighting country experiences from Costa Rica.

COP16: Launched SCALA Colombia's short documentary Film "[Paramunas el Alma de la Montaña](#)", based on SCALA's work in the Moorland Areas of Chingaza and Sumapaz in the Cundinamarca Region.

COP29: SCALA organized two side-events on '[Leveraging synergies on nature-based solutions and climate action for NDC and NAP implementation](#)' at the UNDP Pavilion and on '[Accelerating climate action in agriculture and land use: The Climate Action Review \(CAR\) Tool](#)' at the Capacity-Building Hub.

Peer coaching session: A peer-coaching session was organized in which the SCALA Colombia and SCALA Costa Rica country teams shared challenges, lessons learned and best practices with SCALA Argentina.

PROGRAMME MANAGEMENT

Throughout 2024, the SCALA programme management team continued to support countries by matching their specific needs and requests with technical services and expertise from partner organizations. To promote inter-country collaboration and learning, eight internal knowledge exchanges were organized, to share best practices, lessons learnt and for collective problem-solving. In addition, the team regularly shared external capacity-building and informational events to further strengthen country-level implementation efforts.

A significant milestone was reached with the official announcement at COP29 of the programme's three-year extension. This extension, supported by an additional €6 million from the German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Nuclear Safety and Consumer Protection will allow SCALA to build on the promising results achieved so far, ensuring their implementation and long-term sustainability. Specifically, SCALA will intensify efforts in the 12 core SCALA countries to strengthen climate ambition, improve the implementation of climate goals, bolster monitoring and reporting, and establish new partnerships to leverage additional resources for implementation.

2024 PUBLICATIONS

1. [Enhancing the bio-inputs and organic vegetables value chains in São Tomé and Príncipe](#)
2. [Using metrics to assess progress towards the Paris Agreement's Global Goal on Adaptation](#)
3. [Sorghum, Maize and Sesame Value Chain in Somalia](#)
4. [Analysis of the Situation of Women Livestock Farmers in Costa Rica](#)
5. [Climate Action Review Tool: Assessing the transformative potential of adaptation actions in the agriculture and land-use sectors](#)
6. [Integrating Gender Equality into the Nationally Determined Contribution of Mongolia](#)
7. [Côte d'Ivoire SCALA Inception Report](#)
8. [Argentina SCALA Inception Report](#)
9. [Value chain development needs for fruit and berries in Mongolia](#)
10. [Private sector roundtable on climate action in Egypt's livestock and dairy sectors](#)
11. [Study of the Coconut Value Chain in Equatorial Guinea](#)
12. [Feasibility Assessment for Biogas Potential Development in The Gambia](#)
13. [Oportunidades para productos de carne y lácteos diferenciados en Costa Rica - Country market study for beef and dairy in Costa Rica](#)
14. [Feasibility Assessment of Biogas Potential in the Solomon Islands](#)

Scaling up Climate Ambition on Land Use and Agriculture through Nationally Determined Contributions and National Adaptation Plans (SCALA), is an initiative led by FAO and UNDP, implemented from 2021 to 2028, with funding from 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-six 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/

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