

Submission by the Arab Republic of Egypt on behalf of the African Group of Negotiators (AGN) on Koronivia Joint Work on Agriculture

Views from Parties and observers on elements to be included in the work of the SBSTA and the SBI to jointly address issues related to agriculture, including through workshops and expert meetings, working with constituted bodies under the Convention and taking into consideration the vulnerabilities of agriculture to climate change and approaches to addressing food security

Introduction

Africa's total land area is 30.37 million km² of which 38% is under agriculture. The agricultural sector accounts for 34% of Gross Domestic Product (GDP) and is the main source of income for 70-80% of its population. Africa's population of about 1.2 billion is projected to reach about 2.4 billion by 2050. Therefore, demand for food is also projected to at least double by 2050, with implications on food and nutrition security. Agriculture stimulates other sectors such as the manufacturing and industry sector to evolve, and it also creates a taxable base for governments to invest in health, education, and infrastructure. There are approximately 530 million smallholder farmers in Africa of which more than half being women. On average, these smallholder farmers work on parcels of land that are less than 2 hectares. Africa's agriculture is predominantly rainfed and is characterised by a multitude of farming systems, including mixed farming systems, pastoralism and agro-pastoralism, and fisheries among others. Water availability and accessibility for agriculture is limited. Africa uses only 2% of its renewable water resources compared to 5% globally. The soils are diverse of which 65% of cropland and 30% of the pastureland are affected by degradation, with a consequent decline in crop and livestock productivity, contributing to chronic food insecurity.

Agriculture and climate change in Africa

Africa's agriculture is significantly impacted by climate change. According to IPCC Assessment Reports, Africa food producing systems are among the world's most vulnerable to climate change. Majority of the farmers in Africa have a low adaptive capacity. Climate change disproportionally affects the smallholder farmers. Climate change is affecting agriculture in different parts of Africa differently. Africa's GHG emission from agriculture and agriculture role as carbon sink, offers potential for adaptation co-benefits.

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Policy Environment

The African Heads of States adopted Agenda 2063 in 2013 , which addresses climate change through Aspiration 1 – Prosperous Africa based on Inclusive Growth and Sustainable Development. This is to be achieved through goals 5 and 7 whose focus is on modern agriculture for increased productivity and production and environmentally sustainable climate resilient economies and communities, respectively. The Malabo Declaration is one of the instruments for implementation of the Comprehensive African Agricultural Development Programme (CAADP) within Agenda 2063. The Declaration aims to accelerate agricultural growth and transformation for prosperity and improved livelihoods. The Malabo Declaration highlights the commitment to enhancing the resilience of livelihoods and production systems to climate variability and other related risks (point 6). Regional Economic Communities and national governments, supported by robust Africa Agriculture Transformation Scorecard to track progress, implement these commitments through various initiatives. Many countries in Africa have put in place enabling policy environment to address climate change. Examples of these policies include: climate change policies, action plans and strategies, integration of climate change into their national development plans, agricultural plans, nationally determined contributions (NDCs) and climate resilient agriculture strategies among others.

In light of the foregoing, the **Africa Group of Negotiators** makes the following submission on the Koronivia Joint Work on Agriculture as follows:

a) Modalities for implementation of the outcomes of the five in-session workshops on issues related to agriculture and other future topics that may arise from this work

Priority Actionable Areas

Based on the outcomes of the five in-session workshops, Africa identified the following priority action areas:

- Early warning systems, contingency plans and safety nets in the agriculture sector
- Vulnerability assessment and risk management including agricultural insurance
- International cooperation in technology development and transfer in the agriculture sector
- Engagement of non-state actors especially the private sector in the agriculture sector

Goal

Agriculture having been identified as a critical area that must be protected when dealing with climate change, it is imperative that **dedicated financial resources set aside by financial mechanisms under the Convention, in particular Green Climate Fund (GCF)** as was recently demonstrated with the REDD+.

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Approach

- Organize an **in-session joint workshop** SBSTA/SBI and the other constituted bodies under the Convention to discuss actions, roles and modalities of enhancing implementation of the outcomes under the Koronivia Joint Work on Agriculture.

Guidance/ Guidelines

- SBSTA/SBI to **develop guidance/ guidelines** on modalities of implementation of outcomes of the Koronivia Joint Work on Agriculture for consideration by the COP.

b) Methods and Approaches for Assessing Adaptation, Adaptation co-benefits and Resilience

Key areas of considerations

- i. Understand the different methods, tools and approaches of assessing adaptation, adaptation co-benefits and resilience;
- ii. Identify appropriate methods and approaches of assessing adaptation, adaptation co-benefits and resilience

Approach

- Organize in-session workshop and expert meeting.

Guidance/ Guidelines:

- SBSTA/SBI to **develop guidance/guidelines** on methods and approaches for assessing adaptation, adaptation co-benefits and resilience for consideration by the COP.

c) Improved Soil carbon, Soil health and Soil Fertility under Grassland and Cropland as well as Integrated systems, including Water Management

Key areas of consideration

- i. Integrated landscape management, approaches, practices and tools including water management
- ii. Soil mapping to include soil fertility and carbon
- iii. Integrated soil fertility management.

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Approach

- Organize in-session workshop.

d) Improved nutrient use and manure management towards sustainable and resilient agricultural systems

Key areas of consideration

- i. Optimization and rational use of inorganic fertilizers use in agricultural systems; and
- ii. Approaches for optimizing use and management of manure.

Approach

- Organize in-session workshop

e) Improved Livestock Management Systems

Key areas of consideration

- i. Sustainable and efficient livestock management systems and value chains, including agro-pastoral management systems;
- ii. Risk management of livestock production systems, and
- iii. MRV systems for agro-pastoral production systems.

Approach

- Organize in-session workshop and expert meeting.

f) Socioeconomic and Food Security Dimensions of Climate Change in the Agricultural Sector

Key areas of consideration

- i. Residual impacts of climate change on agriculture (in particular vulnerable smallholder livelihoods, migration, conflicts, security, nutritional value of food)
- ii. Efficiency of agriculture value chains and food systems; and
- iii. Gender and youth in agriculture.

Approach

- Organize in-session workshop.

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(g) Additional topics

- i. Current and projected (potential) risks and vulnerabilities of agriculture value chains;
- ii. Agriculture data infrastructure and innovative digital solutions; and
- iii. Financing for Agriculture including assessment of impacts and implications of Innovative financing, if used, for investment in the agriculture.
- iv. Potential impacts of actions taken to combat climate change on agriculture exports from Africa and measures that could be taken to contain such impacts.

CONCLUSION

Africa reiterates the importance of having **dedicated financial resources set aside by financial mechanism under the convention in particular Green Climate Fund (GCF)** as recently demonstrated with the REDD+ in order to address vulnerabilities of agriculture to climate change and to ensure food security.

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Annex 1 KORONIVIA JOINT WORK ON AGRICULTURE ROADMAP

| Session | Timeline | Activity |
|----------------|------------------------|---|
| SBSTA/SBI 48 | May 2018 | Parties agree on the Roadmap/Agenda |
| SBSTA/SBI 49 | December, 2018 | In-session workshop on modalities for implementation of the outcomes of the five in-session workshops on issues related to agriculture and other future topics that may arise from this work. |
| | | In-session workshop on methods and approaches for assessing adaptation, adaptation co-benefits and resilience, including linkages between land degradation and bio-diversity. |
| SBSTA/SBI 50 | May/June 2019 | In-session workshop on improved soil carbon, soil health and soil fertility under grassland and cropland, ways to restore land facing land degradation due to climate change impacts, as well as integrated systems, including water management. |
| | | In-session Expert meeting on methods and approaches for assessing adaptation, adaptation co-benefits and resilience. |
| SBSTA/SBI 51 | November/December 2019 | In-session workshop on improved nutrient use and manure management towards sustainable and resilient agricultural systems |
| | | In-session Expert meeting on agro-pastoral production systems |
| SBSTA/SBI 52 | May/June 2020 | In-session workshop on socioeconomic and food security dimensions of climate change in the agricultural sector |
| | | In-session workshop on Improved livestock management systems |
| SBSTA/SBI 53 | November/December 2020 | In-session workshop on current and projected (potential) risks and vulnerabilities of agriculture value chains In-session workshop on agriculture data infrastructure, innovative digital solutions and Innovative financing |