

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)

FAO Submission to the UNFCCC in support of the launch of a Technical Examination Process on Adaptation in the period 2016 – 2020 (A-TEP) as referred to in Paragraph 126 of Decision CP21/FCCC/CP/2015/L.9/Rev.1

Concrete opportunities for strengthening resilience, reducing vulnerabilities and increasing the understanding and implementation of adaptation actions

In response to the UNFCCC call for submissions in Paragraph 133 of decision CP21/FCCC/CP/2015/L.9/Rev.1, FAO is pleased to submit its views and proposals relating to “Concrete opportunities for strengthening resilience, reducing vulnerabilities and increasing the understanding and implementation of adaptation actions” in support of the launch of a technical examination process on adaptation in the period 2016 – 2020 (A-TEP), as referred to in Paragraph 126.

Summary of FAO’s submission on the A-TEP

In this submission, FAO highlights the importance of adaptation to climate change in the agriculture, fisheries and forestry sectors, given the sectors’ fundamental roles in ensuring food security through food provision and as the primary means of livelihood and income for more than 2.5 billion people. The agricultural sectors¹ are also considered the key drivers of economic development, particularly in Least Developed Countries (LDCs), Small Island Developing States (SIDS) and other developing countries. The interface between agricultural resources and human activities plays a key role in contributing to adaptation. At the same time, the agricultural sectors are particularly vulnerable to climate change, through a cascade of impacts.

FAO proposes for the Secretariat to introduce an explicit focus theme on climate change adaptation in the agriculture, livestock, fisheries and forestry sectors to be considered during A-TEP. FAO is also ready to further engage in consultations to support the efforts of the Secretariat in this process by hosting relevant technical expert meetings, for instance sharing of good practices, experiences and lessons learned; identifying actions that could significantly enhance the implementation of adaptation activities, including enhancing economic diversification, safeguarding the diversity of natural resources and identifying opportunities to strengthen the enabling environment, including climate finance for smallholders and support for adaptation by promoting specific policies, practices and actions.

Agriculture in the context of the Technical Examination Process on Adaptation (A-TEP)

Agriculture is essential in helping us meet basic human needs, but is inherently vulnerable to climate change risks. While the agricultural sectors are strongly affected by climate change they, at the same time, offer concrete opportunities for strengthening resilience and reducing vulnerabilities. Adaptation interventions in the agricultural sectors provide key lessons and robust tools and methods for further advancement in understanding and implementation of adaptation actions. The technical examination process on adaptation in the period 2016–2020 should therefore have a prominent and specific focus on the agricultural sectors.

The challenges climate change poses to agriculture are very different from those posed to other sectors. Agriculture merits special consideration as it represents the basis of a large share of the world population’s livelihoods, particularly in the most vulnerable regions. More than 2.5 billion people depend on agriculture directly or indirectly. The agricultural sectors are the only source of food security

¹ The use of the terms ‘agricultural sectors’ or simply ‘agriculture’ in this submission refer to the broader agriculture (crops and livestock), fisheries and forestry sectors.

for all. Impacts of extreme climate events cause damage to agriculture and fisheries infrastructure with a greater magnitude than any other sector, and lead to loss of livelihood assets. FAO (2015) estimates that about 25 percent of all damage from climate related disasters is absorbed by the agricultural sectors, and this rises to 84 percent in the case of drought.² Men and women are affected in different ways and often have distinct coping strategies, and promoting gender equality helps to ensure more successful and sustainable outcomes

A recent FAO study (2016) highlighted that four of the eight key risks identified by IPCC AR5 are closely related to indirect or direct consequences on food security: loss of rural livelihoods and income, loss of marine and coastal ecosystems and livelihoods, loss of terrestrial and inland water ecosystems and livelihoods, and food insecurity and breakdown of food systems.³ Water mediates many of climate change's impacts on agriculture; increased water scarcity in many regions of the world presents a major challenge for climate adaptation. Close attention should be given to issues related to water scarcity, desertification, land degradation and drought and related adaptation priorities. The trans-boundary nature of adaptation measures are also important as more frequent extreme weather patterns can also adversely impact commodity trade by disrupting transportation, food supply chains and logistics.⁴

Several studies also affirm the importance of biological diversity in agriculture, including the different crop varieties and animal breeds used for food and agriculture, to improving adaptive capacity and strengthening resilience of productive systems.⁵ Genetic resources management, for instance, allows for the production of seeds that can tolerate or thrive amid greater aridity, frost, and flooding or soil salinity. Also, livestock breeds raised in harsh production environments over a long period of time tend to acquire characteristics that enable them to cope with these conditions.⁶ Although coping with climate change involves the increased use of the genetic diversity present in these resources, these resources are often poorly known, their use neglected or even at risk of extinction. FAO has produced guidelines to support the integration of genetic resources into national climate change adaptation planning.⁷

High levels of exposure and sensitivity to climate impacts, inadequate adaptive capacity and lack of location specific adaptation practices in agriculture also have broader implications. For instance, extreme climate events with greater magnitude and intensity could trigger larger scales of human migration and political instability. The diversity in agricultural systems and adaptation requirements is also a challenge. Generic solutions are often inadequate in meeting actual needs. However, this can also be seen as an opportunity in that better adaptation and resilience building can occur through this diversity of agricultural systems and the use of appropriate genetic resources. At the same time, agriculture depends on natural resources and options for adapting agriculture to climate change are limited as most vulnerable agriculture systems are constrained by inadequate use of resources such as land, soil, water and necessary inputs.

² FAO (2015) The impact of disasters on agriculture and food security, FAO, Rome pp. 77.

³ FAO (2016) Climate change and food security: risks and responses, FAO, Rome, pp110.

⁴ FAO (2015) Climate change and food systems. Global assessments and implications for food security and trade, FAO, Rome, 336p.

⁵ FAO. 2015. Coping with climate change – the roles of genetic resources for food and agriculture. Rome.

⁶ Tool to assess the potential impact of climate change on breed distribution at <http://www.fao.org/breed-distribution-model/en/>

⁷ FAO (2015) Voluntary guidelines to support the integration of genetic diversity into national climate change adaptation planning, FAO, Rome pp. 41 and FAO (2016) Climate Change and Food Security: Risks and Responses, FAO, Rome, pp. 98.

Opportunities in agriculture for reducing vulnerability and enhancing resilience

The agricultural sectors are affected by the impacts of climate change largely due to their underlying vulnerabilities. Poverty and food insecurity are major determinants contributing to their vulnerability. Promoting agricultural development and reducing poverty are fundamental if vulnerabilities are to be addressed. Successful economic development has typically been propelled in its initial stages by fast agricultural productivity growth and broader rural development.⁸ Growth in productivity and incomes from agriculture is essential if hunger and poverty are to be eradicated.⁹ This pathway can generally be part of structural transformations in the agricultural sectors. Nevertheless, our understanding of the nature of transformation, such as the consolidation of enterprises, diversification and commercialization of agriculture on poverty reduction needs to be improved.

Options for reducing vulnerability to climate change and other shocks in agricultural and food systems should first of all aim at ensuring food and livelihood security. The opportunities for vulnerability reduction should focus on poverty reduction and promoting development, but also need to be supplemented by efforts in diversification to increase resilience. Options for vulnerability reduction should equally focus on infrastructure, strengthening the capacity of institutions, governance and support services. Increasing resilience in agriculture requires attention to both biophysical and socio-economic systems.

Increasing resilience in agriculture often considers the protection of plant and animal genetic resources, promotion of genetic diversity, enterprise diversification, agricultural value chains, social protection programmes and risk financing and insurance instruments. Building resilience in fragile ecosystems such as coastal areas, highly drought or flood prone arid, semi-arid and dry sub-humid areas or mountains requires special attention as these systems are sensitive to even minor perturbations. It is also crucial to ensure that resilience strategies are sustainable, i.e., that they do not increase future vulnerability and that planned adaptation measures do not create situations of mal-adaptation. The views and needs of both men and women must be addressed while building resilience to extreme climate events so that hidden gender biases do not limit success.

Social protection and risk sharing mechanisms are becoming widespread in rural areas and are already playing a major role in increasing the resilience of people's livelihoods.¹⁰ The contribution of social protection to resilient livelihoods can be considerably increased if climate risks are explicitly recognized. In general, the measures needed to build resilience in agriculture coincide with the measures needed to promote overall agricultural development. Resilience strategies in agriculture adopted to achieve sustainable food security will also generate mitigation co-benefits.

Given the uncertainty associated with climate projections, risk management approaches present significant opportunities to build resilience in all levels and systems.¹¹ Resilience measures focused on risk management are considered flexible as they reduce production and income variability compared to productivity increase or profit maximization objectives. There are additional costs in building resilience into agricultural systems, but they are considerably lower than the estimated costs of climate change impacts without adaptation. Building resilience in the sector should have a multi-faceted pathway as agriculture dependent populations often face multiple barriers that hamper their capacity to respond to climate change, including high up-front costs of adopting new practices and limited access to inputs, information, markets and technologies suited to their needs.

⁸ FAO (2014) FAO's Strategic Objective 3: Reduce rural poverty, FAO, Rome.

⁹ FAO (2015) Social protection and agriculture: breaking the cycle of rural poverty, The State of Food and Agriculture 2015, FAO, Rome.

¹⁰ FAO (2015) Social protection and agriculture: breaking the cycle of rural poverty, The State of Food and Agriculture 2015, FAO, Rome.

¹¹ FAO (2012) Building resilience for adaptation to climate change in the agriculture sector, Proceedings of a Joint FAO/OECD Workshop 23–24 April 2012, FAO, Rome.

Opportunities for increasing the understanding and implementation of adaptation actions

Recent developments in the institutional environment encourage prioritization and commitment by countries for implementing adaptation actions and support overall gains for agricultural development. Institutional responses to climate change in agriculture imply different roles and responsibilities for action and appropriate partnerships. The defined role of governments at national and sub-national levels, the private sector, academia and civil society offers opportunities for increased understanding and implementation of adaptation actions. However, stronger coordination mechanisms and partnerships are needed.

In advance of COP21, the international climate negotiation process invited all Parties to communicate their undertakings in adaptation planning or consider including an adaptation component in their intended nationally determined contributions (INDCs).¹² Moreover, National Adaptation Planning (NAPs) processes provide opportunities at national level for implementing adaptation actions with possible budget provision. Notably, almost 90 percent of all countries that referenced work on adaptation in their INDCs included the agricultural sectors.¹³ Opportunities to improve the implementation of prioritized adaptation actions from NAPs processes and INDCs can be enhanced by establishing explicit links to relevant climate financing mechanisms. Explicit financing needs for adaptation activities across sectors in the INDCs totalled over USD 800 billion.¹⁴ In this context, explicit links between prioritized adaptation actions and climate financing especially for smallholder agriculture (small scale farmers, herders, fishers and forest dwellers) and food security will be vital.

Priorities, key pillars and action areas identified in the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, also provide additional opportunities to implement immediate and medium term priority actions. Mainstreaming climate change concerns into agriculture and food security policies at national level is now taking place through the formulation of NAPs in several countries. NAP formulation will offer a clear understanding of priorities through participative processes. However, efforts should be made to link the identified adaptation actions with budget provision and assistance for small-scale farmers, fishers and forest-dependent communities to access climate finance and insurance opportunities, especially in areas suffering from land degradation and/or water scarcity.

It is also crucial to make climate-financing instruments more responsive to the differentiated needs of men and women as equal participants in decision-making about and as beneficiaries of climate actions. Success stories and case studies in climate financing and insurance mechanisms for smallholders can ensure increased understanding and up-scaling of adaptation options in the agricultural sectors. Similarly, FAO's field experience in implementing insurance tools, ecosystem based adaptation (EBA), community based adaptation (CBA) and community based disaster risk reduction (CBDRR) may be very useful to improve understanding and implementation of adaptation actions.

Innovations and agricultural research to support climate risk management can provide much-needed opportunities for advancing adaptation. Such research initiatives should also embrace the practical and feasible options for effective climate change response. This requires much greater coordination across technical areas of research in climate change, agriculture, disaster risk reduction and climate financing.

Agricultural investment necessarily includes research, extension and development as the linkage areas that effectively translate technologies or make available the appropriate genetic resources that have already proven useful in the context of location specific climate change adaptation. Location specific adaptation interventions warrant the use of analytical techniques and capacity building to understand

¹² UNFCCC (2013) Report of the Conference of the Parties on its nineteenth session, held in Warsaw from 11 to 23 November 2013. Addendum. Part two: Action taken by the Conference of the Parties at its nineteenth session.

¹³ FAO (forthcoming) Analysis of the role of the agricultural sectors in Intended Nationally Determined Contributions.

¹⁴ *Ibid.*

location specific agro-climatic futures. The decisions and agreement resulting from COP 21 have provided an important opportunity to build effective climate change adaptation capacity in agriculture, but need to address key technical and institutional barriers.

Adaptation in the agricultural sectors also offers mitigation co-benefits

Agriculture is the foremost sector highlighted for adaptation by LDCs and SIDS and other developing countries. Adaptation to climate change in agriculture must take place within the broader context of sustainability – which means embracing different priorities for different locations. The agricultural sectors in general offer synergies between adaptation and reducing and/or removing greenhouse gas emissions, and the importance of agriculture in this context is widely recognised. FAO (2013) along with partners has developed and promoted the concept of climate-smart agriculture, an agriculture that sustainably increases productivity, builds resilience (adaptation) and, where possible, reduces/removes greenhouse gases (mitigation) while enhancing the achievement of national food security and development goals.¹⁵

Agriculture, forestry and land use are the sectors with highest potential for mitigation-adaptation co-benefits. However, harnessing co-benefits necessitates the identification of potential areas and implementation of location specific and knowledge intensive technologies. It is widely recognized that the transformation of agriculture in the context of population growth, dietary change, globalization, scarcity of resources, as well as the risks of climate change is a key means towards achieving co-benefits. However, the nature of this transformation should take place taking into account environmental, economic and social dimensions. The response to climate change, including both adaptation and mitigation, must be considered within broader context of eradicating hunger and poverty.

Indicative Focus Themes for the A-TEP¹⁶

The overall focus of the technical examination process on adaptation could be on reducing vulnerability and increasing resilience to the adverse impacts of climate change, through both near and long term adaptation measures in affected sectors, areas and communities. In this context, FAO is pleased to propose the following focus themes for consideration to advance the A-TEP in the period 2016-2020. The following thematic areas also provide ways to sequentially address the actions of the A-TEP in the period 2016-2020 and could enhance the implementation of adaptation actions.

Focus Theme 1: Reduce the vulnerability of people, livelihoods, physical assets and natural systems to the adverse effects of climate change

The aim of this theme would be to reduce the vulnerability of livelihood assets (natural, physical, social, economic and human) that are crucial for diversified livelihoods and as sources of income for vulnerable populations. This focus theme may be prioritized on the premise that reducing vulnerabilities is the key to reducing climate impacts on agriculture, fisheries, forestry, food security and nutrition and also to build resilience to both current and future impacts. Specific cases for agriculture may, for example, be related to the rehabilitation of degraded lands and water scarcity issues. It has been demonstrated that the potential for innovative technologies to generate additional benefits related to gender equality is greatest where these technologies contribute to sustainable agricultural intensification, i.e. increasing food production from existing farmland with reduced environmental impacts.

¹⁵ FAO (2013) Climate-Smart Agriculture Sourcebook, FAO, Rome.

¹⁶ The focus themes proposed for consideration for Technical Examination Processes on Adaptation (A-TEP) in this submission are generic and are relevant for all climate sensitive and vulnerable sectors, but the narrative in most cases is specific to the agriculture sectors.

Climate-resilient technologies and practices, including the use of appropriate genetic resources successfully demonstrated in agriculture, fisheries and forestry offer greater opportunities for scaling-up to cover wider beneficiaries with specific attention to gender dimensions and most vulnerable populations compared to other sectors. Climate-resilient technologies promote better management of crops, livestock, rangelands, catchments and coastlines as well as action for the rehabilitation of degraded lands. Diversified and resilient livelihood options in agriculture, fisheries and forestry should explicitly benefit women and address broader issues of underlying vulnerability rather than just production increase with a short term focus. Such climate-resilient technologies and practices should be capable of withstanding extreme climate events as well as progressive changes in bio-physical and socio-economic systems.

Focus Theme 2: Strengthen institutional and technical capacities and enhance adaptive capacity for effective climate change adaptation

The main aim of this focus theme would be to increase adaptive capacity by enhancing awareness about climate change impacts, differentiated vulnerabilities and responses at all levels. Improving institutional and technical capacity contributes to the identification, prioritization and implementation of adaptation strategies and measures that are critical for increasing adaptive capacity. Access to improved climate information and early-warning systems helps to reduce climate impacts in proactively, especially by enhancing preparedness to extreme weather and climate events. Institutional and technical capacities need to be strengthened to interpret the risk information and make use of it to identify, prioritize, implement, monitor and evaluate adaptation measures.

Reliable information and knowledge on communities vulnerable to climate impacts will greatly enhance the choice of adaptation options. Risk and vulnerability assessments and other relevant scientific and technical assessments need to be carried out and updated to enhance institutional capacities. Promotion of interventions with the aim of improving adaptive capacity is knowledge intensive and thus these efforts should accompany capacity building programmes, with a special focus on gender-differentiated needs and opportunities. Similar programmes have been taken up over the years, but need to be intensified so that the capacities of the institutions and communities in question are strengthened to a level that can be sustained in the long term. Fostering and promoting regional partnerships and centres of excellence at the regional level, as well as rural advisory services at national and local level would be cost effective measures for enhancing adaptive capacity in the agricultural sectors.

Focus Theme 3: Integration of climate change adaptation into relevant policies, plans and associated processes

Institutional arrangements to lead, coordinate and support the integration of climate change adaptation into relevant policies, plans and associated processes are still weak. Renewed focus on mainstreaming through ongoing planning processes (e.g. NAPs development) and linking to relevant climate financing opportunities could further improve understanding and implementation of adaptation practices. Sector specific guidelines for mainstreaming climate change priorities into policies, plans and associated processes are currently evolving and the technical examination process could provide the much needed impetus to identify, prioritize and integrate adaptation strategies and measures, and also enhance budgetary commitments of Government agencies and institutions.

Additional efforts are also needed to strengthen sub-national and community level planning processes which are capable of influencing national plans with concrete actions at the local level. This focus theme would enhance opportunities to strengthen enabling environments at the local and national levels and enhance the provision of support for adaptation in the context of specific policies, practices and actions that are also gender-responsive.

Focus Theme 4: Developing and customizing indicators of adaptation to evaluate, prioritize and monitor adaptation measures

Investments in adaptation have been increasing in recent years. In many instances, the practices financed have been business-as-usual practices. The extent to which these practices are capable of coping with the future risks is not clear. In this context, tracking adaptation interventions is crucial and needs continuous monitoring. Decision makers at different levels need to know whether adaptation is keeping development on course and whether adaptation costs and benefits are distributed equitably, with particular consideration to vulnerable populations.

Further, as significant adaptation interventions have already taken place and are expected to continue in the future, there is a need to define appropriate adaptation baselines and indicators, and establish a conceptual framework for continuous monitoring. Some guidelines providing key characteristics of adaptation interventions on agricultural intensification and diversification that aim to reduce vulnerability, improve adaptive capacity and build resilience already exist. The new framework should provide a robust tool to prioritize, implement and monitor progress in adaptation to climate change, taking also into account gender differences through the adoption of some specific gender-sensitive indicators.

There are various approaches for defining adaptation indicators, such as process-based indicators for monitoring progress, and outcome-based indicators for measuring effectiveness. As the development of adaptation indicators faces a number of complex challenges, the A-TEP could provide clear guidance on a specific framework for prioritizing and monitoring adaptation actions. There are opportunities for capitalizing on existing monitoring frameworks in climate sensitive sectors including agriculture, fisheries and forestry. In that context, the agricultural sectors provide significant opportunities for development, testing and use of indicators for real time monitoring. These indicators may also link to indicators of the Sustainable Development Goals and Agenda 2030 and the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, and provide means to communicate with wider stakeholders.

Focus Theme 5: Consideration of gender sensitivity, indigenous knowledge, feasibility and sustainability as means of enhancing opportunities for adaptation actions

There is compelling evidence that women are often disproportionately affected by climate change impacts and disasters, and climate change hazards increase or heighten existing gender inequalities. There is consensus that too little attention was paid to gender aspects and indigenous knowledge during initial discussions on climate change policy and implementation processes. The joint meeting of the Adaptation Committee and the Nairobi Work Programme on “available tools for the use of indigenous and traditional knowledge and practices for adaptation, needs of local and indigenous communities, and the application of gender-sensitive approaches and tools for adaptation”¹⁷ provided an extensive review of best practices on the topic. The joint meeting also provided a preliminary analysis of emerging trends and gaps in the integration of indigenous and traditional knowledge and gender sensitivity into adaptation to climate change, and recommendations on addressing some of those gaps.

With the increased attention paid to location specific adaptation options due to the uneven distribution of impacts and vulnerability among social groups, capitalizing on indigenous and gender sensitive practices is important. Gender-differentiated vulnerability is often determined by socio-economic factors, livelihoods, and people’s capacity and access to knowledge, information, services, support, resources and infrastructure. The adaptive capacity of both men and women

¹⁷ UNFCCC (2013) Technical paper on best practices and available tools for the use of indigenous and traditional knowledge and practices for adaptation, and the application of gender-sensitive approaches and tools for understanding and assessing impacts, vulnerability and adaptation to climate change, October 2013.

depends on opportunities governed by the complex interplay of social relations, institutions, organizations, and policies.

Recent advancement in gender mainstreaming and knowledge on indigenous practices in agriculture has shown opportunities to utilize wide range of tools, approaches and practices that are being applied in identification, prioritization and implementation of adaptation practices. Nonetheless, additional efforts are needed to integrate good practices of gender and indigenous sensitive adaptation into policy processes. Ongoing initiatives on national adaptation planning (NAPs) can be a vehicle to take this opportunity forward and integrate such considerations into the plans and budget proposals with greater commitment from Governments and institutions. UNFCCC's Lima work programme on gender¹⁸ also underscores importance of gender-responsive climate policies and need for institutional capacity-building in adaptation efforts.

Focus Theme 6: Building resilience in bio-physical and socio-economic systems

Changes in many extreme weather and climate events have been observed since about 1950. Some of these changes have been linked to human influences, including a decrease in cold temperature extremes, an increase in warm temperature extremes, an increase in extreme high sea levels and an increase in the number of heavy precipitation events in a number of regions.¹⁹

Climate-related hazards – drought, hurricanes, floods, bushfires and sea level rise – cause negative impacts and consequences not only on land and water but also on people, property, business, financial systems and state institutions. It is therefore essential to increase capacities to adapt and be resilient to extremes and gradual changes. The UN Climate Summit²⁰ on 23 September 2014 supported adaptation and resilience to climate change for the world's most vulnerable countries, with pledges and initiatives announced by governments, companies, investors, cities and public-private coalitions.

There are a number of initiatives promoted by Governments and the private sector to support SIDS, LDCs and developing countries with adaptation and innovative climate finance intended to strengthen resilience to devastating climate impacts. The A-TEP (2016-2020) could also focus, among other priorities, on the resilience-building needs of those countries at greatest risk from rising sea levels, precipitation, droughts and extreme weather events that can destroy decades of development gains.

The Bali Action Plan²¹ for enhanced cooperative action highlighted risk management and risk reduction strategies, including risk sharing and transfer mechanisms such as insurance and disaster risk reduction strategies as means of building resilience. Now there is an opportunity to identify ways to strengthen and encourage multilateral bodies, the public and private sectors and civil society to support adaptation in a coherent and integrated manner for building resilience. A focus theme on building resilience could promote cooperative action on adaptation through renewed public-private sector partnerships.

¹⁸ UNFCCC (2014) Lima Work Programme on Gender

¹⁹ IPCC, 2014: Climate Change 2014: Synthesis Report. Contribution of Working Groups I, II and III to the Fifth Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change [Core Writing Team, R.K. Pachauri and L.A. Meyer (eds.)] IPCC, Geneva, Switzerland, 151 pp.

²⁰ UN Climate Summit 2014 – Catalysing Actions, 23 September 2014.

²¹ UNFCCC (2007) Report of the Conference of the Parties on its thirteenth session, held in Bali from 3 to 15 December 2007.

Indicative proposals for FAO's support to the A-TEP in the period 2016–2020

FAO has long-standing experience working with its Member Countries on technical support in strengthening climate change adaptation, disaster risk reduction, and resilience building. FAO's support for the technical examination process on adaptation may include sharing of good practices, case studies, policy briefs, adaptation planning procedures relevant to the suggested priority focus areas. FAO would also draw on its considerable expertise in sustainable natural and genetic resource management in agriculture, fisheries and forestry as the basis for increasing long-term resilience.

FAO stands ready for further consultations with the Secretariat on actions towards supporting the efforts of the Secretariat in the A-TEP and interested in hosting technical expert meetings related to sharing of good practices, experiences and lessons learned. FAO is also interested in supporting the A-TEP in identifying opportunities for increasing understanding of adaptation measures that could significantly enhance the implementation of adaptation actions including enhancing economic diversification, and in identifying opportunities to strengthen enabling environments and providing support for adaptation by promoting specific policies, practices and actions in agriculture, fisheries and forestry.