

Statement by Viet Nam
at the UNFCCC SBSTA 44 In-session Workshop on Agriculture
23 May 2016 - Bonn, Germany

Vietnam would like to make a statement both on behalf of itself and also on behalf of the Association of the Southeast Asian countries which Vietnam has made a submission for. This is the first time that ASEAN has submitted our regional proposals to this global forum and the submissions can be found on the UNFCCC website.

Regarding the identification and assessment of agricultural practices and technologies to enhance productivity in a sustainable manner for food security and resilience, we are of the view that both on-farm and beyond-farm practices and technologies should be considered by the SBSTA, together with approaches for landscape level management. ASEAN Member States consider the interaction between sectors to be important form addressing the challenges faced by the region and recently formulated the Vision and Strategic Plan for the Food, Agriculture and Forestry Cooperation 2025 (FAF).

The region's priorities for action include a number of agricultural practices and technologies in crop production systems in Southeast Asia, such as: stress-tolerant maize and rice varieties; climate informed agricultural insurance including use of weather indices; cropping calendar for rice and maize; and alternate wetting and drying.

The ASEAN Climate Resilience Network, a country-led initiative, has addressed the differences in context within the Southeast Asian agro-ecological zones and farming systems, which is a good starting point, but

needs to be further downscaled to assess the suitability of practices at farm level.

At the country level, the practices and technologies that are being applied in agricultural systems in Viet Nam range from autonomous adaptation practices to knowledge-based options and adaptation measures planned by government agencies. This includes crop production, livestock, forestry, fishery and water resources related measures which are compatible in different agro-ecological zones and farming systems. Examples are:

- Land use conversion, such as rice land to corn, groundnut, soybean plantations with less water requirements; Converting paddy rice land affected by saline intrusion to rice-aquaculture systems (shrimp, crab or fish), especially in the Mekong Delta region.

- Developing and disseminating stress tolerant varieties (shorter duration, higher yield, pest and disease tolerant, drought and salt tolerant)

- Various approaches to increase the sustainability of farming, including System of Rice Intensification, IPM, ICM, GAP, AWD to optimize yields and reduce investment costs.

As Dr. Alexandre Meyback indicated in his presentation about risk sharing and creating an enabling environment, Vietnam attaches great importance to promoting agricultural insurance. Innovative climate index insurances in combination with existing damage-based insurance have been developed and tested in Vietnam in our pilot insurance scheme with the participation of private sector. Vietnam is willing to share our experience of our insurance program in our regional workshop scheduled in this August in 2016.

Mr Co-Chairs, Ladies and gentlemen,

Effective implementation of adaptation strategies requires the government to have suitable policies, management practices and political capacity. We found that local action plans and policies to promote practices and technology for adaptation to climate change will be compromised without the direct engagement of and benefit to small holder farmers. Increasing availability of, and access to, adaptation finance is key to raising adaptive capacity locally and regionally.

ASEAN and Viet Nam are of the view that UNFCCC can play an important role in facilitating the implementation and scaling up of agricultural practices and technologies in South East Asia region. The Convention's role may include supporting cooperation and knowledge sharing amongst parties and observer organizations, and leveraging existing frameworks of the Convention for capacity enhancement and technology transfer. The Convention's financial mechanism can play an important role by channeling finance for the parties in implementing and scaling up best practices.