

G77 and China statement for the SBSTA workshop on the assessment of risk and vulnerability of agricultural systems to different climate change scenarios at regional, national and local levels, including but not limited to pests and diseases

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The G77 and China had contributed positively during SBSTA-40 in paving the way for conducting the in-session workshop that will be held consecutively in SBSTA-42 and SBSTA-44 according to CoP-20 decision. The Group will continue to engage constructively on the SBSTA-42 technical and scientific discussions, taking into account the conclusions of SBSTA 38, and towards the consideration at SBSTA 43 of the report of workshop. In this sense, the report needs to be comprehensive and to capture the views of developing country parties, taking into consideration that agriculture is the backbone of developing countries and economic systems. In this context there is an urgent need to increase the adaptive capacity of agriculture to deal with the adverse effects of climate change. This continues to be the key priority for developing countries in light of the particular vulnerabilities of the agricultural sector and its relationship with the livelihood of millions, food security and poverty eradication.

Risk and vulnerability assessments are critical in the light of adverse effects of climate change on existing and planned productive systems, including in terms social and economic impacts. These assessments play an important role in research and development of improved crop and animal varieties, breeds and species. They should include knowledge of how climate change impacts not only pest and disease, but also the impact of new temperature and precipitation patterns (including gradients and intensity) on plant metabolism (flowering, fructification, resistance to water and temperature stress, among others) and animal metabolism .

Although climate change impacts can bring both positive and negative effects on agriculture, the negative ones tend to dominate because of the adverse effects of extreme events, pests and diseases and limited water.

G77 and China considers that the SBSTA needs to address the following issues in order to assist developing countries on risk and vulnerability assessments there by contributing to building their adaptive capacity, taking into account the diversity of their agriculture systems and differences in scale and the short, medium and long term challenges :

- Knowledge sharing i.e. training course on integrated assessment of climate change impacts on food security.
- Sharing of adaptation knowledge and good practices;
- Identification of approaches to enhance the application of good practices and adaptation technologies in developing countries;

- Assessment of finance, technology, and capacity-building needs in developing countries for adaptation in agricultural sector;
- Access to technologies, know-how, and practices for adaptation;
- Identification of co-benefits of adaptation, including socio, economic, and environmental aspects;
- Provide means of implementation to developing countries in the assessment of risk and vulnerability of agricultural systems to different climate change scenarios at regional, national and local level, taking into consideration that developed countries should play a role in technology transfer and capacity building for developing countries on adaptation;
- Support research in addressing risk and vulnerability assessments, including in terms of potential economic impacts, for example in terms of impact to agricultural production;
- Recognize the role of rural and poor people, especially women and the youth, in the assessment of risk and vulnerability of agricultural systems to different climate change scenarios.

The G77 and China countries believes there is a wide space for collaboration among parties in relation to risk and vulnerability assessments, adapted to the local national and regional circumstances. There are also big opportunities to draw and share lessons from the experience of the different Parties. Developed countries can play a very positive role in the means of implementation with developing countries in addressing adaptation. Article 4.1.e. of the convention stated clearly that parties should “Cooperate in preparing for adaptation to the impacts of climate change” among various issues including agriculture”

The G77 and China remains on its position to undertake scientific and technical work on impacts of climate change on agriculture consistent with SBSTA mandate in Art.9 taking into account the commitments in articles 4.3, 4.4, and 4.5 of the Convention.