
Southern African Confederation of Agricultural Unions

Views on issues related to agriculture referred to in paragraph 75 of decision [-/CP.17] outcome of the work of the Ad Hoc Working Group on Long-term Cooperative Action under the Convention, paragraph 76)

SUBMITTED FOR CONSIDERATION BY SBSTA AT ITS 36TH SESSION

Preamble

Farmers from Southern Africa emphasize that agriculture is the foundation for the economies of most of African countries, and contributes significantly to food security, employment, livelihoods and poverty alleviation for millions of households on the continent. Agriculture is the most climate sensitive sector and the most vulnerable to climate change. In Southern Africa, agriculture encompasses, but is not limited to farming, harvesting and processing of products from crops, livestock, fisheries and aquaculture.

Feeding a rapidly growing population under a changing climate is a major challenge. Farmers note the severe impacts that climate change is already having on agriculture, rural livelihoods and economies in Southern Africa, especially on the production of major food crops, livestock and fisheries, and express concern that these are predicted to worsen in the future. Farmers lack the assets, technologies and capabilities that are required to cope with and adapt to climate change. The priority for African farmers is to ensure food security, eradicate poverty, socio economic growth, environmental and livelihood sustainability with special attention to smallholder and marginal farmers and fishers through adapting to the effects of climate change and identification of the potential co-benefits of mitigation. This must be implemented through actions in the immediate, short, medium and long-term. Farmers play a stewardship role in managing landscapes which include forests and other ecosystems, and need to be put at the centre of efforts to respond to climate change.

Priority Issues for Farmers to be considered by SBSTA

A. Knowledge Generation and Sharing

- 1 Compile and assess the present state of knowledge regarding impacts of climate change on agriculture and related ecosystems including inter alia agricultural productivity, pests and disease prevalence, land degradation, biodiversity loss, seasonal variability of rainfall patterns, the associated risks, vulnerabilities, adaptation and mitigation technologies and techniques including indigenous technologies and knowledge and their socio-economic impacts with a view to identifying gaps and needs of the African countries and ways to deal with them.
- 2 Facilitate the identification and transfer of practices and technologies that are appropriate to the African context to ensure that knowledge and information are easily accessible by African countries.
- 3 Support the strengthening and where needed setting-up national and regional mechanisms for effective dissemination of required practices and technologies.
- 4 Facilitate the assessment of current and projected impacts of climate change on the agricultural sector under different climate scenarios (temperature) on national, regional and international levels, in particular on the African continent.
- 5 Compile the needs of African countries building on available data and country submissions such as in national communications, needs assessments and other relevant reports.
- 6 Establish guidelines and modalities to facilitate the process of identifying mitigation potential in agriculture, in particular in African countries, taking into account national circumstances.

B. Research & Development

1. Organize in-session workshops to enhance knowledge and deepen understanding related to Research and Development, scaling up of technologies for increased agricultural productivity.
2. Prepare a technical paper on approaches to maximise the synergies and counter the trade-offs between adaptation and mitigation in agriculture targeted at farmers in developing countries and the institutions that support them.
3. Harmonize methodologies, measurements and guidelines for carbon emission and sequestration in the agricultural sector.
4. Prepare assessments in post-harvest technologies and systems to eliminate wastage and inefficiencies and advise on the ways and mechanisms of promoting and transferring of such technologies and systems.
5. Facilitate identification and application of tools, methods and models for climate forecasting in order to improve seasonal forecasting, early warning systems and future projection of vulnerability and impacts in agricultural systems

6. Support setting up of national carbon accounting systems and regional harmonization.

C. Cooperation

1. Establish a 3 year work programme to enhance international cooperation on research and development on climate resilient agricultural systems, practices and technologies based on needs identified by African countries, and establishing modalities and guidelines to enhance cooperation and dissemination of research outcomes and technology outputs.

D. Technology and Capacity Development

1. Assess the capacity needs of farmers and farmers' organizations with a view to recommending implementable mechanisms for capacity building for farmers, farmers' organizations, and other institutions that support farmers in Africa.
2. Develop and recommend mechanisms for technology transfer, especially targeted at making technology available to farmers in Africa and the institutions that support them. In addition SBSTA should recommend ways of including agriculture in the Technology Mechanism established by the UNFCCC to facilitate enhanced action on technology development and transfer in developing countries.

E. Finance

1. Recommend to the COP transparent and inclusive mechanisms for ensuring adequate allocation and accessibility of Green Climate Fund and other climate finance resources to farmers, including the participation of Farmers' Organizations in the Fund's governing bodies and the decentralization of the administration of such funds.
2. Recommend to the COP possible ways of simplifying the financing mechanisms put in place within the framework of the UNFCCC, especially the Clean Development Mechanism (CDM), to make them accessible to farmers in developing countries. In addition SBSTA should explore and recommend new innovative ways of financing climate change adaptation and mitigation in the agricultural sector.

F. Other matters

1. SBSTA should emphasize to the COP the need for Annex II parties of the Convention, development partners and multilateral organizations to provide support including finance, capacity building, research and technology transfer to African countries to undertake and implement adaptation and mitigation actions in agriculture, in line with articles 4.1 (c), 4.4 and 4.5 of the convention.
2. SBSTA should consider giving information and advice to the COP on how to deal with issues that need to be addressed to realize food security, to eradicate poverty, enhance socio economic development, environment and livelihood sustainability and support effective adaptation and

mitigation in agriculture. These issues include financing agriculture, trade, intellectual property rights and support for early action in agriculture.