



Submission by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)
on the Support to Least Developed and Developing Countries in the National Adaptation Plan
Process regarding the integration of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry perspectives

In response to the invitations of the SBI (i) to receive “information from United Nations organizations, specialized agencies and other relevant organizations, as well as bilateral and multilateral agencies on how they have responded to the invitation to consider establishing or enhancing support programmes for the national adaptation plan process within their mandates, as appropriate, which could facilitate the provision of financial and technical support to developing country Parties that are not least developed countries” (FCCC/SBI/2013/L.10/Add.1, paragraph 5); and (ii) to refer to “information from Parties and relevant organizations on their experience with the application of the initial guidelines for the formulation of national adaptation plans, as well as any other information relevant to the formulation and implementation of the national adaptation plans (FCCC/SBI/2013/L.10/Add.1, paragraph 6)”.

The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) herein submits its views to the UNFCCC Secretariat in reference to the two invitations outlined above¹:

Climate change adds a new challenge for agricultural and rural development. This is of particular importance for Developing Countries (DCs) and especially Least Developed Countries (LDCs), where agriculture is crucial both as a food provider and also as an essential economic sector providing jobs and income and which is key to development. These countries are often at particular risk and lack adaptation capacities. The National Adaptation Programmes of Action (NAPAs) submitted to UNFCCC by 50 countries by 2013 include numerous measures in the agricultural sectors, agriculture, forestry and fisheries². In order to build increased resilience to a changing climate, countries now have to consider medium- to long-term planning through National Adaptation Plans (NAPs) within the framework of national priorities for low emissions and climate resilient development of the agricultural sectors so as to align and sustain growth, food security and poverty reduction.

The Committee on World Food Security (CFS), in its 39th Session held in October 2012³, recognized that the “adverse effects of climate change can pose serious threats to food security especially to small scale food producers’ lives and livelihoods, and to the progressive realization of the right to food in the context of national food security”, and urged action. It has also emphasized the importance to strengthen efforts on adaptation to climate change for food security, based on the

¹ This document builds on FAO’s submissions to UNFCCC in 2011 and 2012: in its 2011 NAP submission to SBI, the FAO underlined the importance of the agricultural sectors in short-term and long-term adaptation planning, both because of the sectors’ particular vulnerabilities to climate change but also because of the sector’s potential contributions to national adaptation actions; in 2012, following SBI’s invitation to express view on paragraph 7 of Decision FCCC/SBI/2011/L.16 FAO declared that “the FAO stands ready to support LDC and other Developing Countries in the preparation and implementation of NAPs, as well as to contribute to the draft NAP formulation guidelines”.

² http://unfccc.int/files/cooperation_support/least_developed_countries_portal/napa_priorities_database/application/pdf/napa_index_by_sector.pdf

³ http://www.fao.org/fileadmin/user_upload/bodies/CFS_sessions/39th_Session/39emerg/MF027_CFS_39_FINAL_REPO_RT_compiled_E.pdf

report of its High Level Panel of Experts on food security and nutrition on “food security and climate change”¹. This CFS decision has been presented in SBSTA in Doha as well as in ECOSOC.

In line with the COP-19 Decision 5/CP.17², FAO will dedicate its efforts to develop technical guidance to support LDCs and DCs in the design and implementation of NAPs through existing and new to be developed adaptation programmes.

In 2012, FAO launched a Framework Programme for Climate Change Adaptation (FAO-Adapt) and is committed to supporting countries on climate change adaptation within the agricultural sectors³. FAO-Adapt responds to the global call for enhanced action on adaptation that emerged from the December 2010 decision to establish the Cancun Adaptation Framework and Green Climate Fund as a part of the Cancun Agreement.

With the objective to increase the resilience of production and management systems in agriculture, forestry and fisheries systems from local to global levels, FAO’s work on adaptation spans over five overarching, interlinked themes:

- Data and knowledge for impact and vulnerability assessment and adaptation planning
- Institutions, policies and financing to strengthen capacities for adaptation
- Sustainable and climate sensitive management of land, water and biodiversity
- Technologies, practices and processes for adaptation
- Disaster Risk Management

Some examples of how FAO has been enhancing its support to LDCs and DCs are presented below:

- FAO has been providing technical support to a number of countries (including Bangladesh, Belize, Cambodia, Dominica, Ecuador, El Salvador, Ethiopia, Guatemala, Lesotho, Mozambique, Nepal, Nicaragua, The Philippines, Viet Nam, Kenya, Jamaica, St. Lucia, Peru, Tanzania) with the objective of reducing vulnerability and increasing adaptive capacity and resilience to better respond to the impacts of climate variability and change and for improving sustainable livelihoods in the agriculture sectors⁴. This technical support included demonstration of adaptation and climate risk management practices (including stress tolerant varieties, soil and water conservation, slope stabilization and management, livelihood diversification) and strengthening institutional mechanisms and technical capacity of stakeholders on several topics, including risk and vulnerability assessments, climate information services, screening of adaptation practices, planning for community based adaptation. The tested typology of adaptation practices has been successfully integrated into sectoral climate change priority frameworks, climate risk reduction plans and/or development plans at different levels in a number of countries. FAO also provides tools⁵ and is developing capacities of countries (including Morocco, the Philippines, and Peru) to assess long-term impacts of climate change on agriculture, and characterization of vulnerable household groups in terms of food security, in order to help policymakers with evidence-based adaptation planning⁶.

¹ http://www.fao.org/fileadmin/user_upload/hlpe/hlpe_documents/HLPE_Reports/HLPE-Report-3-Food_security_and_climate_change-June_2012.pdf

² http://unfccc.int/files/adaptation/cancun_adaptation_framework/national_adaptation_plans/application/pdf/decision_5_cp_17.pdf

³ <http://www.fao.org/climatechange/fao-adapt/en/>

⁴ <http://www.fao.org/climatechange/75250/en/>

⁵ <http://www.fao.org/climatechange/mosaic/>

⁶ <http://www.fao.org/climatechange/amicaf/>

- FAO has recently provided facilitation to the formulation of national sectoral planning documents for climate risk management and disaster risk reduction and management (DRRM) in several countries, including Philippines, Cambodia, Lao, Jamaica, Nepal, China, Guyana, St Lucia, Belize, and Dominica. FAO has also provided direct support to the NAPA development process in various countries, including Nepal. FAO has been supporting the fisheries and aquaculture sector in the development of adaptation plans at national and regional level: for example in the Eastern Caribbean a climate change adaptation/DRM strategy has been developed for the sector. Simultaneously, on request from member countries, the FAO forest and climate change programme provides technical support and has developed guidelines to assist countries in the integration of forest and climate change issues at the policy level.
- FAO has furthermore stressed the importance of access to clean energy for household and productive uses in rural areas to better adapt to climate change. To this end, FAO is currently assessing different farming systems that combine both food and energy production (i.e. Integrated Food Energy Systems, or IFES) in Viet Nam in terms of their overall sustainability, including their adaptive capacity to climate variability and change.
- Over the last one and a half years, FAO has been engaging with the UNDP-UNEP led Global Support Programme to National Adaptation Plans (GSP-NAP) as a member of the Steering Board contributing to developing a partnership approach for collaborative support to countries in developing their NAPs involving various sectors. At the regional level, FAO participated in the NAP-GSP Regional Training Workshops in Asia and Africa. FAO has coordinated closely with the GSP-NAP Secretariat on a country-by-country basis on how FAO could enhance its support through its FAO country representations to ensure that line ministries responsible for agriculture and food security are sufficiently engaged in the overall NAPs planning process to ensure full coverage of sector's relevant aspects.

FAO's work on guidelines suggested by the Least Developed Country Expert Group (LEG) for the formulation of NAPs:

To facilitate the in-country process on how the agriculture sector and its climate change adaptation strategies could become more integrated in the national planning exercise, FAO is preparing a set of supplementary guidelines that highlight specific agriculture, fisheries and forestry sector aspects while planning and engaging stakeholders in the NAPs process. Simultaneously, the FAO Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture has already initiated the development of guidelines specifically dedicated to the integration of genetic diversity considerations into national climate change adaptation planning. The supplementary guidelines on agriculture would have the objective to: i) facilitate consideration and integration of food security and agriculture concerns and perspectives into the NAP process; ii) provide elements for non-agriculture specialists to understand what are the issues at hand and iii) enable agriculture stakeholders to better identify and understand the issues at stake in a mid/long term perspective and to participate efficiently in the process. FAO plans a stakeholder consultation process on the outline and content of the guidelines, and aims to launch the guidelines at COP 20 in Lima, Peru.

FAO will continue to support countries in developing their NAPs through the Global Support Programme. Actions taken by FAO will include capacity development and support to national planning processes enabling the inclusion of agriculture and food security aspects in the design and implementation of NAPs.