



Food and Agriculture Organization
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FAO submission on the Paris Committee on Capacity-building

FAO welcomes the opportunity to submit views to the Paris Committee on Capacity-building (PCCB) on the following topics:

- a) Information on capacity-building activities for the implementation of nationally determined contributions in the context of the Paris Agreement;
- b) Information and suggestions regarding the web-based capacity-building portal.

PART A:

Information on capacity-building activities for the implementation of nationally determined contributions in the context of the Paris Agreement

First among its mandates, the PCCB is seeking inputs on the *“identification of capacity gaps and needs and provision of recommendations to address them”*. In the period 2017/18, an emphasis is placed on *“capacity-building activities for the implementation of nationally determined contributions (NDCs) in the context of the Paris Agreement”*. FAO has conducted a detailed analysis of the way the agricultural sectors (understood to comprise crops, livestock, fisheries and aquaculture as well as forestry) are included in the Intended Nationally Determined Contributions (INDCs), now Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), which finds that around 90 percent of INDCs include the agricultural sectors in their plans to address climate change, and around 40 percent of developing countries explicitly mention the need to safeguard food security and nutrition in the face of climate change.¹

Developing countries will lead on the implementation of their NDCs. The international community should support them in doing so, as well as in reporting on their progress and enhancing ambition in future NDC cycles. Building upon its analysis, FAO has considered common challenges that may inhibit effective NDC implementation in many developing countries, and identifies five corresponding

¹ FAO, 2016. *The Agriculture Sectors in the Intended Nationally Determined Contributions (INDCs): Analysis*. www.fao.org/3/a-i5687e.pdf

priority intervention areas² for international support to help overcome these challenges:

1. **Compliance with the enhanced transparency framework of the Paris Agreement;**
2. **Coherent policy frameworks for climate action in the agricultural sectors;**
3. **Research, analysis and tools;**
4. **Capacity development for implementation and action in the agricultural sectors;**
5. **Investment for the development of the agricultural sectors.**

Regarding in particular Intervention Area 4 on capacity development for implementation and action in the agricultural sectors³, FAO further sees three overarching needs to be addressed in line with good practices for capacity development (i.e. a country-driven approach to interdependently enhance system-wide capacities across the individual, organizational, institutional and the enabling environment level) based on joint-stakeholder capacity needs assessments, joint design of context-specific capacity development interventions and joint defining and monitoring results

1. Strengthening capacities for climate action in the agricultural sectors: In many developing countries, agricultural stakeholders will require enhanced technical capacities and expertise to effectively support sustainable and climate-smart agricultural development. Some stakeholders may possess relevant technical expertise (such as climate modelling or greenhouse gas inventory management), but require additional functional capacities to put this expertise into practice by: formulating and implementing policies and leading policy reform; generating, managing and exchanging information and knowledge; engaging in multi-sectoral networks, alliances and partnerships that are inclusive of sub-national authorities and non-state actors; and implementing programmes and projects. Capacity gaps in these areas are inhibiting developing countries from scaling up support for climate action in the agricultural sectors. The international community should strengthen the technical and functional capacities of (state and non-state) agricultural stakeholders to respond to climate change. FAO, through the CSA approach, could secure sustainable food security under climate change providing the

² FAO, 2016. *The agricultural sectors in nationally determined contributions (NDCs): Priority areas for international support*. www.fao.org/3/a-i6400e.pdf

³ FAO more commonly refers to “capacity building” as “capacity development” or “capacity enhancement” to illustrate a demand and needs-driven approach to enhance existing rather than non-existing capacities.

means to help stakeholders from local to national and international levels identify agricultural strategies suitable to their local conditions. This support should be done involving all stakeholders reinforcing extension services, governance and farmers' activities to make agriculture, forestry and fisheries more productive and more sustainable.

2. Strengthening capacities for monitoring and reporting: It is important for developing countries to effectively monitor the implementation of policy measures and other actions pursued under their NDCs. This data is needed to better understand what progress has been made, and ultimately identify success factors and barriers that can inform future policy decisions and NDC commitments. As the number of climate-related policy measures under the remit of agricultural stakeholders grows – and continues to grow in line with the expectation that these sectors will help drive enhanced ambition in future NDCs – these stakeholders will require enhanced capacities to monitor the impacts of their adaptation and mitigation efforts. The capacity to effectively plan and take action in the agricultural sectors also depends on having a clear overview of vulnerabilities and alternative adaptation options. As such, the international community should strengthen the capacities of agricultural line ministries (and other relevant stakeholders) to conduct surveys in rural areas where data collection is currently weak and vulnerabilities to climate change are often most acute. These capacities can also support broader efforts to collect and analyse the data needed to report under the enhanced transparency framework under the Paris Agreement.
3. Inter-ministerial coordination: In the context of NDC implementation, particular attention deserves to be given to enhancing organizational and institutional capacities such as inter-ministerial coordination, mandates and multi-stakeholder processes). Planning, implementation, monitoring and reporting on climate action will be most effective when anchored in an all-of-government approach. Although government ministries are but one set of stakeholders involved in planning and implementing climate action – indeed the role of non-state actors is vital – a coherent government response to the climate challenge is often a pre-requisite to leveraging contributions from the private sector and civil society. In many countries, coordination efforts are led by a single entity (e.g. Ministry of Environment) that liaises with other relevant stakeholders as needed. Based on a participatory capacity needs assessment process, these countries could benefit from strengthening existing coordination mechanisms or establishing formal inter-ministerial coordination mechanisms on climate change to deal with climate issues and commitments. Such mechanisms can provide an institutional apparatus through which to support inclusive planning processes and enhanced policy coherence. Inter-ministerial coordination mechanisms can also be used to support coordinated

implementation, monitoring and reporting, which can reduce transaction costs and overlapping work, and promote cross-sectoral synergies. This can improve the effectiveness and sustainability of country-driven climate action and help fulfil the potential to use climate action as a driver for sustainable development, in line with countries' ambitions under the 2030 Agenda.

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As regards the PCCB's mandate to support the "*development and dissemination of tools and methodologies for the implementation of capacity-building*", FAO offers a wide range of guidance materials, platforms and tools to support agricultural sector climate action in general and NDC implementation in particular, alongside the implementation of related policy frameworks, including National Adaptation Plans (NAPs) and Nationally Appropriate Mitigation Actions (NAMAs)). In addition, FAO gathers and shares good practices and case studies from its interventions, in line with the PCCB's call for the "*identification and collection of good practices, challenges, experiences and lessons learned from work on capacity-building*". To name but a few examples:

Guidance Materials

- ***Addressing Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries in National Adaptation Plans – Supplementary Guidelines:*** <http://www.fao.org/3/a-i6714e.pdf>
- ***Climate-Smart Agriculture Sourcebook:*** <http://www.fao.org/docrep/018/i3325e/i3325e.pdf>
- ***Compendium Climate-Smart Agriculture and Extension:*** <http://www.fao.org/3/a-bl361e.pdf>
- ***Estimating Greenhouse Gas Emissions in Agriculture: A Manual to Address Data Requirements for Developing Countries:*** www.fao.org/climatechange/41521-0373071b6020a176718f15891d3387559.pdf
- ***FAO Capacity Development Portal:*** <http://www.fao.org/capacity-development/en/>
- ***FAO e-learning centre*** (includes courses on climate change): <http://www.fao.org/elearning/#/elc/en/courses/CLCH>
- ***Learning tool on Nationally Appropriate Mitigation Actions in agriculture, forestry and other land use sector:*** www.fao.org/3/a-i4642e.pdf
- ***Policy brief: Enabling advisory services for climate-smart agriculture. Key elements to foster farmers' adoption of CSA practices:*** <http://www.fao.org/3/a-bs940e.pdf>
- ***Practice briefs on Climate-Smart Agriculture:*** <http://www.fao.org/gacsa/action-groups/kag/en/>

- *Training Guide: Gender and Climate-Smart Agriculture Research in Agriculture and Food Security for Rural Development:*
www.fao.org/docrep/018/i3385e/i3385e.pdf

Platforms

- *FAOSTAT – Emissions databases for Agriculture and Land Use:*
www.fao.org/faostat/en/#data
- *GACSA – Global Alliance for Climate Smart Agriculture:*
<http://www.fao.org/gacsa/en/>
- *GLRD – Gender and Land Rights Database:* <http://www.fao.org/gender-landrights-database/en/>
- *Knowledge Tank for agriculture sectors' adaptation to climate change:*
www.fao.org/in-action/naps/knowledge-tank/en/
- *KORE – Knowledge Sharing Platform on Resilience:* www.fao.org/in-action/kore/good-practices/en/
- *TECA – Technologies and Practices for small agricultural producers: Climate Change and Disaster Risk Reduction:* teca.fao.org/technology-categories/climate-change-and-disaster-risk-reduction

Tools

- *Ex-Ante Carbon-balance Tool (EX-ACT):* www.fao.org/tc/exact/ex-act-home/en/
- *Global Livestock Environmental Assessment Model (GLEAM):*
www.fao.org/gleam/en/
- *MOdelling System for Agricultural Impacts of Climate Change (MOSAICC):*
www.fao.org/climatechange/mosaicc/en/
- *Self-evaluation and Holistic Assessment of climate Resilience of farmers and Pastoralists (SHARP):* www.fao.org/in-action/sharp/en/

Country Examples:

- *Climate-Smart Agriculture and Resources Tenure in Sub-Saharan Africa: A Conceptual Framework:* <http://www.fao.org/3/a-i3982e.pdf>
- *Diversification under climate variability as part of a CSA strategy in rural Zambia:* <http://www.fao.org/3/a-i6277e.pdf>
- *Enhancing country capacities to report on greenhouse gas emissions:*
<http://bit.ly/2qAeJYz>
- *Evidence and Knowledge Gaps on Climate-Smart Agriculture in Vietnam. A Review on the Potential of Agroforestry and Sustainable Land Management in the Northern Mountainous Region:* <http://www.fao.org/3/a-i3983e.pdf>

- *FAO Success Stories on Climate-Smart Agriculture*: <http://www.fao.org/3/a-i3817e.pdf>
- *Pastoralist Field Schools in Eastern Africa: Innovative climate adaptation in practice*: <http://bit.ly/2qzrN0B>
- *Planning, implementing and evaluating Climate-Smart Agriculture in Smallholder Farming Systems. The experience of the MICCA pilot projects in Kenya and the United Republic of Tanzania*: <http://www.fao.org/3/a-i5805e.pdf>
- *Strengthening individual and institutional capacities to adapt to climate change in Lao PDR*: <http://bit.ly/2qEZrwS>

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The PCCB further supports the “*exploration of how developing country Parties can take ownership of building and maintaining capacity over time and space*”. The NDC logic, by which each country has brought their own commitment to the table, lays the groundwork for a strong, country-owned and – driven process. FAO’s capacity development framework is built around the understanding that a country reaches its development goals only by system-wide strengthening its individuals and organizations while creating an enabling policy environment.⁴



FAO recognises that applying effective capacity development approaches⁵ is essential to enhance the impact and sustainability of country-driven climate change action through deepening country ownership and leadership of the development process. To achieve scale and sustainability, FAO addresses all three capacity development dimensions systematically and interdependently, namely strengthening *individual capacities* (e.g. knowledge, skills and competencies), *organizational and institutional capacities* (e.g. performance of organizations, cross-sectoral, multi-stakeholder coordination mechanisms) as well the *enabling environment* (e.g. sound regulatory and policy frameworks, institutional linkages and enhanced political commitment and will). In line with common United Nations Development Group approach⁶ to capacity development and as a core function to achieve its strategic objectives, FAO suggests and facilitates a three-step participatory process that includes jointly with

⁴ For more information on FAO’s corporate capacity development programmes, please visit:

The FAO Capacity Development Portal: www.fao.org/capacity-development/en/

FAO, 2013. *Capacity Development for Climate-Smart Agriculture in the Climate-Smart Agriculture Sourcebook*: www.fao.org/docrep/018/i3325e/i3325e17.pdf

⁵ See FAO Corporate Approach and Strategy on Capacity Development: <http://www.fao.org/capacity-development/en/>

⁶ UNDG, 2009. A collective approach to supporting capacity development.

www.undg.org/document/undg-a-collective-approach-to-supporting-capacity-development/

country stakeholders assessing capacities, designing context-specific capacity development interventions and effectively monitoring results.

In addition to this three-dimensional approach, successful FAO programmes have demonstrated that both *technical* and *functional* capacities are crucial for strengthening countries' capacities. Technical capacities are necessary for Member Countries to achieve their development goals in the broad areas of food security, nutrition, agriculture and rural development. Functional capacities enable countries to lead and manage their change initiatives.

For example, the FAO-UNDP Programme on "*Integrating Agriculture in National Adaptation Plan (NAP-Ag)*" aims at supporting partner countries in a country-driven process to identify and address climate change adaptation measures for the agricultural sectors in relevant national planning and budgeting processes through the formulation and implementation of a National Adaptation Plan (NAP). As part of this process, NAP-Ag contributes to building national capacities for adaptation monitoring, assessment and reporting at national and sub-national levels. Specifically, the programme is triggering the development and performance testing of monitoring and evaluation frameworks to better appreciate results stemming from adaptation policies, programmes and responses; and to better communicate evidence-based results on adaptation actions at international level, as part of NAP and NDC reporting requirements. In the countries that already have a national monitoring and evaluation framework for adaptation, the focus is placed on enhancing capacities to refine or operationalize it, in particular for the agricultural sectors.

Furthermore, FAO places special emphasis on *cross-cutting issues such as gender*.⁷ By identifying and addressing vulnerabilities and barriers that customary gender roles may generate, the systemic integration of gender considerations into capacity development initiatives has an unparalleled role to play in unlocking the productive potential for driving sustainable development of the full population. Ensuring equal access to capacity development for both women and men on climate change is an essential first step along this path.

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Concerning the "*promotion and exploration of synergies for enhanced collaboration with institutions outside the Convention and the Paris Agreement engaged in implementing capacity-building activities*", FAO is pleased to have signed a Memorandum of Understanding with UNFCCC on 21 March 2017, which, among other areas, will

⁷ E.g. World Bank, FAO & IFAD, 2015. *Gender in Climate-Smart Agriculture in the Gender in Agriculture Sourcebook*: www.fao.org/3/a-i5546e.pdf

facilitate capacity building and the sharing of technical expertise between the staff of the UNFCCC, FAO and officials from developing countries.⁸ FAO is also a partner with the Climate Technology Centre and Network (CTCN) of the UNFCCC to support the implementation countries' Technical Assistance Requests and advising on technology needs in the agriculture sectors.

Furthermore, FAO is a member of the NDC Partnership (NDC-P), a global initiative consisting of developing and developed countries as well as relevant international organizations that aims to make financial and technical assistance for NDC implementation more effective. To respond to countries' challenges with regard to NDC implementation in the agricultural sectors, FAO and the Support Unit of the NDC-P have collaborated to establish a Technical Working Group (TWG) on agriculture, food security and land use, launched by an inception workshop in Rome in May 2017.⁹ The TWG and its members will work to identify support needs and knowledge gaps and *inter alia* address how to best provide targeted and coherent international support for the implementation of the NDCs in the agriculture sectors at the national level.

In addition, FAO is a founding partner in the Global Alliance on Climate-Smart Agriculture (GACSA) and hosts GACSA's Facilitation Unit (Secretariat). GACSA seeks to catalyze transformational partnerships to encourage actions contributing to its aspirational outcomes (which correspond to the three pillars of CSA).¹⁰ GACSA supports country-driven and -owned capacity development efforts by:

- Serving as a forum for open but evidence-based dialogue among multiple and diverse stakeholders, making the participation of diverse stakeholders with different experiences as well as different priorities and views a valuable asset of the Alliance.
- Bringing together knowledge from different regions and actors with the aim to enhance access to knowledge while also generating new and better knowledge through collaboration and peer review.
- Facilitating exchange between different actors working on CSA, and thereby creating opportunities to pursue specific collaboration on areas of common interest.

⁸ News article: www.fao.org/news/story/en/item/853538/icode/

⁹ News article: www.fao.org/climate-change/events/detail-events/en/c/882801/

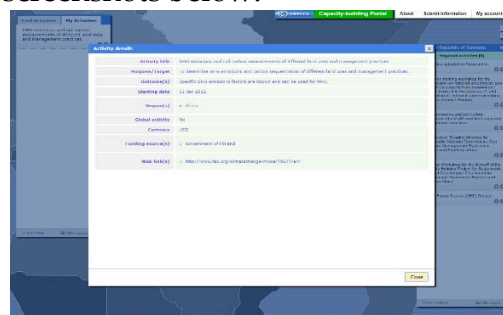
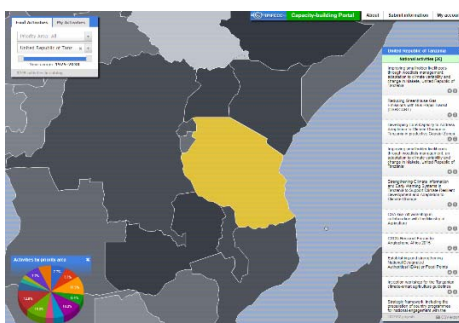
¹⁰ GACSA's aspirational outcomes aim to (1) Improve farmers' agricultural productivity and incomes in a sustainable way; (2) Build farmers' resilience to extreme weather and changing climate; and (3) Reduce greenhouse gas emissions associated with agriculture, when possible.

PART B:

Information and suggestions regarding the web-based capacity-building portal

Responding to the invitation to make “*suggestions on the further improvement and/or enhancement of the capacity-building (for example related to user-friendliness, better visibility, etc.)*”, FAO proposes the following considerations:

- All activities visualised on the activities map¹¹ of the Capacity Building Portal are classed and searchable by 15 **priority areas**. However, when a country is toggled to visualise the specific list of activities being undertaken in it, this classification by priority area is no longer visible. It would be helpful to classify (e.g. through letter labelling or colour coding) which activities fall under the same priority areas. The priority areas also not currently listed in the pop-up window when the option for additional information on individual “activity details” is selected, as illustrated in the screenshots below:



Colour codes have already been ascribed to the pie chart showing “*activities by priority area*”, so these could also be applied to the activities list in the right column.

Alternatively, the letter labelling already used in the “Priority Area” search function (see box in top left corner) could be maintained.

Priority areas are also not currently listed in the pop-up window when the option to access additional information on individual “activity details” is selected.

- A search function for the **entities offering capacity building support and donor institutions** would be a useful addition, allowing users to explore support provided by different actors. This data is already included in the “activity details” form, but can currently only be searched if data is downloaded as a .csv file.
- A **tagging and search function of capacity building activities by major economic sector** would also be highly valuable. This data does not currently appear to be included in the “activity details”, and would presumably require some new data categorization.

¹¹ unfccc.int/capacitybuilding/activities.html

- Providing interactive **tools to visualise statistics** would allow users to fully capitalize on the data already made available.
- Including conceptual background papers, principles and strategies and definitions on **what a common approach to capacity development entails** (such as the UNDG definition upon which FAO's approach is based) on the "Capacity Building Frameworks: Background Information"¹² page could facilitate common understanding and implementation. This would include how to assess capacity strengths and needs, design context-specific capacity interventions and monitor results.

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As regards "capacity-building related information to be incorporated in the portal, including in line with the 2017/2018 focus area or theme of the PCCB", FAO has communicated its activities undertaken in 2016 in March 2017, and looks forward to their inclusion in the portal in due course.

In light of the PCCB's 2017/2018 theme of "capacity-building activities for the implementation of nationally determined contributions (NDCs) in the context of the Paris Agreement", upcoming FAO support of relevance includes:

- The formulation of regional NDC analyses to complement FAO's existing two publications by providing more detailed information from a regional perspective as well as an evidence-based assessment of the contributions made.
- Trainings on the prioritization of investment programmes in the agriculture sectors.
- Trainings on impact evaluations to inform decision-making.
- Trainings on undertaking a Cost-Benefit Analysis of adaptation options.
- A package of capacity development materials on "Gender in Adaptation Planning for the Agricultural Sectors", to include training materials, case studies, and video material.
- Gender mainstreaming into NAP planning activities, including trainings on gender analysis in adaptation planning for the agricultural sectors.
- The development of bankable proposals based on appraisals of agriculture and adaptation options.
- Technical and institutional capacity building activities and tools¹³ to support developing countries to comply with the requirements of the enhanced

¹² http://unfccc.int/cooperation_and_support/capacity_building/items/7203.php

¹³ New tools to be based on review and synthesis of existing global tools, in line with refined IPCC guidelines as well as lessons learned.

transparency framework in the Agriculture, Forestry and Land Use (AFOLU) sector.

- Technical trainings and capacity development materials to establish robust systems to measure, report and verify (MRV) emissions and to track NDC priority actions in AFOLU.