

## CANADA

### Oral Statement

#### UNFCCC – SBSTA 44

#### In-session workshop on:

***Identification of adaptation measures, taking into account the diversity of the agricultural systems, indigenous knowledge systems and the differences in scale as well as possible co-benefits and sharing experiences in research and development and on the ground activities, including socioeconomic, environmental and gender aspects***

**May 20, 2016 – 15:00-18:00**

**Bonn, Germany**

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Thank you very much Mr(s). Co-Facilitator(s).

Colleagues, good afternoon.

Canada would like to offer input with respect to the first question asking about countries' experiences with the identification of adaptation measures in agricultural systems.

Farming is a way of life and an economic activity where the capacity to adapt successfully to changing conditions is critical and called upon almost on a daily basis. Such is the case in Canada, and such is the case everywhere else in the world.

Canadian farmers have long been responsible stewards of the land who have adapted over several decades to develop a wide diversity of agricultural landscapes capable of growing and supporting a large assortment of crops and livestock.

They make management decisions using modern inputs, technology and machinery with one eye on sometimes quite volatile world markets and the other eye on sometimes quite volatile weather conditions. They also often rely on traditional know-how and practical wisdom, applying key lessons that they were taught or that they learned by doing or by observing their fellow farmers.

Thanks to the work of the IPCC, among others, we have a fairly good sense of anticipated changes in climatic conditions. For Canada, these would include: increase in temperature; shifts in precipitation patterns; higher frequency of extreme weather events; rising sea levels; longer growing seasons; shifts in cropping patterns and pest and diseases; and water stresses both in terms of excesses and shortages.

Obviously, these changes and impacts will not be uniform across regions and production systems given the country's vast geography.

During last spring's in-session workshops at SBSTA 42, Canada has shared with this group its experience with the development of early warning systems and some of the other ways put in place to help farmers prevent, mitigate, cope and recover from extreme weather events.<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Canada's contribution to the two in-session workshops held during SBSTA 42 can be found [here](#) and [here](#).

Providing business risk management tools, supporting adoption of beneficial management practices, investing in innovation (e.g. in crop breeding) and making information and decision support tools accessible, including weather forecasting and early warning systems, are all key elements of Canada's approach in developing climate resilience in its agriculture sector.

In addition to these, we have also recently taken stock of existing work and efforts related to the identification of adaptation measures and recognized the need to update our overarching agricultural adaptation strategies; the need to undertake local and regional vulnerability assessments; and the need to initiate knowledge transfer activities.

Consequently, the Government of Canada is currently working with provincial governments and the agriculture sector to build knowledge of local climate risks and opportunities, identify regional priorities, and undertake action that will build sector resilience to changing climatic conditions

Specifically, this means conducting and funding research in areas such as crop variety improvements, climate and extreme weather impacts, crop sensitivity and resilience to extreme weather conditions, the impact of climate change on pests and disease, use of remote sensing and crop modelling to evaluate climatic variations on crops, and developing weather and climate decision support tools.

It also involves sharing information and experiences with industry and provincial agriculture departments on adaptation tools and identifying common issues and gaps through collaborations.

Finally, it has meant putting in place and making available a funding source to encourage and support the development of regional climate change vulnerability and opportunity risk assessment projects.<sup>2</sup> These projects will aim to: assess and collect regional climate change scenarios; define the impact of regional climate change scenarios on regional agriculture production; identify and rank risks and opportunities; and implement actions to address priority risks and opportunities.

The intent is to see these projects form the foundation for future regional climate change adaptation plans and strategies that will contribute to strengthen agricultural resilience.

In Canada's view, a key objective of the SBSTA work on agriculture should be the sharing and development of sound scientific and technical information that will help Parties make informed decisions on approaches and actions in agriculture that can increase food security and promote, within a sustainable development framework, synergies between agricultural productivity, adaptation and mitigation objectives.

We appreciate the rich discussions we have had on issues relating to agriculture so far and look forward to the next in-session workshop on practices that enhance agricultural productivity.

Thank you,

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<sup>2</sup> Climate Change Vulnerability and Opportunity Assessment (VOA) projects are funded under the Research and Development business line of the AgriRisk Initiatives program. Details can be found [here](#).