

Statement made by China

For the workshop: Identification and assessment of agricultural practices and technologies to enhance productivity in a sustainable manner, food security and resilience, considering the differences in agro-ecological zones and farming systems, such as different grassland and cropland practices and systems

As China is a country with a large population, insufficient arable land and limited water resources, food security remains a significant issue and the priority of national agricultural development.

China's agriculture is vulnerable to climate change and climate variability. In recent decades, the crop area affected by flood, drought or other natural disasters has been increasing. Since 2000, on average more than 40 million hectares of farmland has been affected by natural disasters each year. Gradual warming and changing precipitation patterns have led to shifts in the suitability zones for different crops, with some areas seeing declines in yields or shifting cropping structure. The spatial area, frequency and severity of crop diseases and pests have been increasing year by year in China with the warming climate. Some projections suggest that without adaptation measures, China's grain output could fall by 5-20% by 2050.

China attaches great importance to adapt to climate change. It has formulated and implemented "National Program on Climate Change" and "China's National Strategy for Climate Change Adaptation" to improve its adaptive capacity. It has taken consideration of climate change in the planning, engineering and construction of the distribution of productive forces, infrastructures and major projects. Last year, China submitted its Intended National Determined Contributions to UNFCCC and adaptation is the main component of its INDCs.

China also identified and extended some agricultural practices and technologies to enhance productivity and food security. Such as construction of infrastructure, water saving irrigation, soil evaporation control, dryland farming practices, these are among the means to improve agricultural water productivity and reduce the negative impacts of drought. Conservation tillage and increase application of organic fertilizer

are options to promotion of soil productivity.

China still faces a number of challenges to effectively adapt to climate change and ensure food security. 1) limited capacity for research and development of biotechnologies for breeding crop variety with anti-drought, high temperature, pest and disease; 2) Lack of advanced technologies and facilities for precision water and fertilization management; 3) Lower institutional capacity for training, demonstration and dissemination of adaptation practices and technologies; 4) extensive migration of rural labor. Most of rural labors in the countryside are old and less educated. It is difficult for older farmers to adopt advanced adaptation technologies.

Taking into account the challenges that China have faced, China would like to propose that SBSTA could promote the exchange of experience and knowledge on adaptation practices and technologies, enhance the transfer of adaptation technologies to developing countries, and adoption of adaptation practices and technologies.