

G77 and China intervention for SBSTA “Issues relating to agriculture”

Workshop on the identification and assessment of agricultural practices and technologies to enhance productivity in a sustainable manner, food security and resilience, considering the differences in agroecological zones and farming systems, such as different grassland and cropland practices and systems

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The G77 and China reaffirms its previous statements and presentations made under the SBSTA agenda item related to agriculture, recalling that the Group has contributed positively in paving the way for conducting the four in-session workshops under this agenda item, including the ones that were held in SBSTA-42. The Group will continue to engage constructively on the SBSTA-44 technical and scientific discussions, taking into account the conclusions of SBSTA 38, and towards the consideration at SBSTA 44 and 45 of the reports of the workshops.

The G77 and China underlines that the report of the workshop need to be comprehensive and to capture the views of developing country parties, taking into consideration that agriculture is the backbone of developing countries and their economic and social systems. The Group would like to underscore once again the urgent need to increase the adaptive capacity of agriculture to deal with the adverse effects of climate change. This continues to be the key priority for developing countries for SBSTA work, in light of the particular vulnerabilities of the agricultural sector and its relationship with the livelihood of millions, food security and poverty eradication. This is even more relevant in a world context in which the urgency is how to feed a world growing population, projected to be of nine billion for 2050. It is also important to take into account the diversity of 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.

This is in line with the Paris Agreement, which recognizes the fundamental priority of safeguarding food security and ending hunger, and the particular vulnerabilities of food production systems to the adverse effects of climate change. As well, it is important to recall that the Agreement states in its objective that food production is not to be threatened.

In this context of today’s workshop, it is widely acknowledged that climate change impacts are a major threat to food security and food production. Developing countries are working on improving agricultural practices in order to increase the adaptive capacity of the sector and its productivity in a sustainable manner, but they are constrained by the lack of capacities and financial and technological means. With increased evidence of climate change impacts, there is growing need for increased access to improved technologies and financial resources to developing countries

The G77 and China considers that the SBSTA needs to address the following issues in order to assist developing countries on the areas covered by this workshop:

- Crop and livestock breeding: access to seed technologies, including breeding new varieties that can adapt to new temperature and precipitation patterns, including resistance to water, thermal and saline stress and thereby improve productivity;
- Improving irrigation systems , enhancing water harvesting, soil fertility management, soil erosion prevention and grasslands management technologies, to adapt to climate change impacts;
- Ecosystem based approaches for adaptation;
- Access to integrated technologies for pest and disease control to address emerging climate change pest and disease;
- Improve climate information services for agriculture;
- Enhance information and knowledge sharing as public goods;
- Provide means of implementation to developing countries for the identification, assessment and adoption of agricultural practices and technologies that can increase the adaptive capacity of agricultural systems, and enhance their productivity, taking into account differences in agricultural systems and socio-economic specific contexts;
- Enhance capacity building services for producers;
- Risk management systems;
- Participatory and gender responsive approaches to climate actions.

G77 and China countries believe there is a wide space for collaboration among parties in those areas, in view of the local, national and regional circumstances. There are also big opportunities to draw and share lessons from the experience of the different Parties. Developed countries can play a very positive role in providing means of implementation to developing countries for these to increase the adaptive capacity of their agricultural systems and thus to increase productivity in a sustainable manner.

Finally, the G77 and China reaffirms its position to undertake scientific and technical work on impacts of climate change impacts on agriculture consistent with SBSTA mandate in Art.9, on the basis of the objective, principles and provisions of the Convention, and particularly taking into account the commitments in articles 4.3, 4.4, 4.5 of the Convention. The Group is willing to continue engaging constructively in this session to continue the consideration of the reports of the first two workshops at SBSTA 44 and, together with the reports on the two in-session workshops to be held at these sessions at SBSTA 45, in accordance with what was agreed in Paris.