

Statement by Viet Nam
at the UNFCCC SBSTA 44 in-session workshop on agriculture

20 May 2016

Bonn, Germany

Experience with the identification of adaptation measures in the context of agriculture

Viet Nam is pleased to share its national views as well as regional views on behalf of fellow ASEAN Member States on issues related to agriculture, particularly on identification of adaptation measures.

The ASEAN submission to SBSTA 44 is based on the ASEAN Guidelines on the Promotion of Climate Resilient Practices in Agriculture, which was endorsed by the ASEAN Ministers on Agriculture and Forestry in September 2015. The guidelines draw upon regional studies on vulnerability and practices to increase resilience conducted by 7 ASEAN member countries under the auspices of the ASEAN Climate Resilience Network.

ASEAN Member States are committed to promoting the ASEAN Community to become a single market economy for regional resilience and security, in which for agriculture sector, the ASEAN Member States have identified a range of adaptation measures, both national and regional, to increase agricultural resilience and food security. These include measures relating to planning, finance, governance, policy frameworks, achieving scale through innovative approaches, improving gender equity and social inclusion, and research and knowledge systems.

At the national level, Viet Nam has adopted the National Action Plan on Climate Change (2012-2020), which is supported by sub-national Climate Change Response Action Plans (CCR-APs). The focus of adaptation measures implemented under these policy frameworks include:

- Water resources management
- Crop production (triple win solution)
- Forest management

- Coastal zone management
- Agricultural waste management
- Aquaculture and fisheries

Priorities for ASEAN Member States

Based on our experience with identification of adaptation measures in the context of agriculture, the following priority adaptation measures have been identified for scaling up within the region.

- Creating the evidence base:** through pilot implementation of climate-resilient agricultural practices and generation of an evidence base.
- Scaling up models for impact:** Develop and share experiences on successful climate-resilient to reach smallholder farmers at scale
- Climate Information Services for Smallholders:** Develop effective approaches to provide climate information based services to smallholder farmers which include interpretation and application of the information (e.g. through ICT, SMS, Radio and extension).
- Market Orientation:** Integrate marketability and other value chain aspects into research on the competitiveness of stress tolerant varieties.
- Funding and Capacity Building:** Provide funding for capacity building and technical assistance among participating countries in the ASEAN-CRN and working with existing alliances.

Needs/actions at the national level

At the national level, addressing above mentioned regional priorities necessitates a number of actions. These include:

- the review of agricultural development plans
- change/shift cropping patterns and schedules
- utilization of good agricultural practices
- building institutional capacities
- mechanisms for technology transfer and technology development
- development of production standards and regulations to strengthen value chain wide resilience
- mobilization of climate finance to support implementation

Recommendations to SBSTA

With the successful outcomes of COP 21, this is a good time for SBSTA to work on the identification of the measures, practices and technologies for adaptation to climate change and enhancement of agricultural productivity. Viet Nam is of the view that the SBSTA 44 should establish a working group to further determine the Terms of Reference and timeline for implementing a SBSTA work programme on agriculture, with a view to recommend the establishment of such a work programme to COP22 and beyond.

Processes under the convention, particularly on technology transfer and capacity building are crucial to identifying and implementing adaptation measures at scale. Therefore, linkages should be established with the financial mechanism and technology mechanism of the Convention, with the future work on agriculture under SBSTA. Linkages should also be established with the Convention's efforts to gender mainstreaming, in order to be gender-responsive in the implementation of adaptation measures.

ASEAN Member States recognize processes and programmes outside the Convention such as the ASEAN Climate Resilience Network (ASEAN-CRN) at the regional level and the CGIAR – Consortium of International Agriculture Research Centers and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, as key actors outside the Convention, with capacity to support actions by parties. Partnerships with such networks and organisations should be facilitated to realise synergies in the region.

ASEAN Member States are of the view that UNFCCC can play an important role in facilitating the implementation and scaling up of agricultural practices and technologies in ASEAN as well as in other regions facing similar issues in the agricultural sector. The Convention's role may include supporting cooperation and knowledge sharing amongst parties and relevant observer organizations. In this regard, ASEAN support the development of a platform for exchanging information, experience, good practices, databases, successful institutional developments, success stories and lessons learned on responding to climate change in agricultural systems.