

European Union statement at the UNFCCC SBSTA Agriculture workshop (Warsaw, November 12th 2013).

Mr. Co-Chair,

Lithuania speaking on behalf of the European Union and its 28 member states, believes that the agriculture submissions of parties at SBSTA 39, show areas of common understanding concerning adaptation co-benefits that reduce greenhouse gases and sustainably increase food production.

It is also apparent that some scientific gaps¹ still remain to be filled in the area of adaptation and its co-benefits.

Developing countries in their presentations and their submissions to SBSTA have shown great interest in capacity building and knowledge transfer, which are areas of common interest for many parties.

The use of specific examples and case studies (rice, livestock etc.) could be beneficial for the development of future SBSTA work on agriculture.

It's important to also note the mitigation potential² of agriculture as mentioned by the distinguished presenter from the IPCC and to ask the question as to our ability to adapt our agriculture systems to a >4 Celsius world³?

We therefore need to also identify where sustainable agriculture production can contribute to mitigation efforts⁴ while also becoming more resilient and producing more food. This needs to be done in a manner which acknowledges the importance of food security and the diversity of traditional practices, cultures and needs of farmers (particularly small holder farmers) all over the world.

The European Union is looking forward to positively engaging with other parties on ways to advance the work on agriculture under SBSTA.

Thank you Mr. Co-Chair

¹ FCCC/SBSTA/2013/MISC.17 and Add.1 and Add.2.

² http://www.ipcc.ch/pdf/assessment-report/ar4/syr/ar4_syr.pdf

³ http://climatechange.worldbank.org/sites/default/files/Turn_Down_the_heat_Why_a_4_degree_centrigra_de_warmer_world_must_be_avoided.pdf

⁴ <http://www.unep.org/pdf/UNEPemissionsGapReport2013.pdf>