

A SUBMISSION ON ISSUES RELATED TO AGRICULTURE FOR CONSIDERATION BY SBSTA AT ITS 36TH SESSION

This submission is made pursuant to paragraphs 75 and 76 of COP17 LCA Outcome.

1.0 Preamble

Africa emphasizes that agriculture is central to the economic and social development of its people. The priority for Africa and its communities in the agriculture sector is to ensure food security, eradicate poverty and enhance socio economic development, environment and livelihood sustainability with special attention to smallholder and marginal farmers and fishers through adapting to the effects of climate change in the sector of agriculture and identification of the potential co-benefits of mitigation. This must be implemented through actions in the immediate, short, medium and long-term. In Sudan agriculture remains the main sector in the economy providing 90 per cent of the national food requirements and contributing to about 40 percent of Sudan's GDP and 80 per cent of its non-oil merchandize exports as well as livelihood for nearly three quarters of the population and employment for more than half of the labour force. The weak performance of the sector is perpetuated by several factors. The stagnant growth in the irrigated sector is primarily the result of the deferred rehabilitation and modernization of irrigation systems and their management leading to low irrigation efficiency and low productivity. Low growth in the rain-fed sector is traced to the vulnerability of production to climatic variability, declining and erratic yield. .

2.0 The Scope

In this submission, agriculture encompasses, but not limited to farming, harvesting, processing and related products and activities from crops, livestock, fisheries and aquaculture.

3.0 Priority Issues for Agriculture under SBSTA

A. Knowledge Base

1. Compilation and assessment of the present state of knowledge regarding impacts of climate change on agriculture and related ecosystems including *inter alia* agricultural productivity, pests and disease prevalence, land degradation, biodiversity loss, seasonal variability of rainfall patterns, the associated risks, vulnerabilities, adaptation and mitigation technologies and techniques including indigenous technologies and knowledge and their socio-economic impacts with a view to identifying gaps and needs of the African countries and ways to deal with them.

2. Identification of, and transfer of practices and technologies that are appropriate to the African context such that knowledge and information are easily accessible by African countries.
3. Support the strengthening and where needed setting-up national mechanisms for effective dissemination of required practices and technologies.
4. Facilitate the assessment of current and projected impacts of climate change on the agricultural sector under different climate scenarios (temperature) on national, regional and international levels, in particular on the African continent.
5. Compilation of the needs of African countries building on available data and country submissions such as in national communications needs assessments and other relevant reports.
6. Establish guidelines and modalities to facilitate the process of identifying mitigation potential in agriculture, in particular in African countries, taking into account national circumstances.

B. National Research & Development

1. Organize in-session workshops to enhance knowledge and deepen understanding related to research and development (R&D) and scaling up of technologies for increased agricultural productivity.
2. Prepare a technical paper on the issues of sustainable management and use of marine resources.
3. Harmonize methodologies, measurements and guidelines for carbon emission and sequestration in the agricultural sector.
4. Prepare assessments in post harvest technologies and systems to eliminate wastage and inefficiencies and advise on the ways and mechanism of promoting and transferring of such technologies and systems.
5. Facilitate identification and application of tools, methods and models for climate forecasting in order to improve seasonal forecasting, early warning systems and future projection of vulnerability and impacts in agricultural systems.
6. Support setting up of national carbon accounting system.

C. Cooperation for Research and Development (R&D)

1. Establish a 3 year work programme to enhance international cooperation on research and development of climate resilient agricultural systems, practices and

technologies based on needs identified by African countries, and establishing modalities and guidelines to enhance cooperation and dissemination of research outcomes and technology outputs.

D. Capacity Development

1. Assessment of capacity needs and support mechanisms for strengthening institutional and policy frameworks for implementation of adaptation and mitigation actions plans.

E. Other Matters.

1. SBSTA should consider providing information and advice to the COP on how to deal with issues that need to be addressed to realize food security, to eradicate poverty, enhance socio economic development, environment and livelihood sustainability and support effective adaptation and mitigation in agriculture. These issues include; financing agriculture, trade, intellectual property rights and support for early action in agriculture.
2. Africa urges Annex II parties of the Convention, development partners and multilateral organizations to provide support including finance, capacity building, research and technology transfer to African countries to undertake and implement adaptation and mitigation actions in agriculture, in line with articles 4.1 (c), 4.4 and 4.5 of the convention.