

# UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA

## SUBMISSION ON ISSUE RELATED TO AGRICULTURE

### 1. INTRODUCTION

For Tanzania like in many developing countries particularly LDC agriculture is the backbone of the economy and the livelihood of many rural communities. It contributes over 50% to the GDP and employs over 90% of rural communities.

The impact of climate change on agriculture therefore directly affects the economic sustainability of the country and the very survival of the rural communities.

Enhancing agricultural sector resilience to the climate change impacts is of paramount importance for ensuring food security and economic development.

In addressing climate change impacts and the related adaptation measures, agriculture should be taken as a key sector for sustainable development. Therefore adaptation/mitigation strategies should not be taken from a local perspective only but rather should be taken from the national perspective. Look at agriculture as an engine of economic growth and the source of economic sustainability amidst the changing climate. It is a key pillar for sustainable economic development and social security at all levels.

### 2. KEY ISSUES

The key issues in discussing agriculture in the context of climate change should include the following:

1. Ensuring that agriculture issues are addressed from a national perspective since it is the backbone of many poor countries' economies. It is not a local community issue it is a national issue whereby adaptation is a priority.
2. Improving agriculture productivity through better management of agricultural production cycle. This will require international support (finance, technology, capacity building), in the short term (to address extreme weather events); medium term (to put in place functional systems such as early warning system, systematic observation and information dissemination network); and long term (new research and policy approaches to address the challenges associated with ecosystem shift and global agricultural trade imbalances due to climate change).
3. Contribution of agriculture towards climate change mitigation should be seen from a sustainable development approach. The agricultural sector can contribute to mitigation as a consequence of increased productivity and sustainability. Mitigation opportunities and options should arise from increases support for agricultural sustainability to ensure food security, economic growth and better livelihood for poor countries.

4. The international community should avoid giving international guidelines or making decisions which will undermine national sovereignty in addressing their sustainable development needs in the context of how they should use the agriculture sector to achieve sustainable development aspirations. Such decisions or guidelines should not limit or confine countries to a given set of standardized procedures that can jeopardize the freedom of countries for the use of indigenous approaches and knowledge to improve their livelihood. There should not be a “one size fits all” approach. The strength of improving agricultural productivity lies within the diversity of approaches amidst the changing climate.
5. Systems should be put in place to ensure that the approaches for increased productivity of the agriculture sector for economic sustainability be the one that also give benefits related to mitigation. Adaptation actions for the agricultural sector (including increased resilience) should be taken as a measure to achieve mitigation needs and such action should aim at improving productivity for ensuring food security, economic growth and better livelihood.