

**UGANDA SUBMISSION ON ISSUES RELATED TO AGRICULTURE FOR
CONSIDERATION BY SBSTA AT ITS 36TH SESSION PERSUANT TO PARAGRAPH
75 AND 76 OF COP 17 LCA OUTCOME**

Introduction

Uganda like most of the Least Develop Countries and Africa, takes agriculture as central to the economic and social development of its people. The national priority in modernizing 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 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.

The Uganda NAPA identifies the country's rain fed Agriculture sector among the most vulnerable sectors to the adverse impacts of climate change. Adaptation to Climate Change in the Agricultural sector should therefore be given precedence as the majority of rural populations derive their livelihoods and incomes from this sector in the country.

Uganda's population growth rate at 3.4% per annum is one of the highest in the Africa region. Ensuring food security for this fast growing population therefore calls for increase in agricultural production and productivity, which will paradoxically entail increase in use of inorganic fertilizers and reclaiming wetlands for food production leading to increased greenhouse emissions.

Four main challenges face the agricultural sector in Uganda: low production and productivity; low value addition to agricultural produce and limited market access; weak implementation of agricultural laws and policies; and weak public agricultural institutions.

As such interventions in the agricultural sector have to address (i) enhancing production and productivity; (ii) improving access to markets and value addition; (iii) creating an enabling environment, and; (iv) institutional strengthening in the sector.

Agriculture is linked and supported by investments in other sectors such as rural roads, agricultural finance and energy. It is a highly integrated sector requiring strong multi-sectoral coordination.

Scientific and technological issues for consideration by SBSTA should therefore include farming operations, livestock, crops and fisheries, as well as activities along their value chains including germplasm, post harvest handling and processing. This should entail recognition of the diversity of agricultural systems characterized by differing climatic and soil conditions and water availability.

Priority issues for Agriculture under SBSTA

1. Knowledge Base

Ensuring that current knowledge regarding climate change adaptation and mitigation in the agriculture sector can be adequately utilized for decision making at national, sub-national and farm level, should be a key objective. A recognition that the state of knowledge on climate change and agriculture especially knowledge products and models is much higher at global and regional levels but these have not necessarily been transformed into usable information for decision making at national, sub-national and farm level. As such a compilation, assessment and sharing of knowledge especially regarding agricultural production and productivity, seasonal variability of rainfall, climate adaptation and mitigation technologies as well as land degradation should be enhanced. In addition, steps should be taken to enhance the usability of the available knowledge products for decision making at national, sub-national and farm level especially early warning on drought and extreme weather events.

2. Assessment of Climate Change impacts and mitigation potential

Current and projected impacts of climate change on the Agricultural sector in Uganda are not clearly known. It is therefore necessary to undertake assessments to establish the climate change impacts as well as build capacity nationally for continuous monitoring of climate change impacts. Equally, guidelines and tools to establish the mitigation potential in the Agricultural sector should be put in place and national capacity developed for their application/use at national level. The circumstances in a number of Least Developed Countries call for international cooperation and support in realizing the required capacity and application of the guidelines and tools for climate change impact assessment and mitigation potential.

3. Research

Capacity needs assessments and capacity development activities for Agricultural Research institutions at national and regional levels should be undertaken to enhance their role in development of climate resilient agricultural systems, practices and technologies. Regional and national Research institutions should be at the forefront in especially in the development and promoting the use and dissemination of knowledge products, guidelines, tools and models for climate change Adaptation and Mitigation in the Agricultural Sector. Programs for international and regional cooperation in research activities and information sharing networks should be supported.

4. Identification and transfer of practices and technologies

Agriculture systems are diverse and as such identification and transfer of practices and technologies should be appropriate to the specific conditions and the social economic setting. Sharing of such knowledge should target a wide range of stakeholders but should focus in

particular on the land users especially farmers making the best use of South - South and North South cooperation as appropriate. In the case of Uganda where the agricultural sector is dominated by small holder farmers with relatively high illiteracy among them, a versatile agricultural extension service is necessary and has a key role in facilitating the identification and transfer of practices and technologies. Farmer to farmer mutual learning activities such as identification and promotion of farmer innovators and farmer exchange visits have also proved effective in this regard especially where they are well coordinated by farmers' organizations and have strong links with research institutions.

5. Climate Change Mitigation

Emissions in the Agricultural sector are likely to increase in a quest to ensure food security for the increasing population. Climate Change mitigation actions in the Agriculture Sector should therefore be promoted. However the approach to mitigation should be to prioritize mitigation actions that deliver co-benefits of Adaptation in the sector, contribute to efficiency in agricultural production systems, and do not negatively affect food security, livelihoods of rural communities to improve resilience.

A need to establish guidelines and modalities to facilitate the process of identifying mitigation potential in agriculture, in particular LDCs and Africa, taking into account national circumstances.

6. Capacity Building

Capacity Building including information sharing, education and training on adaptation and mitigation technologies in the Agricultural sector should be stepped up to equip key actors especially at national, sub-national and farm level with relevant skills to enhance the agricultural sector contribution to climate adaptation and mitigation .

Annex II parties of the Convention, Development Partners and multilateral organizations are urged to provide support including finance, capacity building, research and technology transfer to LDCs and Africa 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.

7. Link with other UNFCCC processes

Where appropriate Climate Change actions in the Agricultural sector should draw lessons from other related processes such as REDD plus and LULUCF.

8. Early actions

Early actions to demonstrate, share knowledge and scale up best practices and approaches in Adaptation and Mitigation in the Agricultural Sector should be undertaken to inform policy and

decision making at all levels. All relevant stakeholders particularly farmers, extension workers and researchers should be involved.

9 . Other Matters.

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.