

ZAMBIA'S 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 AWGLCA Outcome that referred an agenda item on agriculture to Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice (SBSTA), with a view to engaging in a broader discussion of agriculture and invited Parties and accredited observers to the COP to submit their views on agriculture to the UNFCCC secretariat for their consideration at the SBSTA-36 in Bonn, Germany.

Preamble

Zambia emphasizes that agriculture is central to the economic and social development of its people. The priority for Zambia and other African countries in the agriculture sector is to ensure food security, eradicate poverty, enhance socio-economic development, ensure environmental and livelihood sustainability with special attention to small-holder and marginal farmers and fishers through adapting to the effects of climate change with the identification and maximization of the potential co-benefits of mitigation. These must be implemented through actions in the immediate, short, medium and long-term.

The Scope

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

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 and soil 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 for additional analysis for Zambia and other African countries and ways to deal with them.

2. Identification and transfer of practices and technologies that are appropriate to the developing country context such that knowledge and information are easily accessible by Zambia and other African countries.
3. Support the strengthening and, where needed, setting-up of 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 and the scaling up of technologies for increased agricultural productivity and resilience.
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 on post harvest technologies and systems to reduce wastage and inefficiencies and advise on the ways and mechanisms 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 systems.

C. Cooperation for R & D

It is important to encourage and promote cooperation on new research and the sharing existing knowledge between countries and regions to benefit both adaptation and mitigation activities. This could include: technology development and transfer, identifying and sharing best practices on both adaptation and mitigation, enhancing access to information, and education and training through extension activities:

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 establish modalities and guidelines to enhance cooperation and dissemination of research outcomes and technology development outputs.

D. Capacity Development

- 1 Assess the capacity needs and support mechanisms for strengthening institutional and policy frameworks for implementation of agricultural adaptation and mitigation plans of action.

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, eradicate poverty, enhance socio economic development, enhance environment and livelihood sustainability and support effective adaptation and mitigation in agriculture. These issues include; financing, trade, intellectual Property rights and investment in technology which supports early action in agriculture.
2. Zambia 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),(d), (e), 4.3, 4.4 and 4.5 of the convention.