

Submission by Bangladesh
Pursuant to COP Decision in Durban on
“Outcome of the Work of the AWGLCA under the Convention” in
Paras 75 and 76 on Cooperative and Sectoral Approaches

Bangladesh welcomes the decision by COP in its 17th meeting in Durban in 2011 to basically decouple agriculture from the sectoral approaches for mitigation. However, the paragraph 73 is not explicit whether the issue of agriculture has been completely taken out of the mitigation framework under LCA. This should be made explicit.

Given the above, Bangladesh believes that several issues need to be underscored in considering the issues under programme for agriculture for it to be properly considered given its extremely important role in food security, generation of income and employment and livelihood of vast majority of people, directly and indirectly, as well as in trade relationships between and among nations. These are as follows:

Mandate of SBSTA under convention and the Present Tasks

1. The mandate of SBSTA as defined under the Convention may or may not be sufficient for it to give full attention to all the issues under agriculture. It should therefore closely examine its own mandate and advise the COP on how it can or can not fulfill the expectation under the Durban decision and whether it should work in association with other bodies under the Convention.

Scope for the Work Programme for agriculture

1. Agriculture needs to be properly and explicitly defined and its mandate clarified explicitly. In economic terms crop cultivation, livestock (including poultry and other birds), fisheries (inland, estuarine, marine) and forestry are all included under agriculture. *However, as forestry is often treated separately, a decision needs to be taken whether this should be considered a part of agriculture or kept separate.*
2. What activities should be considered, only production, production and processing including transport or what else? If processing is included, up to what level, only home processing or including factory processing? Adaptation needs and or mitigation potentials and costs will vary tremendously depending on what is included and what not as well across countries
3. Only a few of the major crops so far has been analysed globally or for specific countries for their vulnerability such as wheat, rice and maize leaving out many of the tuber crops which may be important in many country contexts. SBSTA needs to have an inventory of such analyses to fully understand the adaptation needs. How to take care of such incompleteness of knowledge for immediate actions under programme for agriculture?

Core concerns

4. The *core concerns of food security* in terms of all of its three components, viz., availability (from domestic production), accessibility (through income and employment generation) and nutritional aspects should remain paramount in all the recommendations that the SBSTA makes.
5. Agriculture is one sector where often adaptation and mitigation (because of GHG emission) are intertwined. Activities under one may have implications

for the other. The trades-off between the two must be carefully assessed when making recommendations keeping in view the concerns related to food security as well as those related to water management and use of energy. How far agricultural productivity may be increased where such synergy or trades-off exist therefore may become a major area for recommendation. It may have to be accepted that paramount concerns of food security may not allow under the present circumstances to lower GHG emission without new technology or new organizational matters which may be time-consuming. Under no circumstances such limits may be used for penalizing through trade or other kinds of sanctions against countries.

Essential activities to be examined by SBSTA under the Work programme on Agriculture

Given the above issues of mandates of SBSTA, of the Work programme for Agriculture and core concerns, the SBSTA may look into, take actions and advise the COP on the following:

6. *Assess the state of knowledge related to vulnerability* of various agricultural systems and their adaptation needs, related issues on GHG emission, state of available technology, their maturity for immediate applicability including organizational, institutional and capacity-building needs (including those for R&D) on a national, regional and global scale;
7. *Examine specific technical and policy issues related to specific technology* (such as GMO), their advantages and limitations; *IPR* for technology transfer for agriculture;
8. *Scientific and technical tools and their availability as well complexity* for measurements of vulnerability, adaptation needs, GHG emission and mitigation needs;
9. *Apprise and advise the COP* on other activities, or its decisions which may be affected by or may affect the Work Programme under Agriculture;
10. *Coordinate and cooperate with other Convention and global bodies as appropriate* for assessing issues on which SBSTA may have limited mandate or wishes to examine robustness of its recommendation;
11. *Once the Miscellaneous document is prepared, Parties may be invited again* to submit views on issues on their specific country-contexts before the COP is advised by the SBSTA in its 18th Session in Qatar.

No value judgment may be made by the SBSTA in any of its recommendations and their acceptability and applicability must be at the discretion of the Parties concerned where the core concerns, according to them, are not well- addressed.