



Technical Workshop on Cross Linkages among Food Systems Actors and Aligning Food Systems in National Adaptation Plans and Nationally Determined Contributions

Dates: 25-26 November 2025

Venue: Bangkok, Kingdom of Thailand

I. Background

Climate change poses significant threats to global food security and agricultural productivity as highlighted by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), with vulnerable regions such as Asia and the Middle East experiencing considerable declines in food production. In response, many countries have prioritized agriculture within their Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) and National Adaptation Plans (NAPs), integrating mitigation and adaptation actions that address climate risks while aiming to reduce emissions and enhance resilience.

A critical enabler of resilient food systems is the integration of cross-sectoral linkages within adaptation planning. This includes leveraging genebanks and the conservation of crop genetic diversity, which serve as foundational resources for developing climate-resilient crop varieties that can withstand extreme weather, pests, and other stresses associated with climate change.

Embedding these approaches into NAP and NDC processes promotes coherence across agriculture, water and health among other sectors, facilitating efficient resource use and delivering broader benefits such as sustainable land management, secure livelihoods and empowerment of vulnerable groups including smallholder farmers, women and Indigenous Peoples.

The emphasis on resilient food and agricultural systems aligns with global commitments, underscoring the urgency for multi-sectoral strategies to strengthen food security amidst climate change. The [UN Secretary-General's Call to Action for Accelerated Food Systems Transformation](#) also highlighted the need to align national food systems transformation pathways with evolving NDCs and NAPs. Similarly, the [COP28 UAE Declaration on Sustainable Agriculture and Climate Action](#) affirmed that agriculture and food systems are central to achieving the Paris Agreement goals and must urgently adapt to climate realities. The [UAE Framework for Global Climate Resilience](#), including the outcome of the first

global stocktake and the global goal on adaptation, further prioritizes attaining climate-resilient food production, promoting sustainable, regenerative agriculture and equitable access to nutrition as one of the targets.

The project [Biodiversity for Opportunities, Livelihoods and Development \(BOLD\)](#), funded by the Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation, and managed by the [Global Crop Diversity Trust](#), aims to ensure and expand the availability of key national crop collections and promote their use by researchers, pre-breeders, and farmers for climate change adaptation in a number of partner developing countries. BOLD contributes to implementing provisions of the FAO International Treaty related to conservation, sustainable use, and sharing of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture (PGRFA), and contributes to the achievement of SDG Target 2.5, which recognizes the maintenance of crop diversity through soundly managed and diversified genebanks at national, regional and international levels as essential to end hunger and malnutrition.

Genebanks have an essential role in climate adaptation and can serve as an essential pillar for sustainable agriculture and food security in the face of climate change. They are central to national efforts in climate-resilient food systems. By preserving a wide array of genetic materials, genebanks can serve as repositories that can provide the genetic traits necessary for crop varieties needed in the face of changing climate conditions, pests, and diseases. With this backdrop, there is an opportunity for genebanks to be recognized in the NAPs and NDCs as a critical solution for food system resilience in the face of climate shocks and stresses. By integrating genebanks into these plans, countries can ensure that their food and agricultural strategies are underpinned by a strong foundation of genetic diversity and resource availability.

As the regional presence of the UNFCCC Secretariat, the Regional Collaboration Centre for Asia and the Pacific serves as the primary point of contact for Parties and non-Party stakeholders. They support the delivery of training, workshops, events, and products related to adaptation and mitigation, and facilitate capacity building and coordination among regional stakeholders to accelerate the implementation of the Paris Agreement.

In this context, the proposed *National Workshop on Cross Linkages among Food Systems Actors and Aligning Food Systems in NAP and NDC* aims to foster coordination and knowledge exchange among stakeholders, ensuring a holistic and inclusive approach to national climate policies and climate commitments within the food systems sector.

II. Context

Agrifood systems are central to both the economy and livelihoods in Lao PDR and Viet Nam, providing employment to large rural populations and contributing significantly to food security and development. However, these systems are increasingly vulnerable to climate change impacts, including rising temperatures, shifting rainfall patterns, floods, droughts, and saline intrusion—particularly in key regions such as the Mekong Delta in Viet Nam and upland areas in Laos.

Lao PDR

Lao PDR, a landlocked and mountainous LDC, faces growing climate risks to its agrifood systems, particularly erratic rainfall, droughts, and floods that undermine crop yields and food security. The country has prioritized agriculture and land use in its updated NDC (2021) and has made significant progress in developing its first NAP.

The agriculture sector is targeted under the NDC for enhanced climate resilience and improved productivity through climate-smart farming, agroforestry, and better water management. Lao PDR is developing a NAP that emphasizes community-based adaptation, food and nutrition security, climate-

resilient farming practices, and features cross-sectoral coordination and institutional strengthening in adaptation planning and implementation.

Both Vietnam and Lao PDR are at critical junctures in transforming their agrifood systems to become more climate-resilient and sustainable. Strengthening stakeholder collaboration, knowledge exchange and regional cooperation will be essential to scale effective climate responses in their agrifood sectors.

Viet Nam

Viet Nam has made significant strides in aligning its agrifood systems with its climate action agenda. Agriculture, forestry, and land use (AFOLU) is a major sector in both mitigation and adaptation components of the country's present NDC (2020) and its NAP, approved in 2020.

In its NDC, the agriculture sector contributes to both conditional and unconditional emission reduction targets. Climate-smart agriculture, methane reduction from rice cultivation, and sustainable livestock management are core focus areas. Vietnam is also a signatory of the Global Methane Pledge and is working to reduce rice-related emissions with international partners.

For NAP, it focuses heavily on building resilience in rural livelihoods, improving early warning systems, water resource management and mainstreaming climate risk into agricultural planning. Special attention is given to smallholder farmers and gender-responsive approaches.

III. Workshop goals

The technical workshop aims to:

- Identify key stakeholders across the agrifood systems and foster multi-stakeholder collaboration to support the achievement of agriculture-related targets in NAP and NDC;
- Understand the roles and contributions of agrifood system actors in advancing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and global climate goals, particularly through the NAP and NDC, and foster knowledge and technology sharing among actors, and
- Define priority areas and formulate policy recommendations for agrifood system actors to inform national policy and planning processes.

IV. Target Audience

Ten (10) participants from each country representing the following:

- Government representatives from relevant ministries (Climate Change, Environment, Agriculture, Science & Technology, etc.)
- Genebanks, plant breeders, local seed businesses
- Farmers, farmers organizations, NGOs
- Private seed companies, agro-dealers
- CGIAR centers
- Relevant local financiers
- Other relevant stakeholders (depending on national circumstances)

V. Proposed Agenda

	Day 1	Day 2
9:00 - 9:30	Welcome and opening	Day 1 recap
9:30 - 10:00	<p>Session 1: Setting the stage: Workshop overview and objectives</p> <p>Introduction to the workshop Ice-breaker exercise</p>	<p>Session 5: Understanding Stakeholder Roles in Agrifood Systems for Achieving Climate Goals (Breakout Session per country)</p> <p>Objective: Using Steps 1-3 of the Participatory Analysis Tool, to take stock of the roles and contributions of agrifood system stakeholders in relation to the NAP and NDCs, and identify ongoing initiatives, gaps, challenges, and opportunities for enhanced engagement.</p>
10:00 - 10:30	Group photo; Coffee/tea break	Coffee/tea break
10:30 - 12:30	<p>Session 2: Agrifood Systems in Global, National and Local Contexts – Aligning with Climate and Development Priorities</p> <p>Objective: To establish a shared understanding of current policies, frameworks and priorities related to agrifood systems and climate change at the global, national and local levels.</p>	<p>Session 6: Mapping Contributions and Dependence Across Agrifood Systems Actors (Systems dynamics diagram)</p> <p>Objective: Using Steps 4-7 of the Participatory Analysis Tool, to visualize interdependencies and strengthen multi-sectoral collaboration within agrifood systems.</p>
12:30 - 13:30	Lunch break	Lunch break
13:30 - 15:00	<p>Session 3: Baselining: Country presentations and examples on agriculture and agrifood system-related targets and priorities in NAPs and NDCs</p> <p>Objective: To understand how countries integrate agriculture and agrifood systems into their NAPs and NDCs, including targets, priority measures, and resource mobilization. Additional country examples may be shared by organizers or resource persons.</p>	<p>Session 7: Visioning and Shaping Policy Recommendations for Enhanced Stakeholder Engagement in NAPs and NDCs</p> <p>Objective: To envision roles and contributions of actors in NAP and NDC 3.0 (formulation/development and implementation) and identify key priorities and policy recommendations to strengthen stakeholder engagement in NAPs and NDCs.</p>
15:00 - 15:30	Coffee/tea break	Coffee/tea break
15:30 - 17:00	<p>Session 4: Towards Policy Implementation: Finance and Technology Needs for Agrifood Systems</p> <p>Objective: To explore finance and technology solution, needs and opportunities to implement and achieve climate and development priorities related to agri-food systems.</p>	<p>Session 8: Workshop Synthesis and Validation of Outcomes</p> <p>Objective: To present and validate the key outcomes of the workshop and gather any additional insights or reflections from participants.</p> <p>Closing</p>