United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change

Overview of past work on agriculture

1st Workshop of the Koronivia Joint Work on Agriculture

Katowice, Poland, 3. December 2018

Dirk Nemitz, Programme Officer

UNFCCC secretariat

Outline of Presentation

- Agriculture under the UNFCCC
- Common elements of 5 workshop reports
- Role of SBSTA
- Linkages with processes outside the Convention
- Summary of key points

Agriculture under the UNFCCC

- Agriculture has been an integral part of all workstreams under the Convention
- Additional discussion on agriculture took place under the Ad Hoc Working Group on Long-Term Cooperative Action under the Convention (AWG-LCA)
- At COP 17 in Durban (2011) with decision 2/CP.17, the COP requested the SBSTA to consider issues related to agriculture
- SBSTA 36 (May 2012) initiated the discussion on issues related to agriculture
- Over time, the SBSTA agreed to hold 5 thematic workshops on this matter

5 SBSTA Workshops

SBSTA44 in-session workshop on the identification of adaptation measures, taking into account the diversity of the agricultural systems, indigenous knowledge systems and the differences in scale as well as possible co-benefits and sharing experiences in research and development and on the ground activities, including socioeconomic, environmental and gender aspects

SBSTA44 in-session workshop on the identification and assessment of agricultural practices and technologies to enhance productivity in a sustainable manner, food security and resilience, considering the differences in agro-ecological zones and farming systems, such as different grassland and cropland practices and systems

SBSTA42 in-session workshop on the development of early warning systems and contingency plans in relation to extreme weather events and its effects such as desertification, drought, floods, landslides, storm surge, soil erosion, and saline water intrusion

SBSTA42 in-session workshop on the assessment of risk and vulnerability of agricultural systems to different climate change scenarios at regional, national and local levels, including but not limited to pests and diseases

SBSTA39 in-session workshop on the current state of scientific knowledge on how to enhance the adaptation of agriculture to climate change impacts while promoting rural development, sustainable development and productivity of agricultural systems and food security in all countries, particularly in developing countries, taking into account the diversity of the agricultural systems and the differences in scale as well as possible adaptation co-benefits

Common elements of 5 workshop reports

- For all Parties, adverse effects of climate change pose a major threat to the productivity of agricultural systems
- Climate change also exacerbates existing socioeconomic challenges, inequalities and vulnerabilities, thus affecting food security and local livelihoods
- Fundamental priority of safeguarding food security while improving the productivity and promoting the adaptive capacity of agriculture
- Adaptation and mitigation action is closely interlinked
- Need for urgent action on climate change
- Assisting farmers needs to be at the center, and requires involving famers‘ feedback

Common elements of 5 workshop reports

- Diversity of stakeholders, agricultural systems and national circumstances
- Should be facilitated so as to realize synergies and avoid duplication of efforts
- Importance of support, including access to finance, technologies and know-how
- Transformational change will require effective coordination of different institutions and policymakers, including active engagement of local communities
- Knowledge-sharing among Parties and relevant stakeholders essential
- Key role for international cooperation and collaboration

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Modalities for implementation of the outcomes of the five in-session workshops on issues related to agriculture and other future topics that may arise from this work

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Role of SBSTA: Scientific knowledge

- The impacts of climate change on agriculture, taking into account adaptive capacity and vulnerability assessments, for example, with regard to droughts, pests, temperature variability and extreme weather events;

- Scientific and technological issues related to agriculture and climate change with a view to informing national actions;

- Technologies, practices and know-how that improve the efficiency and productivity of agricultural systems and the exploration of ways and means of promoting the development and transfer of those technologies to strengthen the adaptive capacity of agriculture;

- Initiatives that could be launched for sharing experiences on adaption in agriculture, for example, by providing a platform for relevant information systems to interact;

- The role of loss and damage in the context of agriculture and adaptation;

- Options for improved cooperation in research and development at the national and international levels.

Role of SBSTA: Early warning systems & contingency plans

- Assisting governments and communities with expertise in developing early warning systems and contingency plans, including the development of models and technologies for early-warning of extreme climatic events;

- Building technical, financial and human capacity in coordinating institutions;

- Promoting and strengthening public–private partnerships in the design and implementation of early warning systems and enhancing regional systems that would remove barriers to the use of early warning systems and ensure timely access to their messages by end users;

- Encouraging collaborative participation by farmers in any contingency plans and linking indigenous knowledge to scientific early warning systems.

Role of SBSTA: Identification of adaptation measures

- Access to information, experience, tools and technology for real-time monitoring and data management related, inter alia, to early warning systems, vulnerability assessment and contingency plans;

- Strengthening national systems for collecting, analysing and disseminating risk and vulnerability data and information;

- Enhancing expertise on climate-related pests and diseases as well as the use of appropriate control and management methods;

- Providing assistance to governments and communities for implementing adaptation measures in response to the effects of extreme weather events;

- Providing support for the establishment of accessible regional climate databases and for research on addressing climate change impacts on agriculture, including assessments of potential economic impacts;

- Providing means of implementation, including finance, technology transfer and capacity-building, to developing countries for the assessment of the risk and vulnerability of agricultural systems to different climate change

Role of SBSTA: Agricultural practices and activities to enhance productivity

- the exchange of information on efficient water management and irrigation systems;
- the assessment of ecosystem-based approaches for adaptation and participatory and gender-responsive approaches to climate action;
- on- and off-farm practices and technologies, together with approaches to landscape-level management, including interaction among various sectors;
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- providing access to integrated technologies for the control of climate change induced pests and diseases;
- exchange of information and knowledge on adaptation practices and technologies and climate information services;
- climate-informed agricultural insurance;
- capacity-building;
- the identification of innovative technologies and know-how for distribution through technology transfer mechanisms and international collaboration.

Linkages with processes outside the Convention

- Adaptation Fund
- Africa Adaptation Initiative
- ASEAN Climate Resilience Network
- Convention on Biological Diversity
- Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes
- CGIAR-CCAFS
- FAO
- GEF
- Global Framework for Climate Services
- GRA
- Green Climate Fund
- Group on Earth Observations
- Hyogo Framework for Action
- IFAD
- IPCC
- Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030
- UNCCD
- UNDP
- UNECE
- UNEP
- United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction
- United Nations Platform for Space-based Information for Disaster Management and Emergency Response
- World Food Programme
- World Meteorological Organization

Summary of key points

- Sharing experience in research and development and in the implementation of on-the-ground activities, including their socioeconomic, environmental and gender aspects

- Address lack of scientific knowledge on climate change impacts on agriculture owing to limited data or conceptual shortcomings preventing sophisticated assessment or modelling (need for strategic research)

- Facilitating the identification, implementation and scaling up of agricultural practices and technologies in the agriculture sector, particularly in supporting cooperation and knowledge-sharing among Parties and relevant stakeholders

Summary of key points

- Assist Parties in downscaling climate scenarios and in developing multi-layered risk and vulnerability maps for different climatic events in order to enhance resilience by strengthening risk management approaches
- Facilitating access to technologies and expertise in order to develop new services for the agriculture sector
- Mobilizing climate finance
- Potential areas for synergy among the various processes under the Convention include closer cooperation among all the established platforms and bodies for adaptation

Summary of key points

Re-occurring themes

- Exploring potential for synergies among existing processes
- Finding practical ways to support Parties in the collaborative identification and development of advanced agricultural practices and technologies
- Exploring the potential of processes under the Convention to enhance knowledge exchange and the sharing of Parties‘ experiences in areas of common interest

Thank you for your attention

For more information:

https://unfccc.int/topics/land-use/workstreams/agriculture

Contact info: Dirk Nemitz, dnemitz@unfccc.int