



**Subsidiary Body for Scientific and
Technological Advice**

Sixty-fifth session

Antalya, 9–14 November 2026

Item 9 of the provisional agenda

**Sharm el-Sheikh joint work on implementation of
climate action on agriculture and food security**

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**Sharm el-Sheikh joint work on implementation of
climate action on agriculture and food security**

**Progress, challenges and opportunities related to identifying
needs and accessing means of implementation for climate
action on agriculture and food security, including sharing of
best practices**

Workshop report by the secretariat

Summary

The second in-session workshop as part of the Sharm el-Sheikh joint work on implementation of climate action on agriculture and food security, on the topic of progress, challenges and opportunities related to identifying needs and accessing means of implementation for climate action on agriculture and food security, including sharing of best practices, was held during the sixty-fourth sessions of the subsidiary bodies. It was held in hybrid format to facilitate in-person and virtual participation. Representatives of Parties, constituted bodies under the Convention, the operating entities of the Financial Mechanism and other financing entities, and observer organizations presented perspectives relevant to the topic of the workshop. They shared views on challenges in identifying needs and accessing means of implementation and best practices for addressing those challenges during a world café session. In addition, time was dedicated during the workshop to allowing participants to coordinate in relation to the joint work.



Abbreviations and acronyms

COP	Conference of the Parties
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
GCF	Green Climate Fund
GHG	greenhouse gas
LDC	least developed country
NAP	national adaptation plan
NDC	nationally determined contribution
NGO	non-governmental organization
OECD	Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development
REDD+	reducing emissions from deforestation; reducing emissions from forest degradation; conservation of forest carbon stocks; sustainable management of forests; and enhancement of forest carbon stocks (decision 1/CP.16 , para. 70)
SB	sessions of the subsidiary bodies
SBI	Subsidiary Body for Implementation
SBSTA	Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice
TNA	technology needs assessment

I. Introduction

A. Mandate and background

1. COP 27 requested the SBSTA and the SBI to establish the four-year Sharm el-Sheikh joint work on implementation of climate action on agriculture and food security, including implementation of the outcomes of the Koronivia joint work on agriculture and previous activities addressing issues related to agriculture,¹ as well as future topics, recognizing that solutions are context-specific and take into account national circumstances, with the joint work having a range of objectives.²

2. The road map for the joint work³ includes two in-session workshops, which were held sequentially, at SB 62 and 64, in hybrid format to facilitate in-person and virtual participation by representatives of the constituted bodies under the Convention, the operating entities of the Financial Mechanism, the Adaptation Fund, the Least Developed Countries Fund, the Special Climate Change Fund and observers.⁴ SB 60 requested the secretariat to dedicate time during the workshops to coordination in relation to the joint work.⁵

3. In addition, SB 60 invited Parties and observers to submit views on the topic of each workshop,⁶ which for the second workshop, as per the road map, is progress, challenges and opportunities related to identifying needs and accessing means of implementation for climate action on agriculture and food security, including sharing of best practices. Further, SB 60 requested the secretariat to prepare a report on each workshop for consideration by the subsidiary bodies at their sessions following the respective workshop.⁷

4. SB 62 invited relevant international organizations to participate in the second workshop and requested the secretariat to design it to be interactive, incorporating formats such as world café and breakout sessions, to ensure that sufficient time is allocated for exchange of views and interaction among participants, and to structure the time dedicated to coordination in relation to the joint work in such a way as to facilitate the sharing of best practices related to climate action on agriculture and food security for interlinkages, synergies, collaboration and partnerships used for effective implementation of the objectives of the joint work.⁸

B. Possible action by the subsidiary bodies

5. The subsidiary bodies may wish to consider this report with a view to preparing their report to COP 31 on the progress and outcomes of the joint work.

II. Proceedings

6. The second in-session workshop as part of the joint work was organized by the secretariat and held from 8 to 10 June 2026, during SB 64, in hybrid format to facilitate in-person and virtual participation. It was open to all Parties and observers attending the sessions.

7. The SBI Chair, Julia Gardiner, delivered opening remarks and detailed the mandate for the workshop. She invited UnaMay Gordon (Dominica) and Claudia Heidecke (Germany)

¹ See documents [FCCC/SBSTA/2014/INF.2](#), [FCCC/SBSTA/2015/INF.6](#), [FCCC/SBSTA/2015/INF.7](#), [FCCC/SBSTA/2016/INF.5](#) and [FCCC/SBSTA/2016/INF.6](#).

² Decision [3/CP.27](#), para. 14.

³ Contained in annex II to documents [FCCC/SBSTA/2024/7](#) and [FCCC/SBI/2024/13](#).

⁴ As per decision [3/CP.27](#), para. 15(b).

⁵ [FCCC/SBSTA/2024/7](#), para. 109, and [FCCC/SBI/2024/13](#), para. 56.

⁶ The submissions for the workshops are available at <https://submissions.unfccc.int/> (in the search field, type “agriculture”).

⁷ [FCCC/SBSTA/2024/7](#), paras. 113–114, and [FCCC/SBI/2024/13](#), paras. 60–61.

⁸ [FCCC/SBI/2025/11](#), paras. 69–71, and [FCCC/SBSTA/2025/4](#), paras. 107–109.

to co-facilitate the workshop. The SBSTA Vice-Chair, Carol Franco, provided closing remarks.

8. The workshop consisted of the following sessions:

- (a) Keynote presentation;
- (b) Presentations by Parties;
- (c) Presentations by observer constituencies;
- (d) Panel discussion to showcase perspectives of international organizations and presentation by the GCF;
- (e) World café session facilitating an interactive exchange of views, guided by perspectives of constituted bodies under the Convention, financing and other entities, and observer organizations;
- (f) Report back to plenary on discussions at the world café session;
- (g) Plenary discussion: exchange of views following presentations and plenary report back;
- (h) Time for coordination in relation to the joint work.

9. Further information on the workshop, including the concept note, agenda, webcasts and presentations and statements delivered, is available on the UNFCCC website.⁹

III. Summary of presentations

10. In their presentations, Parties, observer organization constituencies, international organizations and the GCF were invited to respond to the following guiding questions:

- (a) What is your experience with identifying needs and/or accessing means of implementation for climate action on agriculture and food security?
- (b) What is your assessment of progress, challenges and opportunities related to identifying needs and accessing or providing access to means of implementation for climate action on agriculture and food security?
- (c) Are there any best practices related to identifying needs and accessing means of implementation for climate action on agriculture and food security that you wish to share?

A. Keynote presentation

11. The keynote presentation, delivered by Liva Kaugurean, an expert from FAO, provided an overview of the workshop topic. The expert emphasized that the three pillars of means of implementation under the Convention and the Paris Agreement (finance, technology development and transfer, and capacity-building) are mutually reinforcing and must be supported by enabling governance and inclusive stakeholder engagement and backed by data and scientific information.¹⁰ She underscored that climate action on agriculture and food security should be implemented in a manner that is context-specific, reflects national circumstances and recognizes farmers as key agents of change. Drawing on a 2025 FAO report,¹¹ she noted that climate-related development finance for agrifood systems remains insufficient, with the share of such finance in total climate-related development finance declining from 47 per cent in 2000 to 19 per cent in 2023. She also explained this persistent gap in climate development finance for agrifood systems is reinforced by planning and data gaps that impede relevant actions, noting that only 37 per cent of NDCs submitted by the end

⁹ <https://unfccc.int/event/workshop-on-identifying-needs-and-accessing-means-of-implementation-agriculture-food-security>.

¹⁰ See <https://unfccc.int/documents/658561> for definitions and references.

¹¹ Galbiati GM, Caputo I, Brierley I, et al. 2025. *Climate-related development finance to agrifood systems – Global and regional trends*. FAO. Available at <https://doi.org/10.4060/cd7500en>.

of 2023 quantify agrifood finance needs, despite the agrifood sector's major contribution to global emissions and adaptation and food security outcomes.

12. The expert then highlighted barriers related to technology development and transfer and progress in application thereof to agrifood systems. She noted that agriculture remains a priority sector for developing country Parties, with 87 per cent of those that had submitted a TNA as at August 2019 having identified agriculture, forestry and other land use as a priority adaptation area,¹² but noted that the uptake of climate technologies remains limited and heavily dependent on external support. The main constraints preventing such uptake include inadequate financing, high upfront technology costs, weak policy and regulatory frameworks, limited recognition of value-chain needs, and weak linkages between financial institutions and agrifood actors. She stressed the importance of strengthening the integration of technology needs into NDCs and TNAs, improving access to finance, enhancing coordination of activities related to climate and agrifood policies, and promoting gender-responsive and socially inclusive approaches. She also mentioned sustainable land management, climate-resilient practices, and reducing food loss and waste as examples of effective interventions. In concluding the presentation, she underscored the importance of addressing gaps in financial, technology development and transfer, and capacity-building support through stronger partnerships aimed at accelerating climate action on agriculture and food security.

13. Following the presentation, several participants sought clarification on the scope of the term "agrifood systems", emphasizing the need to distinguish data on agriculture and food security from aggregated data on agrifood systems, and highlighted the importance of obtaining more disaggregated information on investments in climate action on agriculture and emissions from the sector. In response, the expert clarified that, according to FAO definitions, agrifood systems encompass the entire food value chain, from food production to consumption and waste management.¹³

B. Presentations by Parties

14. A representative of Ghana on behalf of the African Group stressed that smallholder farmers and pastoralists are extremely vulnerable to climate change and that the Koronivia joint work on agriculture and the Sharm el-Sheikh joint work have brought to the fore their needs, which are context-specific. He also stressed that means of implementation for climate action on agriculture and food security are being delivered on an inadequate scale, at an insufficient speed and under terms too restrictive to address related needs and build agricultural resilience and food security. Noting that the Sharm el-Sheikh online portal¹⁴ has created a space for enhancing opportunities for implementing action, he concluded by emphasizing that Parties, financial entities and constituted bodies now need to create the required enabling environment for aligning international climate finance with local agrarian realities to facilitate the delivery of concrete, action-oriented support.

15. A representative of Brazil underscored that improving access to means of implementation for climate action on agriculture is critical given the sector's vulnerability to climate change. He pointed out the limited share of international climate finance directed towards agriculture (4 per cent) and smallholder farmers in particular (less than 0.3 per cent). He noted that adaptation is a prerequisite for effective mitigation; highlighted the need for accessible long-term finance, stronger adaptation-related data systems and adaptation-oriented planning; and stressed the importance of integrating broader social and biodiversity benefits into climate action. Challenges related to technology transfer, access to climate finance and the focus on carbon in existing measurement, reporting and verification standards were discussed, as was Brazil's experience of implementing agricultural policies featuring climate and sustainability objectives. It was emphasized that locally driven adaptation, public and concessional finance, science, technology transfer, and capacity-building are essential

¹² See document [FCCC/SBI/2020/INF.1](https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/resource/FAO-SB64-SJWA-workshop_MoI_clarifications.pdf).

¹³ See https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/resource/FAO-SB64-SJWA-workshop_MoI_clarifications.pdf for further information related to the questions and for references.

¹⁴ <https://docs.unfccc.int/sharm-el-Sheikh-online-portal>.

for scaling up resilient, low-emission agricultural systems and strengthening food security outcomes.

16. Representatives of the European Union highlighted that effective internal coordination is central to identifying needs and accessing means of implementation for climate action on agriculture and food security. They explained that progress towards the climate targets of the European Union is tracked using national energy and climate plans and reviewed at five-year intervals. They noted that efforts have been made to create enabling conditions for private investment in innovative carbon removal technologies, as well as sustainable carbon farming solutions, while addressing greenwashing under the European Union's carbon removals and carbon farming regulation and shared Germany's peatland rewetting programme as an example of a stakeholder-inclusive initiative. In concluding, they emphasized the importance of adopting an approach to designing food systems that integrates sustainable agricultural production to achieve climate goals and strengthen food security, and encouraged Parties to enhance climate action on agriculture and food systems through their NDCs, NAPs and other national plans.

17. A representative of Uganda speaking on behalf of the Least Developed Countries Expert Group noted its progress in identifying needs and strengthening access to means of implementation for climate action on agriculture and food security thanks to the development of sector-specific adaptation and long-term climate strategies, undertaking of TNAs and establishment of a national climate change financing framework. However, he emphasized that despite this progress serious challenges persist, including as a result of limited access to financial, technology development and transfer, and capacity-building support, complex requirements for accessing climate finance, declining availability of grant-based finance and high public debt burdens. He underscored that opportunities are arising from the increased recognition of agriculture within climate action, availability of support for agroecology and climate-smart agriculture, and operationalization of the Sharm el-Sheikh online portal, and called for simplified access to climate finance and increased funding for agriculture and food security, especially for smallholder farmers, women, youth and Indigenous Peoples.

18. A representative of New Zealand explained that agriculture is central to the country's economy while also being the cause of more than half of national GHG emissions. She highlighted New Zealand's system approach to climate change, which integrates consideration of mitigation, adaptation, productivity and resilience in agriculture and is backed by science, technology, data, partnerships and enabling policies. She underscored the importance of research on agricultural mitigation, standardized approaches to measuring GHG emissions and international cooperation to scale finance, and a rules-based system that supports innovation and trade under initiatives such as the Global Research Alliance on Agricultural Greenhouse Gases. In conclusion, she emphasized that repurposing public subsidies towards research and development, strengthening public-private partnerships and enhancing international collaboration can help advance climate action on agriculture while supporting agricultural productivity and equitable access to solutions globally.

C. Presentations by observer organization constituencies

19. A representative of the constituency of business and industry NGOs stressed the important role of the private sector in supporting climate action across the agricultural value chain and food security. He emphasized that climate solutions are most effective when implementation actors are engaged from the outset and actions are embedded in existing value-chain relationships. He noted that scaling up existing solutions and adapting them to diverse local conditions is a major challenge, which requires investment, innovation and capacity-building. He underscored the need for conditions that make climate action investable, adoptable and scalable, such as stable policy frameworks and enabling environments that provide confidence for long-term investment. Referring to examples such as methane reduction in rice production, the Danish green tripartite agreement and the Dairy Sustainability Framework, he concluded that climate solutions scale when they deliver clear value for farmers and businesses.

20. A representative of the constituency of environmental NGOs highlighted the need for means of implementation for climate action on agriculture and food security that respond to the priorities of smallholder farmers, women and local communities, emphasizing that the agriculture sector supports both global food security and livelihoods. She underscored the value of agroecology as a systemic, holistic and cost-effective approach to building resilience to climate change and rising prices in fertilizers and fuels. She stressed the importance of locally led solutions, just transition principles and bottom-up TNAs. She warned that debt-inducing private finance could defund climate action. She also advocated for debt cancellation, tax justice and subsidy reform to support climate action on agriculture and food security. Further, she emphasized that monitoring requirements can prevent low-income farmers from accessing finance and technology transfer, and advocated for the provision of direct grants, facilitation of socially just technology transfer, and provision of capacity-building support to smallholder farmers, women, Indigenous Peoples and community organizations designed to support adaptation and mitigation efforts in the agriculture sector.

21. A representative of the constituency of farmers and agricultural NGOs noted that climate change and global supply chain disruptions are placing increasing pressure on agriculture and food security, and that persistent gaps in means of implementation make it harder, especially for women, youth and smallholders to scale up climate action on agriculture and food security. She emphasized that farmers organizations have long identified needs at the farm level, including in terms of technical assistance, capacity-building, affordable credit and climate-resilient technologies, but such identification rarely translates into accessible and timely finance. She underscored the importance of including farmers as equal partners in the design and implementation of national climate plans and financing mechanisms. She called for a future mandate on agriculture to support the development of non-binding technical guidance on adaptation reporting, capacity-building in key areas of need, and addressing loss and damage. She advocated for the Sharm el-Sheikh online portal to link registered projects to finance, collaboration and technology and urged Parties to translate the outcomes of the joint work into accessible finance, inclusive governance and scaled-up implementation of action on agriculture and food security.

22. A representative of the constituency of Indigenous Peoples organizations highlighted that Indigenous Peoples' food security and food sovereignty are inseparable from their cultures, identities, biodiversity and rights to lands, waters and territories. Drawing on the example of the Yaqui people, she noted that Indigenous communities possess longstanding knowledge and practices related to water conservation, seed preservation, soil restoration and ecosystem stewardship that contribute to climate resilience, but face mounting challenges as a result of land dispossession, environmental degradation and climate change. She underscored concerns of Indigenous Peoples regarding certain mitigation activities, including the extraction of transition minerals, that might threaten Indigenous food systems, and welcomed the recognition of Indigenous rights within the UNFCCC just transition process. She called for the full and effective participation of Indigenous Peoples in climate policymaking and for the continuation of work under the joint work through a work programme on agriculture and food systems with stronger commitments for implementation and monitoring, and the development of a finance mechanism among its priorities and safeguards for Indigenous rights and knowledge.

23. A representative of the constituency of research and independent NGOs stressed that, despite increasing recognition of the role of agriculture and food systems in climate action, implementation of action on those matters continues to lag behind ambition because means of implementation are often considered in fragmented terms. She emphasized that finance, capacity-building, technology development and transfer, research, innovation and knowledge systems should be considered as mutually reinforcing. Noting that smallholder farmers, pastoralists, Indigenous Peoples, women and youth continue to face significant barriers to accessing resources for climate action on agriculture and food security, she underscored the need for an enabling ecosystem that includes strong local institutions, climate information services and research partnerships and more locally adapted technologies. She also stressed the importance of integrated approaches that support improved soil health, sustainable nutrient management, climate-resilient livestock systems, crop diversification and sustainable diets that generate adaptation, mitigation, biodiversity and food security co-benefits, and encouraged Parties to align climate action with biodiversity, land restoration

and food security objectives and to engage with the scientific community in developing evidence-based and scalable action.

24. A representative of the women and gender constituency emphasized that implementing effective climate action on agriculture and food security requires persistent inequalities affecting women, Indigenous Peoples, youth and other marginalized groups to be addressed, particularly in relation to land access. She noted that agroecology and Indigenous knowledge systems provide important pathways for building climate-resilient agrifood systems while responding to the interconnected challenges of climate change, pollution and biodiversity loss. She stressed the importance of people-centred approaches to climate finance to support resilient agriculture without depending on carbon markets. She also called for a shift of focus from food security to food sovereignty, stressing that revitalizing traditional knowledge to this end increases community autonomy and improves health outcomes, while warning that industrial agriculture and other extractive activities continue to drive land degradation and undermine sustainable food systems.

25. A representative of the constituency of children and youth NGOs underscored the critical role of youth in advancing climate action on agriculture and food systems, noting that youth-led initiatives are already delivering practical solutions on the ground but that significant barriers remain in terms of implementing and scaling up those solutions. He listed some recurring challenges in this regard, as also identified in a submission of the constituency of children and youth NGOs to the Sharm el-Sheikh online portal,¹⁵ including limited access to land, technical knowledge, capacity-building support, finance and technology, and limited participation of children and youth in policy processes. He emphasized that these challenges reduce opportunities for youth despite their strong engagement in action pertaining to agrifood systems. Drawing on examples from India and Nigeria, he demonstrated how youth-led partnerships and cooperatives and targeted support can make means of implementation for climate action on agriculture and food security more effective and inclusive, while calling for greater recognition and inclusion of young people, particularly young women, Indigenous youth and small-scale farmers, in climate and agricultural policymaking.

D. Work undertaken by and perspectives of international organizations and the Green Climate Fund

1. Panel presentations

26. A representative of FAO explained that the organization's shift of focus from agriculture to agrifood systems was in response to a mandate from its 195 members through the FAO *Strategic Framework 2022–31*,¹⁶ reflecting the call for a more holistic and systemic approach to addressing climate change and development challenges. He noted that, despite persistent gaps in climate finance for agrifood systems and agriculture in particular, there are encouraging signs of progress such as increased collaboration among multilateral development banks, agricultural public development banks and other financial actors. He underscored the need to carefully consider the scope of and methodology used for estimates of climate finance.

27. A representative of OECD drew attention to the dual positioning of agriculture as a sector both highly vulnerable to climate change and key to climate solutions, emphasizing the need for coherent and effective policy frameworks that simultaneously advance resilience, productivity, emission reductions and environmental sustainability of the sector. He noted OECD support to governments in the form of evidence-based policy analysis and through tools such as the Policy Inventory for Mitigation Actions in Agriculture, Forestry and Other Land Use Sectors database,¹⁷ which enables countries to learn from policy experience and strengthen implementation of mitigation and adaptation actions in the agriculture, forestry and land use sector. Acknowledging progress in integrating agriculture

¹⁵ Available at <https://docs.unfccc.int/sharm-el-Sheikh-online-portal> (in the search field, type "YOUNGO").

¹⁶ FAO. 2021. *Strategic Framework 2022–31*. Available at <https://www.fao.org/strategic-framework/en>.

¹⁷ <https://www.oecd.org/en/data/datasets/pima-afolu-policy-inventory-for-mitigation-actions-in-agriculture-forestry-and-other-land-use-sectors.html>.

into climate strategies and improving knowledge of vulnerabilities, adaptation options and mitigation pathways, he stressed that access to means of implementation for climate action on agriculture remains a major challenge, in particular for small-scale producers, with persistent gaps in climate finance and fragmented delivery mechanisms. He underscored that climate action on agrifood systems must be considered alongside broader pressures, including food security concerns, biodiversity loss, economic constraints and geopolitical tensions, which can shift government attention towards short-term crises and undermine sustained investment in long-term transformation.

28. A representative of the World Bank emphasized that agrifood systems are central to achieving the goals of the Paris Agreement, noting that adaptation alone is insufficient given the sector's significant emissions. He also recalled the point that the sector receives only a small share of global climate finance despite its importance for achieving the Paris Agreement. He highlighted the World Bank Group's support for agrifood system transformation in the form of knowledge-sharing, provision of finance and facilitation of country-level implementation of climate action, including under the AgriConnect initiative,¹⁸ aimed at reaching up to 300 million smallholders, and through knowledge products.¹⁹ He underscored the need to close gaps in climate finance by repurposing agricultural subsidies, scaling up the provision of blended and results-based finance, and mobilizing private investment. Lastly, he stressed the importance of understanding country needs and called for prioritization of win-win solutions with a focus on co-benefits such as jobs, economic growth and scalable context-specific interventions that are designed to deliver sustainable long-term outcomes.

2. Answers to questions

29. Responding to a question on whether climate finance should recognize and value multiple benefits, the representative of FAO highlighted the importance of remaining responsive to the needs of farmers and vulnerable communities and shifting attention from the volume of climate finance to its quality and effectiveness, including its contribution to biodiversity protection, land restoration, food security and protection of livelihoods. In answer to a question on the potential of taxing carbon-intensive food, the representative of OECD noted that pricing the social costs of GHG emissions could help incentivize lower-emission production and consumption patterns, also emphasizing the complexity of applying taxation to food products, highlighting concerns related to affordability, consumer impacts and trade distortions and the need to consider national circumstances when designing fiscal instruments. In response to the same questions, the representative of the World Bank underscored the need to address emissions of all GHGs, highlighting the potential of repurposing public subsidies and expanding the provision of concessional climate finance to facilitate low-emission and resilient development.

30. In response to a Party representative explaining that adaptation is a priority for agriculture and commenting that agricultural production accounts for less than half of total agrifood system emissions, the representative of FAO acknowledged the reduction in the emission intensity of agricultural production over the past several decades, while noting the sector's contribution to N₂O and CH₄ emissions, and emphasized that climate action should focus on practical solutions that increase the resilience to climate change of entire agrifood systems.

3. Presentation of the Green Climate Fund

¹⁸ See <https://www.worldbank.org/ext/en/agriconnect>.

¹⁹ See, for example, Sutton WR, Lotsch A and Prasann A. 2024. *Recipe for a Livable Planet: Achieving Net Zero Emissions in the Agrifood System*. Washington, D.C.: World Bank. Available at <http://hdl.handle.net/10986/41468>; Goodman P; Ronchi L and Brandon K. 2025. *Rooted: Agriculture Rooted in Biodiversity*. Washington, D.C.: World Bank. Available at <http://documents.worldbank.org/curated/en/099121125151520319>; and Bolton J. 2026. *IFC Approach and Framework for Regenerative Agriculture*. International Finance Corporation. World Bank Group. Available at <https://www.ifc.org/en/insights-reports/2026/ifc-approach-and-framework-for-regenerative-agriculture>.

31. A representative of the GCF highlighted the Fund's country-driven approach to supporting climate action on agriculture and food security, guided by national priorities identified through NDCs, NAPs and related sectoral plans. He noted that the GCF agriculture and food security portfolio comprised 197 projects, with USD 2.8 billion in committed climate finance. Those projects are integrated landscape approaches that also consider water, health and often ecosystem benefits beyond agriculture and food security. He underscored the importance of transformational planning, climate innovation, blended and concessional finance, and strong partnerships for addressing the need to scale up best practices for climate-vulnerable agricultural communities.

32. The GCF representative also reported growing country demand for agriculture and food security projects, particularly for adaptation-focused interventions, while identifying persistent challenges related to project development, addressing institutional capacity constraints, navigating complex funding arrangements and improving access to different types of financing for local actors and smallholders. Looking ahead, he highlighted the potential of readiness support, direct access entities, blended finance and nature-based solutions to scale up climate action on agriculture and food security. He stressed the importance of country ownership, programmatic approaches and broad stakeholder engagement, and reaffirmed the Fund's commitment to expanding its provision of support and strengthening collaboration under the UNFCCC process.

33. Responding to a question on how GCF responds to decisions on agriculture-related matters adopted under the UNFCCC process, the representative of the GCF emphasized that those decisions are highly relevant to the Fund's future programming and strategic direction. He noted that the GCF is reviewing priorities and targets across sectors, including agriculture and forestry, for its third programming cycle, from 2028 onward. He highlighted that lessons learned from the GCF REDD+ results-based payments pilot,²⁰ which concluded with 12 approved projects, are being analysed to identify opportunities for their wider application, including performance-based approaches to climate action on agriculture and food security.

34. Addressing concerns raised by Parties, the GCF representative stressed the close engagement of the GCF with national focal points and underscored the central role of NDCs, other national strategies and country priorities in guiding GCF support. In response to a question about elements of conclusions on the Sharm el-Sheikh joint work that would be useful for the GCF, he mentioned that the identification of key gaps and priorities for which support is needed could help the GCF and other climate funds better align future assistance with national needs and sustainable agricultural development objectives.

IV. Summary of discussions

A. World café session and plenary report back

1. Objective and modalities

35. During the world café session, 12 'stations' were set up to facilitate interactive small-group discussions aimed at identifying best practices for addressing challenges related to the identification of needs and access to means of implementation for climate action on agriculture and food security. Some of the stations focused on issues related to the identification of needs and access to financial, technology development and transfer, and capacity-building support in the context of climate action on agriculture and food security, while others focused more specifically on addressing the needs of different vulnerable groups.

36. At each station, an expert presented a brief case illustrating one or more challenges related to the station's topic, and a facilitator/rapporteur guided discussions on best practices for addressing such challenges and reported back on the key messages from their respective station's discussions during the plenary held on the following day, as summarized under the relevant topics below. Experts and facilitators/rapporteurs were representatives of constituted

²⁰ See <https://www.greenclimate.fund/access-funding/other-funding-options/rfp/redd-plus-pilot>.

bodies, financing and other entities under the Convention, Presidencies of COP 30 and 31, organizations in the United Nations system and observer constituencies.

37. Further information on the topics addressed at each station, as well as the experts and facilitators/rapporteurs involved, is contained in the annex.

2. Climate finance

38. At the station on identifying needs and accessing climate finance for agriculture and food security, participants highlighted persistent capacity challenges related to accessing and managing climate finance, preparing climate projects and strengthening coordination among ministries and institutions at the national level. Participants emphasized the need for more inclusive, people-centred approaches to climate finance, including direct access approaches that better reach smallholder farmers, women, Indigenous Peoples, local communities and youth, while enabling local organizations to implement larger-scale initiatives. Participants further noted that clearer articulation of needs and priorities through TNAs, NDCs and NAPs could facilitate access to finance and that the link between the Sharm el-Sheikh online portal and financing mechanisms remains limited. Existing and planned measures by the Global Environment Facility to strengthen locally led climate action benefiting Indigenous Peoples and local communities, including direct access modalities, the Small Grant Program and capacity-building support, were highlighted. The discussion underscored the need to bridge the gap between available climate finance and the ability of vulnerable groups to access it.

39. At the station on accessing climate finance for adaptation in agriculture and food security, participants discussed initiatives aimed at strengthening the resilience of climate-vulnerable rural communities through improved water and land management, community capacity-building, climate information services and climate-resilient agriculture, including climate-resilient rice production systems. The discussion underscored the need for greater awareness and understanding of the practical applications and approaches of the Adaptation Fund. The Fund's emphasis on capacity-building in the LDCs and South-South learning was also noted. Suggestions were made to streamline project approval processes and explore concessional financing that is complementary to the grants provided by the Fund. Overall, the discussion emphasized that adaptation requires clear prioritization within broader sustainable development objectives.

40. The facilitator/rapporteur of the station on loss and damage on agriculture and food security highlighted the increasingly systemic nature of climate-related loss and damage affecting agrifood systems, with extreme weather events and slow onset processes causing cascading impacts on livelihoods, ecosystems and rural communities. Participants emphasized the need to strengthen prevention, preparedness and resilience through mitigation and adaptation, early warning systems, anticipatory action, disaster risk management, crop diversification, agroecology and transformative adaptation. They also underscored the importance of accessible and locally driven finance, including through simplified access modalities and small grants, and discussed the role of the Fund for Responding to Loss and Damage, insurance mechanisms and shock-responsive social protection systems in supporting affected communities.

41. At the station on financing climate action on agriculture and food security, participants discussed innovative arrangements, including public-private partnerships, with concerns highlighting risks related to debt burdens faced by the farmers, in particular those most vulnerable to climate change. Participants noted that financing approaches should support both adaptation and mitigation, and agroecology was mentioned multiple times. The discussion also highlighted the need to strengthen investment in training, farmer field schools and capacity-building for farmers pertaining to knowledge systems that support crop diversification and policymakers so that they can access innovative financing instruments, including revolving funds, land restoration incentives, carbon market mechanisms with equitable benefit-sharing arrangements, procurement schemes and microfinance initiatives. Participants further emphasized the complementarity of public and private finance, while underscoring the continued need for grant-based finance.

42. In relation to subsidy reforms, participants emphasized that linking access to international climate finance with subsidy reforms raises questions of governance and

sovereignty. Participants underscored potential tensions between ecological objectives and food security considerations in the allocation of subsidies. In addition, discussions highlighted persistent data gaps regarding the impacts of subsidy reforms, while also noting the influence of vested interests on policy processes. Participants considered that, to be effective, reforms need to be gradual, long term, country specific and embedded within a just transition framework. Participants further noted the opportunity to redirect public support towards public goods, including land preservation, biodiversity and soil health. The need for adequate international public finance and enabling policy frameworks to support equitable transitions was also emphasized.

3. Technology development and transfer

43. At the station on technology development and transfer for agriculture and food security, participants identified a range of challenges affecting the uptake of agricultural technologies, including difficulties in continuously assessing farmers' evolving technology needs under changing climate conditions; limited access to relevant finance and insurance; weak enabling environments; and barriers to scaling up technologies in diverse local contexts. Participants highlighted good practices in this regard, including co-designing low-cost technologies with stakeholders, investing in climate change science, advising farmers on research results, encouraging learning feedback loops, pursuing locally adapted and participatory research approaches involving Indigenous Peoples and local communities, offering incentives for technology adoption, establishing stronger producer networks, developing digital technologies for reaching territories and improving access to affordable finance.

44. At the station on connecting vulnerable developing countries with providers of technical assistance for agriculture and food security, discussions focused on an example in which a developing country wanted to measure and address the economic and non-economic impacts of loss and damage in the agriculture sector. Participants identified multiple challenges that vulnerable developing countries can face in such a situation, including inadequate adaptation of technologies to local contexts, capacity and knowledge gaps, intellectual property constraints and limited access to finance. The discussion concluded that technology alone cannot address all loss and damage impacts, particularly where adaptation limits have been reached. Participants noted that technology uptake can be enhanced through locally driven approaches, mapping of local practices to rediscover existing solutions, integration of Indigenous and scientific knowledge, South–South cooperation, and the inclusive design of solutions. Participants suggested that successful technology uptake depends on end-user needs being addressed, solutions being co-developed with communities and adequate financial support being provided for scaling up solutions.

4. Capacity-building

45. At the station on capacity-building for climate action on agriculture and food security, participants identified four main challenges affecting the implementation of NDCs that can be addressed through capacity-building: weak institutional coordination; gaps in monitoring and reporting systems; limited access to human resources to implement actions at scale; and insufficiently inclusive and locally driven implementation processes. Participants shared good practices in this regard, including establishing interministerial coordination mechanisms, participatory processes for the development of NDCs, and collaboration with ministries of education to strengthen future capacities to monitor and report on climate action. Participants highlighted the value of knowledge-sharing, South–South cooperation, farmer-to-farmer learning and strengthened agricultural extension services in addressing the capacity-building gaps identified. The key message from the discussion was that strengthening the capacity to implement climate action on agriculture and food security requires sustained investment in capacity-building, robust data systems, strong institutional coordination and meaningful stakeholder engagement at all levels.

46. Regarding the capacity-building needs of the LDCs, adaptive capacity in the agriculture sector was identified a priority given its central role in protecting livelihoods, national economies and food security. Discussions emphasized the need to develop climate-resilient and climate-sensitive agricultural systems by enhancing capacities of policymakers,

institutions and communities to design and implement effective climate action in the face of high climate vulnerability. Participants underscored that capacity-building interventions should be tailored to national and local contexts and respond to the specific needs of women, youth, Indigenous and traditional communities while promoting climate education and literacy across society, and their programme design be informed by research. Inclusive stakeholder coordination, including at the subnational level, was considered important and participants highlighted the value of regional cooperation, peer learning, research partnerships and other knowledge-sharing mechanisms in this regard. It was emphasized that capacity-building efforts for food security in the LDCs should be supported by adequate financing and sustained through national ownership.

5. Enhancing adaptive capacities and access of vulnerable groups to means of implementation

47. At the stations focusing on smallholders, family farmers and pastoralists, participants emphasized that many climate solutions insufficiently reflect local realities and Indigenous knowledge in their design and that smallholders, family farmers and pastoralists play a major role in ensuring food security. While climate finance was identified as essential for accelerating adaptation, it was noted that smallholders, family farmers and pastoralists remain confronted with limited funding availability, accreditation challenges and burdensome administrative procedures in their attempts to access funding, among other barriers. The International Fund for Agricultural Development and the Global Agriculture and Food Security Program were cited as good examples of providers addressing those barriers. The need for capacity-building, tailored financial instruments, stronger support for farmers organizations to fulfil their role and enabling public policies that promote sustainable agriculture and rural development was underscored, as was the need for vulnerable groups to be recognized as active partners in climate action and be meaningfully involved in policymaking and governance processes.

48. The experience of the Terena community in Brazil was introduced by the expert of the station on Indigenous Peoples and local communities. The community participates in Brazil's Food Acquisition Program, under which Indigenous producers collectively supply traditional and locally produced food to schools and communities. Participants noted that this strengthens food security and livelihoods and revitalizes traditional food systems while demonstrating how intergenerational knowledge, collective action and locally adapted practices can support responses to climate and food security challenges. The discussion identified that climate change impacts such as droughts, floods, wildfires and water scarcity continue to affect food production and livelihoods, and that bureaucratic, linguistic, transport and market-access constraints hinder direct access to finance and support for reinforcing adaptive capacities. Participants emphasized the importance of recognizing Indigenous Peoples' rights, land tenure and knowledge systems, strengthening public procurement and traditional seed networks, promoting agroecological approaches, and ensuring that climate finance and policy frameworks are inclusive, locally driven and responsive to the diverse realities of Indigenous Peoples and local communities.

49. At the station on women and youth, participants highlighted the central role of women and youth in agrifood system transformation, also identifying persistent barriers to their participation therein, including limited access to land, finance and resources, restrictive legal and policy frameworks, gender inequality, skills and education gaps, youth outmigration and limited participation in governance and decision-making processes. Participants noted that climate change disproportionately affects women and youth and can further exacerbate the aforementioned barriers. They emphasized the importance of recognizing women and youth as agents of change and key contributors to food security, sustainability and agrifood system transformation. The discussion highlighted the importance of integrated gender- and youth-responsive approaches that combine policy reform, access to finance, education, leadership opportunities and cultural changes aimed at enhancing the attractiveness of agriculture and strengthening participation across agrifood value chains.

B. Plenary discussion

50. Some participants expressed concern regarding the declining levels of climate finance and emphasized that enhanced provision of means of implementation to developing countries is necessary to enable greater ambition in agriculture- and food-security-related climate action. Several participants advocated for enhanced provision of financial, technology development and transfer, and capacity-building support for climate action on agriculture and food security. Innovative financing options, including insurance, debt relief and alternative approaches, were pointed out.

51. The discussion further focused on the need for predictable and grant-based support, including direct access to climate finance for vulnerable groups, and opportunities for improving the responsiveness and effectiveness of funding mechanisms. Several participants highlighted the need for more accessible, equitable and inclusive means of implementation for climate action on agriculture and food security, including direct access for women, Indigenous Peoples, youth and smallholder farmers.

52. Some participants stressed the value of peer-to-peer learning, multi-stakeholder dialogue and inclusive participation, noting opportunities to reflect discussions during the world café session in future guidance and implementation efforts under the Convention and the Paris Agreement.

53. A substantive discussion took place on the scope of the workshop and the policy approaches relevant to climate action on agriculture and food security. Several Parties stressed that discussions during this workshop should remain focused on agriculture and food security rather than broader agrifood or food system approaches. Others stressed the relevance of broader food system dimensions for identifying needs and access to means of implementation for climate action on agriculture and food security.

54. Many participants mentioned adaptation as the primary priority for agriculture, with one group of Parties stressing that this is particularly the case in regions facing water scarcity, drought, land degradation and other climate impacts. Other participants emphasized the importance of strengthening climate resilience, especially among smallholder farmers, developing locally appropriate solutions and translating identified adaptation needs into concrete implementation. It was also noted that the strong focus on the need for adaptation throughout the discussions may indicate that the mitigation potential has not been fully realized in some areas and may require more action in the future.

55. It was noted that many mainstream agricultural production models are driving unintended harm, biodiversity loss, land degradation, water pollution, deforestation and increased emissions. In this context, several participants highlighted the role of climate action on agriculture in delivering co-benefits including biodiversity conservation and protection of rural livelihoods. The importance of context-specific approaches to strengthening resilient agrifood systems and supporting small-scale farmers in providing climate-relevant public goods and services was also highlighted.

56. Agricultural subsidies and related policy reforms, including their potential role in supporting sustainable transitions in agriculture, were also discussed, with the importance of reflecting therein national circumstances and development priorities emphasized. Some participants noted that such reforms can be delivered in a way that protects farmers, livelihoods and prices, while others raised concerns regarding the potential trade and food security implications of subsidy reforms and carbon border adjustment mechanisms, particularly for developing countries with high import dependence and limited resources for agricultural adaptation.

C. Coordination in relation to the joint work

57. The following questions were suggested for guiding the discussion on coordination in relation to the joint work, with broader interventions also welcomed:

(a) What are examples of best practices related to climate action on agriculture and food security for interlinkages, synergies, collaboration and partnerships aimed at effective achievement of the objectives of the joint work?

(b) How can the joint work contribute to supporting progress, addressing challenges and harnessing opportunities related to identifying needs and accessing means of implementation for climate action on agriculture and food security?

58. Participants emphasized the need to strengthen coherence, coordination and collaboration across agriculture-related processes under and outside the UNFCCC process. It was noted that agriculture-related issues are increasingly being addressed under multiple agenda items and processes, highlighting the importance of improving linkages across workstreams as well as the work of constituted bodies, the operating entities of the Financial Mechanism and other relevant stakeholders. Several participants underscored the need to ensure that agriculture-related outcomes are reflected in related processes and workstreams across the broader climate agenda and to move beyond information exchange towards more effective coordination arrangements that support implementation.

59. Participants noted that progress towards the objectives of the joint work has been supported through workshops, dialogues and information-sharing, while also identifying challenges and gaps related to implementation, coordination, technical support and stakeholder engagement. Several participants underscored the importance of ensuring a meaningful future for the work on agriculture and food security under the UNFCCC.

60. Participants highlighted options to strengthen implementation and coordination of work on agriculture and food security under the UNFCCC, including through enhanced institutional arrangements, improved communication and information-sharing, and stronger linkages with relevant bodies and mechanisms. Divergent views were expressed on the usefulness of national focal points for agriculture and food security, and some participants noted a need to make arrangements to reinforce coordination across constituted bodies, and financial and other entities under the Convention. Some participants also highlighted the value of an implementation window and pilot funding arrangements for agriculture, drawing on experience implementing REDD+ activities.

61. Participants stressed that climate action on agriculture and food security must reflect national circumstances, needs and priorities, as well as local realities.

62. Many participants emphasized that enhanced access to means of implementation for climate action on agriculture and food security remains essential for its advancement. They highlighted persistent challenges related to access to climate finance, technology development and transfer, and capacity-building, particularly in developing countries, noting that attention should be given not only to the availability of resources but also to the accessibility, effectiveness and delivery of support, including for smallholder farmers and vulnerable communities. Participants stressed the importance of stronger engagement of relevant financial institutions, technology providers and implementation partners with the projects, policies and initiatives listed on the Sharm el-Sheikh online portal.

63. Several participants highlighted the importance of science, technology and innovation for supporting climate-resilient agriculture and food security and emphasized the role of data, research, digital technologies and innovation in informing decision-making and improving implementation of climate action on agriculture. In this context, the importance of strengthening cooperation under the joint work with a broad range of stakeholders, including international organizations, the private sector, researchers, civil society and farmers organizations was emphasized. Reference was also made to the potential of digital agriculture and artificial intelligence applications to support capacity-building, reporting, youth engagement and implementation of climate action on agriculture and food security, and to the importance of ensuring equitable access to such technologies.

64. The Sharm el-Sheikh online portal was identified as a useful tool for sharing information on projects, initiatives, policies and best practices. Participants noted its potential to facilitate collaboration, improve access to information and support connections among Parties and stakeholders, and suggested enhancing its interactive functions to facilitate

partnerships, matchmaking and engagement with finance, technology and implementation actors.

65. Various participants highlighted the value of partnerships and multi-stakeholder engagement for effective implementation of climate action on agriculture and food security. Reference was made to the role of governments, farmers, Indigenous Peoples, women, youth, research institutions, civil society, the private sector and international organizations in this regard, with the importance of strengthening collaboration, knowledge exchange, peer learning and South–South cooperation emphasized as a means of accelerating implementation of and scaling up successful approaches.

V. Way forward

66. The workshop was an opportunity to take stock of progress related to accessing means of implementation for climate action on agriculture and food security. Highlighting the value of sharing experience and best practices, participants engaged in in-depth discussions about the challenges hindering access to means of implementation and in rich exchanges of views on best practices for overcoming those challenges. Several interventions indicated that the world café session proved an effective format for facilitating such discussions and exchanges, serving as a good example of how exchanges on agriculture and food security could be facilitated under the UNFCCC process going forward.

67. Participants emphasized persistent gaps in access to means of implementation for climate action on agriculture and food security, including climate finance, technology development and transfer, and capacity-building support.

68. Many participants emphasized the key role of data, research, innovation and equitable access to technologies in supporting climate action on agriculture and food security.

69. Participants emphasized that means of implementation should reflect national priorities and local contexts, drawing on scientific, Indigenous and local knowledge to support effective climate action on agriculture and food security.

70. The critical role of smallholder, family farmers, pastoralists, Indigenous Peoples, local communities, women and youth in implementing climate action on agriculture and food security was highlighted by many, yet these vulnerable groups were noted as continuing to face significant barriers to accessing means of implementation.

71. Participants highlighted opportunities for climate action on agriculture and food security to deliver co-benefits across adaptation, mitigation, food security, biodiversity conservation, land restoration and rural livelihoods. They highlighted the need to maximize such synergies when identifying needs and providing access to means of implementation.

72. Several participants stressed the relevance of the Sharm el-Sheikh online portal as a useful tool that can facilitate the identification of needs and access to means of implementation for climate action on agriculture and food security, and noted the importance of both Parties and observers making use of it.

73. Participants emphasized the value of partnerships and multi-stakeholder engagement for the effective implementation of climate action on agriculture and food security. Several participants called for more effective coordination and information-sharing among the constituted bodies, the operating entities of the Financial Mechanism and other stakeholders working on agriculture and food security. Strong emphasis was placed on collaboration among governments, farmers, Indigenous Peoples, women, youth, civil society, researchers, the private sector and international organizations, as well as on knowledge exchange and peer learning, with a view to ensuring that means of implementation reach those who need it most.

74. Several participants also highlighted the importance of ensuring a meaningful future for work on agriculture and food security under the UNFCCC and strengthening arrangements that support implementation and coordination of climate action thereon. Finally, the importance of translating lessons learned during the workshop into future recommendations and outcomes under the UNFCCC process was emphasized.

Annex

Overview of discussion stations at the world café session held during the second in-session workshop as part of the Sharm el-Sheikh joint work on implementation of climate action on agriculture and food security*

[English only]

Station	Topic	Expert	Facilitator/Rapporteur
<i>Station 1 Climate finance for agriculture and food security / Enhancing adaptive capacities and improving access to means of implementation of vulnerable groups</i>			
1A	The role of the Financial Mechanism: identifying needs and accessing climate finance	Global Environment Facility (GEF) (Olusola Uchenna Ikuforiji)	FAO (Martial Bernoux)
1B	Enhancing adaptive capacities and improving access to means of implementation of vulnerable groups, with a focus on smallholders, family farmers and pastoralists	Farmers and agricultural NGOs (FARMERS) (Cristian Barraqueta)	COP30 Presidency (Adriana Gabinio)
<i>Station 2 Climate Finance for adaptation and loss and damage in agriculture and food security</i>			
2A	Accessing climate finance for adaptation	Adaptation Fund (Timileyin Oyeade)	Business and industry NGOs (BINGO) (Justin Perrettson)
2B	Addressing loss and damage from climate change	FARMERS (Estrella Penunia Banzuela)	Executive Committee of the Warsaw International Mechanism for Loss and Damage (WIM ExCom) (Jonathan Mai)
<i>Station 3 Innovations in financing climate action on agriculture and food security and repurposing agricultural support</i>			
3A	Financing climate action	BINGO (Marcela Chacon)	Environmental NGOSs (ENGO) (Marie Cosquer)
3B	Support subsidy reform	ENGO (Elodie Guillon)	Children and youth NGOs (YOUNGO) (Bruna Santos de Almeida)
<i>Station 4 Technology development and transfer for agriculture and food security</i>			
4A	Technology development and transfer	United Nations Environment Program (UNEP) (Gregory Kohler)	Advisory Board of the Climate Technology Centre and Network (Hortense Traoré Kagambèga)

* Not formally edited or formatted.

4B	Connecting vulnerable developing countries with providers of technical assistance	Santiago Network (Corey Fortin)	FAO (Liva Kaugure)
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Station 5 Capacity-building for agriculture and food security

5A	Capacity-building for agriculture and food security	FAO (Evetta Zenina)	Research and independent NGOs (RINGO) (Glindys Virginia Luciano)
5B	Addressing the capacity-building needs of Least Developed Countries	Least Developed Countries Expert Group (John Payai Manyok)	YOUNGO (Isabel Vander Molen)

Station 6 Enhancing adaptive capacities and improving access to means of implementation of vulnerable groups, with a focus on...

6A	Indigenous Peoples and local communities	Indigenous Peoples organisations (IPO) (Taily Terena)	Facilitative Working Group of the Local Communities and Indigenous Peoples Platform (Angela Ebeleke)
6B	Women and youth	Women and gender constituency (Ndivile Colia Mokoena)	COP31 Presidency Youth Climate Champion (Sally Higgins)