

SBSTA 58 agenda item 10
SBI 58 agenda item 10
Sharm el-Sheikh joint work on implementation of climate action on agriculture and food security
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Informal note by the co-facilitators

At the second informal consultations on this matter, held on 7 June 2023, Parties asked the co-facilitators to develop text capturing elements of the joint work on implementation of climate action on agriculture and food security, on the basis of Parties' views.

Draft conclusions

1. The Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice (SBSTA) and the Subsidiary Body for Implementation (SBI), recalling Articles 9 and 10 of the Convention and in accordance with decision 3/CP.27, initiated the Sharm el-Sheikh joint work on implementation of climate action on agriculture and food security.¹ The SBSTA and the SBI welcomed the submissions from Parties and observers on the elements of this joint work, including on topics for the workshops referred to in paragraph 15(b) of the same decision.^{2,3}

2. The SBSTA and the SBI recalled a request of COP 27 for the secretariat to hold in-session workshops in hybrid format, facilitating both virtual and in-person participation, on agreed topics.⁴ They requested the secretariat to organize the workshops referred to in annex I in conjunction with the sessions specified therein. They encouraged admitted observer organizations to participate in the workshops.

3. The SBSTA and the SBI recalled a request to promote a holistic approach to addressing issues related to agriculture and food security, taking into consideration regional, national and local circumstances, in order to deliver a range of multiple benefits.⁵ They noted that future work on this matter should build on the outcomes of the Koronivia joint work on agriculture where appropriate and should:

- (a) Center the views and experience of farmers, who are key agents of change in food systems;
- (b) Take a gender-informed approach and include the views of vulnerable groups including youth, smallholder farmers, Indigenous peoples, and women;
- (c) Be science and evidence-based, inclusive of indigenous traditional ecological knowledge;
- (d) Avoid duplication of effort and coordinate with ongoing relevant processes within the UNFCCC;
- (e) Build partnerships for action, including regional initiatives and public-private partnerships, while leveraging existing platforms and initiatives that already convene such partnerships;
- (f) Emphasize the unique co-benefits of climate action in agriculture and food security.

4. The SBSTA and the SBI noted that the agriculture sector is simultaneously a contributor to climate change, highly vulnerable to the impacts of climate change, and a source of promising solutions, including natural carbon sinks. Implementation of these solutions at a meaningful scale requires cooperation to overcome cross-cutting technical, political and socioeconomic barriers. To achieve lasting climate benefits at scale, climate-

¹ See decision 3/CP.27, para. 14.

² See decision 3/CP.27, para. 17.

³ Available at <https://www4.unfccc.int/sites/submissionsstaging/Pages/Home.aspx> (use the search function to access relevant submissions).

⁴ Decision 3/CP.27, para. 15(b).

⁵ Decision 3/CP.27, para. 14(a).

smart agriculture systems must also improve adaptive capacity and resilience and reduce producers' vulnerability to climate risk.

5. The SBSTA and the SBI took note of the importance of issues elaborated in decision 3/CP.27, including but not limited to those related to farmers, gender, youth, local communities and Indigenous Peoples, and encouraged Parties to take them into consideration when making submissions and during the joint work workshops.

6. The SBSTA and the SBI noted the disadvantageous situation of rural women, and that each joint workshop will include one item that addresses the topics of that workshop in relation to rural women with a view to finding practical solutions.

7. The SBSTA and the SBI requested the secretariat to prepare a report on each workshop referred to in annex I for consideration at the sessions of the subsidiary bodies following the sessions in conjunction with which the workshops took place.

8. The SBSTA and the SBI noted that the participation and representation of developing country Parties in the workshops should be ensured through the provision of adequate funding.

9. The SBSTA and the SBI recalled the request of COP 27 to the secretariat to invite 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 to attend the workshops referred to in annex I.⁶

10. The SBSTA and the SBI invited Parties and observers to submit via the submission portal,⁷ for each workshop referred to in annex I, their views on the topic of that workshop and suggested speakers by the deadline specified in annex I.

11. The SBSTA and the SBI requested the secretariat to prepare an annual synthesis report,⁸ as set out in the annex. The report should cover the following aspects:

- (a) Summary
- (b) Introduction;
- (c) Overview of activities related to climate action on agriculture and food security undertaken by UNFCCC constituted bodies, financial entities and other international and regional organizations, identifying the need and support received;
- (d) Support provided for implementing the outcomes of the Koronivia joint work on agriculture and previous activities addressing issues related to agriculture;⁹
- (e) Gaps, challenges and opportunities for enhancing implementation of climate action on agriculture and food security.

12. The annual synthesis report shall support the implementation of activities referred to in paragraphs 14 and 19 of decision 3/CP.27. The report shall include information on how climate related support for agriculture and food systems is distributed, including between mitigation, adaptation and cross cutting projects, between smallholder farmers and the whole agricultural sector, and other relevant categorizations. The report shall inform Parties and stakeholders on the progress of implementation of climate action by UNFCCC constituted bodies, financial entities and relevant international organizations, and in particular how UNFCCC constituted bodies and the operating entities of the Financial Mechanism take into account the conclusions of the subsidiary bodies referred to in paragraph 2 of decision 3/CP.27 in implementing their actions and workplans, in accordance with their mandates.¹⁰ It shall be made available annually eight weeks ahead of [a session of the Conference of the Parties][the first regular sessions of the subsidiary bodies].

⁶ Decision 3/CP.27, para. 15(b).

⁷ <https://www4.unfccc.int/sites/submissionsstaging/Pages/Home.aspx>.

⁸ Pursuant to decision 3/CP.27, para. 15(a).

⁹ 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.

¹⁰ See decision 3/CP.27, para. 11.

13. The SBSTA and the SBI requested the secretariat to develop the Sharm el-Sheikh online portal¹¹ for sharing information on projects, initiatives and policies for increasing opportunities for implementation of climate action to address issues related to agriculture and food security as set out in annex I, taking into account the following considerations:

(a) the online portal shall support the implementation of the objectives mentioned in para 14 of decision 3/CP.27, and contain information and enable exchange between countries to identify good practice examples, win-win options, actions with scaling-up potential and combine or add to information by other portals available,

(b) it should be a new online portal under the UNFCCC,

(c) the focus should be sharing information on projects, initiatives and policies for increasing opportunities for implementation of climate action to address issues related to agriculture and food security,

(d) it should be closed and managed by national focal points, with submissions being made by national focal points or country-designated agriculture contact persons;

(e) openly accessible to everyone with relevant search functions, contact person information and categorized by subject,

(f) it should be simple and easily accessible, taking into account the confidentiality of the information provided

(g) it should be linked to other relevant portals for more information.

14. During the second regular sessions each year, the SBSTA and the SBI agreed to develop recommendations, on the basis of the annual synthesis report by the secretariat and the workshop reports.

15. The SBSTA and the SBI recommended a draft decision on this matter for consideration and adoption by the Conference of the Parties at its twenty-eighth session (November–December 2023) (for the text of the draft decision, see annex II).

16. The SBSTA and the SBI agreed to continue consideration of this matter at SBSTA 59 and SBI 59 (November–December 2023).

17. The SBSTA and the SBI took note of the estimated budgetary implications of the activities to be undertaken by the secretariat referred to in paragraphs xx–xx above.

18. The SBSTA and the SBI requested that the actions of the secretariat called for in these conclusions be undertaken subject to the availability of financial resources.

¹¹ See decision 3/CP.27, para. 16.

Annex I

Road map

Timeline	Activities
Before SB 59 (November– December 2023)	[Publication of the annual synthesis report for 2023 by the secretariat] Development of a preliminary version of the online portal by the secretariat
SB 59	[Consideration of the annual synthesis report for 2023] Discussion of the online portal, including presentation by the secretariat on existing relevant United Nations online portals
Between SB 59 and 60 (June 2024)	Submissions on WS1a [and WS1b] by 26 February 2024 Further development of the online portal by the secretariat [Publication of the annual synthesis report for 2024 by the secretariat]
SB 60	WS1a [and WS1b] [Consideration of the annual synthesis report for 2024]
Between SB 60 and 61 (November 2024)	Preparation of the report[s] on WS1a [and WS1b] by the secretariat Standing invitation for Parties to share information on projects, initiatives and policies on the online portal [Publication of the annual synthesis report for 2024 by the secretariat]
SB 61	Consideration of [the annual synthesis report for 2024 and] the report[s] on WS1 [and WS1b]
Between SB 61 and 62 (June 2025)	Submissions on WS2a [and WS2b] by 29 March 2025 [Publication of the annual synthesis report for 2025 by the secretariat] Standing invitation for Parties to share information on projects, initiatives and policies on the online portal
SB 62	WS2a [and WS2b] [Consideration of the annual synthesis report for 2025]
Between SB 62 and 63 (November 2025)	Preparation of the report[s] on WS2a [and WS2b] by the secretariat Standing invitation for Parties to share information on projects, initiatives and policies on the online portal [Publication of the annual synthesis report for 2025 by the secretariat]
SB 63	Consideration of [the annual synthesis report for 2025 and] the report[s] on WS2a [and WS2b]
Between SB 63 and 64 (2026)	Submissions on the progress and outcomes of the joint work Standing invitation for Parties to share information on projects, initiatives and policies on the online portal [Publication of the annual synthesis report for 2026 by the secretariat]
SB 64	[WS3] Discussion of the progress and outcomes of the joint work and the report to the COP [Consideration of the annual synthesis report for 2026]
Between SB 64 and 65 (2026)	[Preparation of the synthesis report on WS3 by the secretariat]

	[Standing invitation for Parties to share information on projects, initiatives and policies on the online portal] Submissions on the progress and outcomes of the joint work [Publication of the annual synthesis report for 2026 by the secretariat]
SB 65	Consideration of [the synthesis report on WS3 and], [the annual synthesis report for 2026] Finalization of discussions on the progress and outcomes of the joint work and reporting back to COP 31 as per paragraph X of decision 3/CP.27

Proposed workshop topics

- (1) Scaling up and targeting needs and gaps for agriculture and food security. (Means of Implementation includes: finance, technology development and transfer and capacity building).
- (2) Approaches for sustainable agriculture: Approaches for sustainable agriculture may cover sub-topics such as agroecology, climate smart agriculture, nature based solution, regenerative agriculture, land degradation, desertification, assessment of climate vulnerability, family farming, food systems, biotechnology, artificial intelligence in agriculture and integrated systems for sustainable intensification.
- (3) Understanding diverse approaches to sustainable agriculture to enhance implementation: to include a specific range of approaches agreed by Parties.
 - a. Parties could also decide to address fisheries or blue foods as part of this workshop.
- (4) Implementation of diverse approaches, practices and technologies for sustainable agriculture
 - a. Parties could share how various sustainable agriculture approaches were rolled-out, or implemented, whether at the international, local, regional or institutional level, and discuss successes and lessons learned from having implemented whichever approach they chose. The outcome could be a collection of potential ways Parties could enable the implementation of any sustainable agricultural approach they believe could be effective for the local context, while also exploring diverse approaches to sustainable agriculture.
 - b. Examples can promote and showcase a wide variety of approaches and technologies such as, but not limited to, Nature-Based Solutions, agroecology, regenerative agriculture, precision agriculture...
- (5) Diverse approaches and outcomes of climate action in agriculture
 - a. exploring practices, technologies and innovations that deliver agricultural sustainability and productivity growth and reduce the impact of agriculture production on the environment
 - b. examining science-based evidence from the agriculture sector and research institutions towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 2 – Zero Hunger, and reducing agricultural emissions on track to reach Paris Agreement targets
 - c. noting the ‘no-one-size-fits all’ approach to sustainability, which recognises countries need different means to achieve outcomes due to their different climates, environments, pest and disease status, production systems, capabilities and capacities
- (6) Scaling up implementation and targeting gaps: to include deep dives into incentive-based approaches, targeting vulnerable groups, strengthening innovation systems, and public-private partnerships.
- (7) Fisheries
- (8) Capacity building: technical support; access to finance. Presentation of best practice approaches and projects on implementation with information on funding options received and/or outstanding stakeholders’ involvement. (The workshop could include: Synergies between mitigation, adaptation and biodiversity; Food systems and climate; NDCs and NAPs; Safeguards criteria.)
- (9) Capacity building for implementation: to include deep dives into climate information services, extension, MMRV, and risk management.
- (10) Capacity building: deep dive on MRV
 - a. Knowledge about measurement, reporting and verification is an important tool for allow for reporting and measuring the impact of our action, evaluating and demonstrating the impact of projects or approaches.

Such information will help not only with reporting, but can also help us confirm the benefits of approaches and help secure various forms of funding, investment and collaborations.

- b. As part of the workshop, Parties could share knowledge and expertise on principles, approaches, tools, and methodologies, for measurement, reporting and verification Not only GHG emissions, but also other of the socio-economic and adaptation impacts of projects. As part of this workshop, perhaps we could also discuss the international compatibility of such measurement and data.

(11) Strengthening capacity in data collection methods and technology in the agriculture sector

- a. learning the latest innovations in data collection, analysis and application to build resilience, boost long-term productivity and expand market access by establishing strong climate and sustainability credentials
- b. reviewing technological methods such as combining sensors and software for practical information on cropping and pastures; improving productivity and profitability through internet connected livestock; using artificial intelligence techniques to improve land mapping
- c. developing strategies and frameworks for greenhouse gas baseline accounting of agricultural activities at the sector level, including general guidance on collection of emissions data and consistent terminology

(12) Cooperation, synergies, communication. Presentation of best practice projects and policy frameworks with information on high potential for scaling up action or on high impact. (The workshop could include: Synergies between mitigation, adaptation and biodiversity; Food systems and climate; NDCs and NAPs; Safeguards criteria.)

(13) Promotion of synergies, collaboration. Including linkages and synergies of other UNFCCC processes (GST, NWP, MWP, Article 2.1.c etc). (The workshop could include: Synergies between mitigation, adaptation and biodiversity; Food systems and climate; NDCs and NAPs; Safeguards criteria.)

(14) Research and evaluation. Presentation of projects which serve as outstanding examples of regional or international cooperation and how these were setup and how others can learn from these. (The workshop could include: Synergies between mitigation, adaptation and biodiversity; Food systems and climate; NDCs and NAPs; Safeguards criteria.)

Annex II

The Conference of the Parties,

Recalling Article 2 of the Convention,

Also recalling decisions 4/CP.23 and 3/CP.27,

1. *Decides*, pursuant to decision 3/CP.27, paragraph 14, to establish a group to facilitate coordination of the four-year joint work referred to in decision 3/CP.27, paragraph 14 (hereafter referred to as Coordination Group).
2. *Also decides* that participation in the Coordination Group shall guarantee the presence of all regional groups but not limit any party participation.
3. Request the subsidiary bodies, at their sixtieth session, to draft recommendations for the internal organization and procedures of the Coordination Group for consideration and adoption at COP29.