
**Submission by Ethiopia on behalf of the Least Developed Countries Group to the
Koronivia Joint Work on Agriculture**

March 2018

The LDC Group welcomes the historic decision at COP 23 (4/CP.23) under SBSTA 47 (FCCC/SBSTA/2017/L.24/Add.1) to form a Joint work under the SBSTA and the SBI on issues related to agriculture and the opportunity to provide these inputs to the Koronivia Joint work on Agriculture.

Agriculture is an important economic sector for the Least Developed Countries (LDCs) across Africa, Asia and Small Island States. The large share of the national economy/GDP is coming from this sector, and provides substantial support to the industrial development. A large majority of the population in these LDCs, including indigenous communities, depend on agriculture as the sector serves as their main source of household income and food. Negative effects of changes in precipitation and temperature patterns are already disproportionately affecting agricultural productivity in the tropics and sub-tropics, where most LDCs are located. LDCs with vast agricultural fields along coastland are highly affected by salinity associated with sea level rises. Observed and projected declines in agricultural productivity of both cropping farming and livestock production systems due to climate change as well as increasing risks of harvest failure due to extreme weather events threaten food and nutrition security and pose barriers against achieving the national goal of food and nutrient security which is one of the goals of sustainable development goals to be achieved by LDCs in by 2030 and beyond. Furthermore, LDCs' adaptive capacity to adverse impacts of climate change impacts is low, and accentuated by limited availability, access, and quality of climate and agricultural data. Improving access, availability and quality of relevant data is key for developing early warning systems to cope with climate hazards as well as good practices in agricultural management to improve soil health and create sustainable and resilient agricultural systems. Many LDCs member countries, however, committed towards the anticipated adverse impacts of climate change by placing agricultural policies and strategies. In this regard, providing valuable scientific knowledge and technologies is critical indeed. Increasing human and financial capacity in LDCs is important for addressing the root causes of inadequate contingency and climate risk reduction planning towards establishing strong climate risk preparedness.

Views on the workshops and experts group meetings:

The LDCs believe that the SBSTA workshops and the expert group meetings have provided valuable inputs on issues agriculture related in the past and the Koronivia Joint work on Agriculture (KJWA) should and is expected to continue to provide further inputs to issues related to agriculture starting with the topics identified below to help improve crop farming and

livestock husbandry practices under the changing climatic conditions across the LDCs. However, the research findings and technological inputs have mostly remained in paper and lacks concrete guidance for application implementation. Thus, implementation is the most important issue under the joint work. This will also complete the cycle of advice, action and identifying new areas of agricultural issues, challenges and constraints imposed by the changing climate change.

So as new topics are discussed in the future workshops and expert group meetings, it should thus be important to recall the past advices in the workshops and expert group meetings and reflect how and where there have been implemented; what were the results of the implementation; what were the reasons behind failures and successes; how were technical and financial resources provided to implement the scientific and technical advices.

It should also be noted that financial constraints and lack of high level expertise in the sector amongst most LDCs also limit the participation of their delegations in these meetings thus leaving a gap in these learning and exchange platforms. Thus, financial support through e.g. multilateral agencies to engage more LDCs delegations is important.

Working with Constituted Bodies

The LDCs note that it is very important to work with all the relevant constituted bodies in relation to the KJWA. As many LDCs have identified or will identify agriculture as one of the most vulnerable sectors to climate change impacts in their NAPs (National Adaptation Plans), it will also be important to understand the role of the constituted bodies. Thus, to initiate the understanding and integration of the role of the relevant constituted bodies in the KJWA, the SBs should reach out to the different constituted bodies and report back as to what has been their role on issues related to agriculture so far. Similarly, as the KJWA moves forward the suggestions, comments, feedbacks and decisions taken in the KJWA should be reported back to relevant constituted bodies. This continuous loop of feedback and reporting in the KJWA and amongst the relevant constituted bodies will help in the effective coordination, working arrangements and assist in identifying gaps to make the KJWA function more smoothly.

An example is if there is some technological advice needed in the KJWA, the SBSTA could also reach out to the CTCN or the TEC and seek their appropriate guidance. The guidance could then be reported to the KJWA and parties could take appropriate measures accordingly. Similarly, if financing to implement the technical advice is needed, the SBI could reach out to the various financing bodies like the LDCF, GCF, AF to ensure funding for the implementation of the technical advices that helps the agriculture sector better adapt to climate change impacts. The availability of funding for the countries could then be reported back to the KJWA for countries to access.

The results of these coordination and the advices and actions, if taken, could then be reflected in the workshops and expert group meetings. This will bring coherence in the workshops and expert group meetings and working with the constituted bodies.

Way forward to consideration of vulnerabilities of agriculture to climate change and approaches to addressing food and nutrition security:

The workshops hosted earlier on the different topics provided valuable scientific and technical guidance, but addressing the key gap that are existing on implementation. Thus, the LDCs expect the KJWA to undertake measures to help close the gap between advice and action.

LDCs and developing countries are already facing several climate risks that result substantial losses and damages on the agriculture sector. The however, differ within the country contexts associated with their differences in the physiography. Thus, countries could be requested to make submissions on topics or the relevant topic/s (referring to the submissions) could be discussed and decided in the KJWA taking into consideration the vulnerabilities of agriculture to climate change and approaches to addressing food security. The topics under discussion could then also be forwarded to the relevant constituted body and or convene in a workshop setting or expert group meeting to propose solutions.

To start the discussions, 6 topics have already been identified at SBSTA 47. The topics could be taken forward under the KJWA as follows in the 48th session of the SBs:

Topic	Way Forward
<p>a. 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</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Identify the constituted bodies that can support the implementation of the outcomes of the 5 in session workshops 2. SBI to requests the funding mechanisms to support the implementation of the outcomes 3. Countries receiving funding to implement the recommendation to report back on the successes and failures on the implementation in in-session workshops 4. Discussion of new issues that need further technical and scientific advice in expert group meetings 5. Identify and notify countries on the early warning systems, risk and vulnerability assessment and management as well as ICT based knowledge management in a manner that informs climate services and supports decision-making in the in-session workshops/expert meetings 6. Synthesize those best practices and share to countries in a manner that reaches directly to the intended targeted body
<p>b. Methods and approaches for assessing adaptation, adaptation co-benefits and resilience</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Conduct national studies on the status of agricultural vulnerability to climate change 2. Discuss/Reflect on past studies on this topic in in-session workshops 3. Request for country submissions on the topic

	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 4. Identify relevant constituted bodies to support the implementation of the issue in the KJWA 5. Request the constituted bodies to provide the necessary support 6. Compile country submissions 7. Discuss on gaps and decide on modalities to implement this issue in workshops/expert group meetings 8. Take measures to implement the decisions
<p>c. Improved soil carbon, soil health and soil fertility under grassland and cropland as well as integrated systems, including water management</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Conduct national studies on the status of soil conditions in relation to its quality to support the various agricultural land-uses; 2. Discuss/Reflect on past studies on this topic in in-session workshops 3. Request for country submissions on the topic 4. Identify relevant constituted bodies to support the implementation of the issue in the KJWA 5. Request the constituted bodies to provide the necessary support 6. Compile country submissions 7. Discuss on gaps and decide on modalities to implement this issue in workshops/expert group meetings 8. Take measures to implement the decisions 9. Identify those practices that improve soil including Sustainable land management, soil mapping and rational use of fertilizers from country experiences and researches
<p>d. Improved nutrient use and manure management towards sustainable and resilient agricultural systems</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Conduct national studies on the current and traditional knowledge with regards to manure management and utilization 2. Discuss/Reflect on past studies on this topic in in-session workshops 3. Request for country submissions on the topic 4. Identify relevant constituted bodies to support the implementation of the issue in the KJWA 5. Request the constituted bodies to provide the necessary support 6. Compile country submissions 7. Discuss on gaps and decide on modalities to implement this issue 8. Take measures to implement the decisions 9. Soil mapping and rational use of fertilizers and identify the ways how to optimize manure, crop residue and other organic fertilizer use in a manner which maximizes resilience of agriculture systems in in-session workshops
<p>e. Improved livestock management systems</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Conduct national studies on the current and traditional knowledge of livestock management system in line with its role in climate change mitigation and in reducing community vulnerability. 2. Discuss/Reflect on past studies on this topic in in-session workshops 3. Request for country submissions on the topic 4. Identify relevant constituted bodies to support the implementation of the issue in the KJWA 5. Request the constituted bodies to provide the necessary support 6. Compile country submissions

	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 7. Discuss on gaps and decide on modalities to implement this issue in workshops/expert group meetings 8. Take measures to implement the decisions 9. Identify and understand the value chains in livestock management and production systems in the expert meeting 10. Identify the methodology for the mind shift from counting heads to actual outputs from having few in-session workshops/expert meetings
<p>f. Socioeconomic and food security dimensions of climate change in the agricultural sector</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Conduct national assessment of the impacts of climate change on social, economic and environmental aspects in line with future impacts on food and nutrition security. 2. Discuss/Reflect on past studies on this topic in in-session workshops 3. Request for country submissions on the topic 4. Identify relevant constituted bodies to support the implementation of the issue in the KJWA 5. Request the constituted bodies to provide the necessary support 6. Compile country submissions 7. Discuss on gaps and decide on modalities to implement this issue in workshops/expert group meetings 8. Take measures to implement the decisions 9. The most vulnerable groups including children and women where climate shocks are existed up to displacement of inhabitants while conflicting for resources in the pastoral community too.