



## **Least Developed Countries Group on climate change**

### **SUBMISSION BY THE KINGDOM OF BHUTAN ON BEHALF OF THE LEAST DEVELOPED COUNTRIES TO SBSTA/SBI 51 ON KORONIVIA JOINT WORK ON AGRICULTURE ON TOPIC 2D**

#### **Preamble**

Agriculture is an important economic sector for the Least Developed Countries (LDCs) across Africa, Asia and Small Island States. Agriculture sector contributes 70% of the Gross Domestic product (GDP) and supports livelihoods of the majority of the Least developed Countries, and provides substantial support to the industrial development. A large majority of the population in these LDCs, including indigenous communities, depend on agriculture sector as a main source of household income and food. The changes in precipitation and temperature patterns are already disproportionately affecting agricultural productivity in most of LDCs. 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 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.

In addition, It is well understood that LDCs are more vulnerable to the impacts of climate change, not only because of its exposure to climate change, but also because of lack of capacity to respond or adapt to the impacts of climate change.

Warming trends have already become evident across Africa, Asia and Small Island states, and it is likely that the mean annual temperature change will exceed +2°C by 2100, however, changes in precipitation and temperatures may increase the existing water stress and putting more pressure on agricultural systems that will be felt by farmers differently according to their gender.

LDCs are having a diverse range of soils and land use systems. One of the root causes of declining agricultural productivity in most of the Least Developed Countries is soil degradation. This leads to complex nutrient imbalances such as low organic carbon, low nutrient stocks, high acidity and low plant available water holding capacity. Building strong soils and improving soil fertility is key to sustainable agricultural practices, and increases soil water retention and resilience to climatic shocks such as higher temperatures, droughts, floods and storms. In many LDCs across Africa, Asia, Small Island states, there are however various sources of nutrients that include inorganic fertilizers and organic fertilizers such as manure.

Pursuant to the Koronivia Joint Work on Agriculture (KJWA) Roadmap, the Least Developed Countries makes a submission on topic 2d - improved nutrient use and manure management towards sustainable and resilient agricultural systems as follows:

1. Conduct national studies on the current and traditional knowledge with regards to manure management and utilization. In addition, the LDCs must increase the use of soil nutrients and its management for enhanced agricultural productivity and food security as a cause of low nutrient use within the LDCs
2. Facilitate Soil nutrient mapping and rational use of fertilizers and identify the ways how to optimize manure, crop residue, other organic fertilizer use in a manner which maximizes resilience of agriculture and development of soil information systems for decision-making.

3. Support scaling up and adoption of technologies, best practices and approaches that increase and optimise efficient use of soil nutrients and manure, noting that emissions from nutrient use in Least developed Countries (LDCs) across Africa, Asia and Small Island States are still low compared to the global average.
4. Enhance quantity, quality and accessibility of manure, given its importance for restoration and rehabilitation of degraded agricultural land

### **Climate Finance**

Productivity of LDC agriculture is relatively low. Land degradation is a major problem, due to increasing population pressure, erosion, water scarcity and the breakdown of traditional systems for soil fertility. In addition, Agriculture has been identified as a critical area that must be protected from an adverse impacts of climate change. This calls for increased investment in order to increase agriculture productivity to support the population growth, ensure food and nutrition security, poverty eradication, sustainable development in a changing climate.

In this regard, the Least Developed Countries requests

1. The standing committee on finance to consider making recommendations to CoP on the long-term financing of agriculture with a view of providing guidance from the CoP to the operating entities of the financial mechanisms under the convention to consider setting aside dedicated financial resources, special window, special programmes, call for proposals to support agriculture.
2. The constituted bodies under the convention to support the implementation and review their programmes of work and collect information on agriculture to ensure they integrate KJWA in future programmes.
3. The constituted bodies under the convention and the operating entities of the financial mechanism under the convention to develop/strengthen their respective agricultural strategies with full participation of parties.