



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations

KORONIVIA JOINT WORK ON AGRICULTURE

Summary of workshop on topic 2(b)



Methods and approaches for assessing adaptation, adaptation co-benefits and resilience

The Koronivia Joint Work on Agriculture (KJWA) is a landmark decision that was reached at the UN Climate Conference (COP23) in November 2017 on the next steps for agriculture within the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). The decision officially recognizes the unique role that agriculture can play in tackling climate change while considering the vulnerability of the sector to climate change and approaches to achieve food security.

OVERVIEW

There are a number of challenges related to the assessment of climate change adaptation, adaptation co-benefits and resilience in agriculture.¹ First, there is no harmonized system in place to assess adaptation in general. Current approaches are mainly based on monitoring and evaluation (M&E) frameworks for country-level reporting or for projects to evaluate funding accountability requirements. Second, adaptation co-benefits are mostly qualitative which makes them difficult to measure. They can range from quality of income, technology development and capacity-building to improved gender equity, soil health and increased biodiversity. Furthermore, the discrepancy between a project's time horizon (on average four to seven years) and the decades needed to observe statistically significant changes given climate variability means that resilience metrics have to rely on proxies for outcomes of specific investments.

Key facts and figures

- 1 Assessment of adaptation is central for most financial entities in their project development and implementation.** These systems rely mostly on quantitative metrics as qualitative assessments are more difficult to determine and implement. The monitoring and assessment component requires dedicated resources.
- 2 There are no universally accepted global adaptation M&E systems on which national or project systems can be based.** Some tools have already been or are currently being developed:
 - FAO has developed a guidance document that includes a seven-step approach to establishing a national M&E framework for agriculture in National Adaptation Plans (NAPs).² →

¹ This document provides a summary of discussions which took place at the UNFCCC workshop on topic 2(b) in Bonn in June 2019. The views expressed herein do not necessarily reflect the views or policies of FAO but only aim to facilitate knowledge sharing and support decision-making in the frame of the KJWA process. All the facts, figures, opinions or statements presented below are issued from the UNFCCC workshop report: <https://unfccc.int/event/methods-and-approaches-for-assessing-adaptation-adaptation-co-benefits-and-resilience>

² Document at: www.fao.org/in-action/naps/resources/detail/en/c/1039752/, see also paragraph 14 of the UNFCCC report for information on FAO's work and publications on assessment of adaptation.

- The Adaptation of Committee (AC) of the UNFCCC has been mandated to develop an inventory of methodologies for assessing adaptation needs by June 2020 and to prepare a technical paper by November 2022.
- The Least Developed Countries Expert Group (LEG) of the UNFCCC and its partners are using the NAP-SDG iFrame to identify new ways of structuring adaptation planning, knowledge management and assessment.
- The World Bank is developing additional tools and approaches for M&E as part of its 2025 climate change commitments, for a better measurement and reporting of adaptation and resilience, to create incentives to enhance ambition towards climate-resilient growth objectives and create a global standard for use in financial markets (e.g. resilience bonds) and public procurement (e.g. infrastructure projects).

3 National governments have developed country-specific M&E systems for different scales and objectives that do not always coincide. This is particularly true when it comes to comparing outcomes of adaptation projects and programmes, the implementation of NAPs or the country's fulfilment of global goals, such as the Paris Agreement, the Sendai Framework or the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Therefore, systemic integration is crucial for governments and countries can learn from each other (see Uruguay).

KEY CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES

Need for a coherent framework of methods and indicators to track adaptation

A coherent framework for tracking progress across four dimensions (natural resources, agricultural production systems, socioeconomics, and institutions and policy) would:

- reduce the reporting burden on countries under the Paris Agreement, the Sendai Framework and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;
- facilitate the aggregation of data for reviewing the adequacy and effectiveness of adaptation, and support progress towards the global goal on adaptation;
- facilitate the preparation of project proposals under the Financial Mechanism.

Potential entry points for the Koronivia Joint Work on Agriculture

Through the KJWA, the development of a framework can be based on three steps:

Step 1: Stocktake of existing methods and approaches.

Step 2: Co-development of a user-friendly global methodological framework by Parties, constituted bodies, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), relevant United Nations organizations and other stakeholders under the guidance of the UNFCCC Subsidiary Bodies.

Lessons learned from Uruguay

Since 2017, Uruguay has been developing a national strategic plan for climate change adaptation in the agriculture sector. Efforts include developing an interactive platform for systematic M&E. Some of the lessons learned include:

- ▶ No single set of indicators fits all adaptation situations (e.g. sectoral, cross-sectoral, national, regional).
- ▶ A solid vulnerability assessment is a prerequisite for applying an M&E system effectively.
- ▶ M&E systems that are compatible with NAPs, Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) prevent duplication of efforts.
- ▶ Lack of quality information is one of the main challenges in tracking adaptation progress, but strengthening data collection systems is a resource-intensive process.
- ▶ A combination of process and results indicators is needed to reflect the long-term nature of adaptation.
- ▶ A combination of quantitative and qualitative information is needed to better understand farmer behaviour and improve policy design.
- ▶ A protocol for the systematic and consistent assessment of loss and damage is useful as part of the M&E toolbox.
- ▶ Systematic monitoring of weather conditions is useful in understanding how agroecosystem structures and functions respond to adverse impacts.

Step 3: Knowledge sharing, capacity building, technology transfer and financial flows among Parties and stakeholders to support the design and implementation of national multi-level adaptation M&E systems.

The active participation of farmers, especially women and marginalized community farmers as well as indigenous peoples should be taken into account throughout the process.

INFO:

www.fao.org/climate-change/our-work/what-we-do/koronivia/en/

CONTACT:

Koronivia-JWA@fao.org

Thanks to the financial support of



Federal Ministry
of Food
and Agriculture