



FAO/EPIC Briefing Note on Agriculture for the Doha Climate Change Conference (Doha, 26 November-7 December 2012)

1. Background

This note provides minimal background and seeks to map where agriculture will be discussed explicitly and might be discussed more indirectly at the forthcoming Doha Climate Change Conference. It is indicative rather than exhaustive and is meant to help participants from partner country Ministries of Agriculture, supported by the EC-FAO Project on Climate-smart Agriculture, to follow agenda items of relevance to agriculture.

Since COP 17 in Durban, South Africa formal negotiations have taken place in Bonn (14-25 May 2012) and Bangkok (30 August – 5 September 2012). In Bonn, SBSTA, at its thirty-sixth session, initiated, in accordance with decision 2/CP.17, paragraph 75, an exchange of views on issues relating to agriculture and agreed to continue its consideration of this agenda item at its thirty-seventh session. Agriculture was not formally discussed in Bangkok, as only AWG-KP and AWG-LCA met.

2. Schedule of Meetings for the session

Session	Date	Agenda	Documents
COP 18	26 Nov - 7 Dec 2012	FCCC/CP/2012/1	documents
CMP 8	26 Nov - 7 Dec 2012	FCCC/KP/CMP/2012/1	documents
SBI 37	26 Nov - 1 Dec 2012	FCCC/SBI/2012/16	documents
SBSTA 37	26 Nov - 1 Dec 2012	FCCC/SBSTA/2012/3	documents
AWG-KP 17-2	27 Nov - *	AWGKP/2012/AGENDA	documents
AWG-LCA 15-2	27 Nov - *	AWGLCA/2012/AGENDA	documents
ADP 1-2	27 Nov - *	ADP/2012/AGENDA	documents

[N.B. AWG-LCA, AWG-ADP, SBSTA, SBI and the Adaptation Committee, Standing Committee (on finance) report to the COP. AWG-KP reports to CMP]

3. Where agriculture will be discussed at the Conference

SBSTA 37 and SBI 37

Agriculture will be directly discussed under *agenda item 10 "Issues relating to agriculture"*. The SBSTA will be invited to continue its consideration of issues relating to agriculture with a view to recommending a decision for consideration and adoption by the COP at its eighteenth session. From discussions held last May at SBSTA, it seemed that a multi-year, comprehensive work programme on agriculture is not favoured, but rather a more flexible, step-wise approach to the definition of possible activities to be pursued in-between and during sessions. Some believe that discussion under this item will be inconclusive due to attempts to introduce policy issues at an early stage into the technical discussions, apprehension about possible trade implications of future decisions, as well as

recognition of the common but differentiated responsibilities of developed and developing countries under the UNFCCC. It was recognized that both adaptation and mitigation are important and need to be given equal consideration in technical discussions.

4. Other agenda items where certain aspects of Agriculture could be considered

Adaptation aspects of agriculture could also be raised under:

SBSTA **agenda item 3** “*Nairobi work programme on impacts, vulnerability and adaptation to climate change*”, in view of the preference of some developing countries to discuss agriculture in the context of adaptation. SBSTA will, *inter alia*, consider a compilation of case studies on national adaptation planning practices (FCCC/SBSTA/2012/INF. 6).

SBSTA **agenda item 4** “*Report of the Adaptation Committee*”, as the SBSTA and SBI consider the Committee’s work plan. Given the importance of agriculture in many developing countries in terms of food security, poverty reduction, employment and FDI, agriculture is likely to figure prominently in planning processes and measures. The sector was already very evident in the NAPAs of many LDCs. It would seem important that this consideration is taken into account by SBSTA and SBI when considering this matter, including NAPAs.

Under SBI **agenda item 6** “*Matters relating to finance*” funding of NAPAs will be addressed in **item 6 (d)** “*Further guidance to the Least Developed Fund*”. SBI will consider a synthesis report by the Secretariat on the progress made in implementation of the LDC work programme, including updating and implementation of NAPAs. As the majority of NAPAs addressed different facets of agriculture and food was the sector most addressed in NAPAs, this item is of interest to those working in the field of agriculture, both Ministries of Agriculture and intergovernmental organizations. SBI is to consider the relevant documents and make recommendations to COP18 in Doha.

SBI **agenda item 9** “*National adaptation plans*”, see above agenda item 4 of the SBSTA. For

SBI **agenda item 10** will address “*Approaches to address loss and damage associated with climate change impacts in developing countries that are particularly vulnerable to the adverse effects of climate change to enhance adaptive capacity*”. This may be an area where developing countries may wish to insert agriculture (African Ministers of Environment indicated as much in their updated common African position on climate change). SBI will consider a report on expert meetings and be invited to make recommendations to COP18 in Doha.

Mitigation aspects of Agriculture could also be raised also under:

Under SBSTA **agenda item 12(b)** “*Land use, land-use change and forestry under Article 3, paragraphs 3 and 4, of the Kyoto Protocol and under the clean development mechanism*” consideration will continue of work programmes on (a) more comprehensive accounting of anthropogenic emissions by source and removal by sink from land use, land-use change and forestry (LULUCF), including a more activity-based or land-based approach, (b) develop and recommend modalities and procedures for possible new LULUCF activities under the CDM in addition to A/R, (c) develop and recommend modalities and procedures for alternative approaches to addressing the risk of non-permanence under the CDM and (d) to develop and recommend modalities and procedures for applying the concept of additionality. SBSTA will report on progress to CMP at its eighth session in Doha. With regard to new LULUCF activities to be included under CDM, mitigation activities related to agriculture have been mentioned in past discussions (e.g. mitigation from agricultural soils).

Under *SBI agenda item 5 “Nationally appropriate mitigation actions by developing country Parties”*, consideration will continue of the prototype of a registry to record nationally appropriate mitigation actions seeking international support and to facilitate matching of finance, technology and capacity-building support for these actions, with a view to finalizing the registry through a decision by the COP at its eighteenth session in Doha. It will also consider the composition, modalities and procedures of the team of technical experts undertaking technical analysis under international consultations and analysis of the biennial update reports submitted by non-Annex I Parties (developing countries) with a view to recommending a draft decision for adoption by the COP in Doha. While so far implementation of NAMAs in the area of agriculture has been extremely limited, this is not to say that they may increase in future. It is therefore important that the modalities decided do not exclude agriculture and take into account its specificities.

Agriculture as a driver of emissions in other sectors

Under *SBSTA agenda item 5 “Methodological guidance for activities relating to reducing emissions from deforestation and and the role of conservation, sustainable management of forests and enhancement of forest carbon stocks in developing countries”*, SBSTA will continue its work on drivers of deforestation and forest degradation, in particular how to address these drivers, including consideration of social and economic aspects in developing countries at national level. As expansion of agriculture into forested areas is a major driver of deforestation and forest degradation in developing countries, closer attention to minimizing context-specific trade-offs and maximizing synergies on agriculture and forest frontiers is a key policy objective for many developing countries. It requires a better understanding of the opportunity costs involved, a more integrated approach to food security, agriculture and natural resources management policy areas, as well as coordination across Ministries of Agriculture and Environment.

AWG-LCA15-2

AWG-LCA still has a large number of outstanding issues to complete (e.g. issues relating to mitigation, adaptation, economic and social consequences of response measures, risk management, technology, financial resources and the review). In light of this situation, it is not clear whether the mandate of the LCA will be terminated (as was foreseen) or extended. This point is contentious.

AWG-ADP1-2

Aspirations for the work of the ADP are laid out in an informal note by the Co-Chairs. The note expresses the hope that the ADP will (a) continue planning its work for 2013, in the context of a broader vision, indicating major reference points for this work up to 2015 and (b) advance substantive work on bridging the current mitigation gap and delivering a new agreement by 2015. It is proposed that roundtables, informal consultations and a contact group be used. How agriculture may or may not figure in future work has not received much attention.

COP18

Agenda **item 11 “Matters relating to finance”** addresses aspects of climate financing. The COP will consider the report of the co-chairs of the work programme on long-term finance in Doha. The COP will also consider the report of its Standing Committee, which assists it in improving coherence and coordination in the delivery of climate change financing, rationalization of the financial mechanism, mobilization of financial resources and measurement, reporting and verification of support provided to developing countries. COP will further consider the report of the Board of the Green Climate Fund and will be invited to decide on arrangements between the COP and the Green Climate Fund (to

ensure that it is accountable to and functions under the guidance of the COP). While not addressing agriculture per se, it is crucial that the design of enabling mechanisms, particularly financing mechanisms, take into account the specificities of agriculture so that the sector, which is highly sensitive to climate change and responsible for 14% of global emissions, is able to contribute to adaptation and mitigation goals while fulfilling those of food security and development.

4. Agriculture in the negotiations - a quick guide

Body	Agenda items	Key Issues
SBSTA	AI 10: Agriculture	A work programme or not? How will agriculture be addressed in future negotiations?
	AI 3: Nairobi Work Prog.	Would agriculture be inserted in future areas of work?
	AI 4: Adapt. Committee	Addresses adaptation planning, including NAPs. Implications for agricultural planning at country level?
	AI 5: Drivers of deforestation and forest degradation	Agriculture a main driver in developing countries how to manage trade-offs at interface of agriculture and forests?
	AI 12 LULUCF	Expanding land-based mitigation under CDM. How to manage comprehensive accounting, risk of non-permanence, additionality?
SBI	AI 5: NAMAs	Prototype of NAMA Registry and composition, modalities and procedures for technical analysis under ICA. Implications for agricultural NAMAs?
	AI 6 Least Developed Fund	Heavy agricultural content in most NAPAs. How is implementation being funded? Roles of MoA and MoE?
	AI 9: National Adaptation Plans	Enabling NAP formulation and implementation, NAPAs had large agriculture components, also NAPs? (see AI 4 above).
	AI 10: Loss and Damage	Loss and damage connected more explicitly to agriculture?
KP/CMP		A decision on a second commitment period?
COP	Finance	What happens to financing from 2013 to 2019? Will commitment to 100 billion a year from 2020 be maintained?
COP/CMP	LCA/KP	Termination or extension in Doha?
ADP	AI 3: DPA work plan	Work plan will address action and the means of implementation, will agriculture figure in ADP?

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