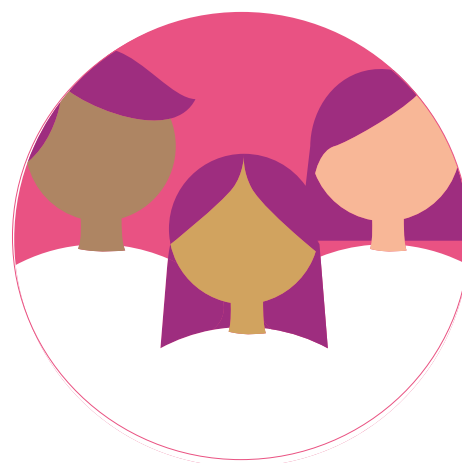




Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations

KORONIVIA JOINT WORK ON AGRICULTURE

Summary of workshop on topic 2(f)



Socio-economic and food security dimensions of climate change in the agricultural sector

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

Challenges facing the future of agriculture are numerous. By 2050, agriculture will need to feed ten billion people globally while preserving land and natural resources, reducing greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, improving climate resilience and reducing poverty.

In the past, most interventions related to food security and rural poverty focused on increasing food supply at farm-level and did not take post-harvest activities such as processing and transport into consideration. The COVID-19 pandemic has shown the importance of a holistic approach, and the need for robust and resilient food systems that provide sustainable livelihoods for primary producers and access to a sufficient supply of affordable food for citizens.¹

Key facts and figures

- 1 **821 million people in the world suffer from hunger while 2 billion adults are overweight or obese.**
- 2 **2.4 billion people in the southern hemisphere are threatened by climate hazards.**
- 3 **Around 750 million people worldwide are exposed to severe levels of food and nutrition insecurity, this is compounded by the COVID-19 pandemic.**
- 4 **Food systems account for 25 to 30 percent of total global GHG emissions, and can generate other negative effects, such as pollution, biodiversity loss, land degradation, malnutrition and inequity.**
- 5 **108 million children worldwide work in agriculture, missing out on the opportunity of formal education and exposed to workplace hazards.**

¹ This document provides a summary of discussions which took place at the UNFCCC workshop on topic 2(f) in November 2020. 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/sites/default/files/resource/sb2021_02_adv.pdf. Presentations and recordings of the meeting are available here: <https://unfccc.int/event/koronivia-workshop-on-socioeconomic-and-food-security-dimensions-of-climate-change-in-the>.

KEY CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES

The socio-economic and food security dimensions of climate change

In the context of climate change and a growing global population, most countries will need to adapt and produce more food with fewer resources. This will ultimately result in some groups being more affected than others, a lack of inclusivity, economic and financial shocks, and a deterioration of capacities. On the other hand, food waste, food loss and unbalanced diets are a preventable source of GHG emissions.

Potential entry point for Koronivia Joint Work on Agriculture

Continuing the dialogue among Parties in international fora and at national levels to address socio-economic and food security dimensions of climate change in the agriculture sector.

A comprehensive approach to food systems in policymaking

Although more diversified, resilient and sustainable systems are required, defining and implementing the so-called “food system” approach can be complex. Nonetheless, there is growing consensus that public and private interventions should be inclusive, context-specific and their potential impact should be assessed at a systemic level.

Potential entry points for Koronivia Joint Work on Agriculture

- Mainstreaming socio-economic issues and the inclusion of groups in vulnerable situations into adaptation and mitigation policies, including by assessing links between small family farming, ecosystem services, forests and landscapes, and developing corresponding guidelines.
- Supporting further research and knowledge sharing, and translating both scientific and traditional findings into frameworks and project design at the national and local levels.
- Advocating for policy reform in relation to food loss and food waste, dietary changes, agricultural subsidies, inclusion of the private sector and trade.

Role of people in transforming food systems

Collaborating with people engaged in agriculture is essential to accomplish social and economic outcomes, such as reducing hunger, creating jobs, generating economic growth and preserving ecosystem resources.

However, the lack of information, funding and incentives reinforces the vulnerability of people in agriculture to shocks, and is a significant barrier to change. Agricultural workers and small-scale food producers must have a voice in redesigning food systems, especially women, youth, Indigenous Peoples and people with disabilities taking into account the need for intra- and intergenerational equity.

Potential entry points for Koronivia Joint Work on Agriculture

- Recognizing the role of people who practise agriculture and the social, economic and environmental impacts that their actions have on food systems and their transformation.
- Improving land governance to consider the rights and interests of people in agriculture, and rethink any legal, fiscal, economic or other incentives encouraging unsustainable practices.
- Enhancing climate information, early warning systems and climate risk management tools (crop and livestock insurance, rewards for positive environmental services, etc.).

Finance and capacity building in socio-economic and food security dimensions

Significant funding has been dedicated to the socio-economic adaptation of people in agriculture through the dissemination of knowledge and practices, access to finance and markets; the implementation of early warning systems; and, the use of integrated agricultural systems.

Potential entry points for Koronivia Joint Work on Agriculture

- Contributing to the creation of an enabling environment for the mobilization and utilization of resources, including through the improvement of measurement, reporting and verification (MRV) of socio-economic and food security dimensions.
- Encouraging exchanges with the Katowice Committee of Experts on the Impacts of the Implementation of Response Measures (KCI)² on the topics of economic diversification and transformation; just transition of the workforce and the creation of decent work and quality jobs; and, assessment of the impacts of response measures.

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² The KCI is a constituted body of the UNFCCC.