

AGRICULTURE AT THE UN CLIMATE CHANGE TALKS

BONN, GERMANY | 4-15 JUNE 2014

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 THE CONTEXT

Discussion of agriculture at this session of the subsidiary bodies will take place in the context of:

- (i) the short timeframe available to prepare an agreement on climate change for approval by COP 21 in Paris in 2015;
- (ii) a forthcoming Climate Summit of the UN Secretary-General to be held on 23 September 2014 in New York at which a global Climate Smart Agriculture (CSA) Alliance is to be launched ;
- (iii) the Green Climate Fund (GCF), at its recent Board meeting, took eight decisions necessary for it to start funding before the end of the year. The question now is when and how much funding will be made available. Agriculture was removed, by some developing countries, as a separate initial result area during the previous 5th GCF Board Meeting and merged into an area entitled “Sustainable land use management to support mitigation and adaptation”.
- (iv) global, regional and national initiatives on climate smart agriculture, including discussion on the creation of a global CSA Alliance, the creation of an African CSA Alliance led by NEPAD and a growing number of national programmes/projects for agricultural adaptation and mitigation.

1.2 KEY ISSUES

Some key issues include:

- (i) whether agriculture will be or not be part of the 2015 agreement?;
- (ii) whether there might be dedicated space for agriculture (given its specificities, especially those related to food security) within a new agreement or whether it might be part of a land use cluster (REDD+, wetlands, agricultural lands, grasslands)?;
- (iii) if agriculture is not “inside” a new climate instrument, whether this might tend to place it “outside” climate financing allocations?;
- (iv) would such exclusion negatively affect farmers who ultimately adapt agriculture to a changing climate, including through options, which may have lower emissions than conventional agriculture;
- (v) given the close linkages among food security, development, climate change adaptation and mitigation goals within agricultural systems (including both trade-offs and synergies) and their context-specific nature, it may be beneficial that the design of international enabling means seek to reward national transformational efforts that take these considerations into account in the context of strengthening evidence-based practice, policy, institutional and investment choices for addressing agriculture and climate change.

1.3 SUBSIDIARY BODY MEETINGS IN BONN

- Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice (SBSTA), 40th session
- Subsidiary Body for Implementation (SBI), 40th session
- Ad Hoc Working Group on the Durban Platform for Enhanced Action, fifth part of the second session

SESSION	DATE	AGENDA	DOCUMENTS
ADP, 2-5	4 - 15 Jun 2014	ADP/2013/AGENDA	documents
SBSTA 40	4 - 15 Jun 2014	FCCC/SBSTA/2014/1	documents
SBI 40	4 - 15 Jun 2014	FCCC/SBI/2014/1	documents

[Overview schedule](#)
[Side Events](#)

Control + click to open agenda, documents, overview and side events

2. WHERE AGRICULTURE WILL BE DISCUSSED EXPLICITLY

At SBSTA 39, no contact group was formed and consequently there was no discussion on agriculture, which was to have focused on adaptation. However, 19 submissions were made prior to the session and an in-session workshop on agriculture took place, with a high level of engagement and interest. It was evident from interventions at the workshop that country level action on both agricultural adaptation and mitigation is intensifying and expanding. This is in contrast to the negotiations where agreement to discuss scientific and technological aspects within a SBSTA programme of work has not found favor among Parties. At the same time, REDD+ has progressed rapidly (agriculture is the number one driver of deforestation in many developing countries and will need to be part of the solution to the challenges REDD seeks to resolve).

Agriculture will be discussed under **SBSTA 40 agenda item 8 “*Issues relating to agriculture*”**. Submissions on agriculture are contained in document FCCC/SBSTA/2013/MISC.17 and Add.1 and Add. 2 (see separate analysis of submissions by FAO). A report on the in-session workshop held at SBSTA 39 is contained in FCCC/SBSTA/2014/INF.2. Judging from past sessions, it is expected that agriculture at the forthcoming session will continue to move at the same pace it has followed over the last years. The technical reasons for addressing agriculture have been made and country level activity is currently at a high level, suggesting that the current pace may be shaped by political rather than technical and international rather than national considerations. Some Parties may look at ADP and SBSTA discussions concerning agriculture/land issues in tandem.

3. Other agenda items of relevance to agriculture

There are a number of agenda items, which may address agriculture or issues of relevance to agriculture but in a less explicit way than under SBSTA agenda item 8.

3.1 ADP 2, Part 5

It is in the ADP that a new instrument is being crafted for adoption by COP 21 in Paris in December 2015, with implementation foreseen from 2020. The ADP is to consider elements of a negotiating text no later than December 2014 and a draft negotiating text is to be available before May 2015. Negotiations in the ADP have begun in earnest in 2014, given the tight timeframe.

At the outset, agriculture was mentioned in the context of broader “land issues” (forests and land-use were to be explored in greater detail under Workstream 1; submissions suggested that land use, forestry, agriculture is a thematic area with high mitigation potential; submissions also highlighted Brazil’s national plan on agricultural mitigation and adaptation, Indonesia’s carbon-efficient farming policy, which targets increased productivity and resilience to climate change). However, some countries objected to any mention of agriculture as it was under negotiation in another body (i.e. SBSTA).

At COP 19 in Warsaw, land-based sectors did NOT make their way into the final text of the COP decision on ADP, action with high mitigation potential, including those with adaptation and sustainable development co-benefits did, which might be inclusive of agriculture. However, having mitigation as the entry point for agricultural mitigation and adaptation did not “fly” previously under the Bali Action Plan. A High Level Event on Land Sector and Forests was held in the context of the ADP in Warsaw.

At the 40th session, there will be [a technical expert meeting on land use on 11 June](#). Also, “Approach to accounting for the land-use sector” is among the *Landscape of Issues* identified by Parties that is annexed to the Note of the Co-Chairs on ADP 2, Part 4.

There will be a side event on [Land use in a post-2020 agreement on Saturday 7 June 2014 from 15:00 to 16:30 in Room Solar](#). In a recent report prepared for the Nordic Council of Ministers (NOAK), Climate Focus and UNIQUE analyze the current status of the land-use sector under the UNFCCC and its Kyoto Protocol, and formulate options for how various incentives and systems could be harmonized under a future climate treaty. There will also be a parallel event on [Land Use in a Future Climate Agreement](#), organized by Winrock International and Meridian Institute. The side event will take place at the Bonn 1&2 Meeting Room, Hilton Bonn, Berliner Freiheit 2, Bonn, Germany on [Tuesday, 10 June 2014 from 17:30 - 19:00](#) with a reception to follow.

Focusing on land use could provide a more comprehensive and integrated approach to REDD+, agriculture, wetlands, grasslands in the context of the UNFCCC. Different land uses may involve synergies (sustainable agricultural intensification and avoided deforestation) but also may involve trade-offs and competition for what, in some areas, is a finite resource that cannot fulfill multiple demands for carbon emission reduction, increased crop and livestock production, bioenergy, wildlife habitat, water resource management and industry. Mitigation and land use

may require a broader vision that goes beyond a carbon-only optic to look at multiple country goals (including food security, development, climate change adaptation) and how these can be achieved in diverse contexts, including through integrated land-use management planning and methodologies that take into consideration these synergies and trade-offs and measure their related costs and benefits. On the other hand, without explicit consideration of agriculture in a 2015 agreement, it may tend to be dwarfed by REDD+.

3.2 SBSTA 40

3.2.1 Agenda item 5 “*Methodological guidance for activities relating to reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation and the role of conservation, sustainable management of forests and enhancement of forest carbon stocks in developing countries*”

Under this item SBSTA will discuss submissions that relate to non-market-based approaches, such as joint mitigation and adaptation approaches, the importance of non-carbon benefits, clarity on types of non-market approaches and whether further methodological work might be needed. **An in-session expert meeting in this regard will be held at SBSTA 40.** There are some common elements with climate smart agriculture (combining adaptation and mitigation, importance of non-carbon benefits and non-market/market approaches) but seem to be so far less developed conceptually.

3.2.2 Agenda item 9 “*Warsaw international mechanism for loss and damage associated with climate change impacts*”

Still in a process mode: establishing the Executive Committee

3.2.3 Agenda item 12 (c) “*Land use, land-use change and forestry under Article 3, paragraphs 3 and 4 of the Kyoto Protocol and under the clean development mechanism*”

SBSTA will continue discussion on possible additional land-use, land-use change and forestry activities and alternative approaches addressing the risk of non-permanence under the CDM. SBSTA will consider a technical paper in regard to the latter, prepared by the Secretariat and views expressed in submissions for the former. Chile has proposed the inclusion of agricultural activities and non-permanence issues are also relevant for agriculture.

3.2.4 Agenda item 13 (a) - (c) “*Market and non-market mechanisms under the Convention*”

SBSTA 39 was unable to reach agreement on these sub-items and will continue consideration. Now that the GCF is in a position to fund and foresees funding from both public and private sources this may provide practical knowledge on how these might work, including forms of blended financing.

3.3 SBI 40

3.3.1 Agenda item 5 “*Work Programme to further understanding of the diversity of nationally appropriate mitigation actions*”

A second in-session workshop will be held on this subject. The first workshop was held during SBI 39. Two documents will inform discussion: the report on the first workshop, contained in a Note by the Secretariat [FCCC/SBI/2014/INF.1] and *The extent of the matching of mitigation actions with financial, technical and capacity-building support under the registry of nationally appropriate mitigation actions contained in a Note by the Secretariat* [FCCC/SBI/2014/IBF.2.]. This item seems to have more of an information sharing function rather decision-making function. Funding for NAMAs is currently to a greater extent outside of the UNFCCC Secretariat (Germany-

UK NAMA Facility which funds an agricultural NAMA on the coffee subsector in Costa Rica). Costa Rica is also developing a NAMA on livestock (with some support from UNDP and FAO provided Costa Rica with its approved VCS methodology). [There will a Workshop on the NAMA Work Programme on 5 June.](#)

3.3.2 Agenda item 7 “National Adaptation Plans”

Under this item SBI will consider the initial guidelines for the formulation of NAPs. The main documents before the SBI are the *Report on the 25th meeting of the LEG* [FCCC/SBI/2014/4] and *Experience with the application of the initial guidelines for the formulation of NAPS, based on submissions* [FCCC/SBI/2014/MISC.1].

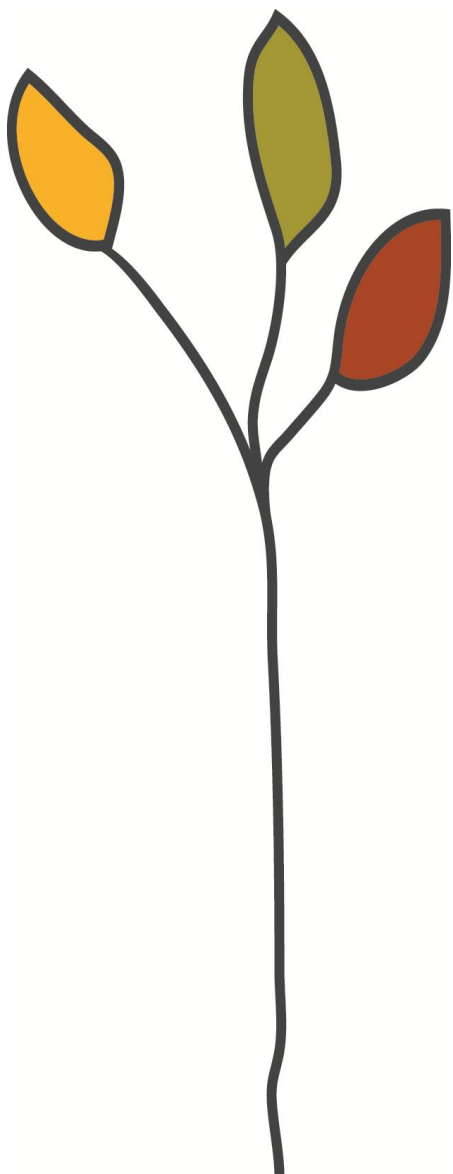
There is great interest in NAPs, especially in Least Developed Countries, which already prepared NAPAs (National Adaptation Programmes of Action) on which the NAPs are to be based. FAO is preparing in consultation with UNFCCC, the LEG, other agencies and countries a set of supplementary guidelines that highlight specific agriculture, fisheries and forestry sector aspects while planning and engaging stakeholders in the NAPs process. The guidelines would have the objective of (i) facilitating consideration and integration of food security and agriculture concerns and perspectives into the NAP process; (ii) providing elements for non-agriculture specialists to understand what are the issues at hand and (iii) enabling agriculture stakeholders to better identify and understand the issues at stake in a mid/long term perspective and empowering them to participate efficiently in the process. FAO plans to hold a stakeholder consultation process on the outline and content of the guidelines and hopes to launch them at COP 20 in Lima, Peru. FAO is also developing a section on agriculture for a Malawi NAP as part of broader UN system support to the NAP initiative in this country.

4. WORKSHOPS ON LONG-TERM FINANCE

There will be 2 workshops on 7 and 12 June, under the aegis of the COP. [Decision 3/CP.19](#) on long-term climate finance foresaw three types of activities to be organized in the period 2014-2020, these included: biennial submissions by developed country Parties; in-session workshops; and biennial high-level ministerial dialogue on climate finance, starting in 2014. Focus areas for discussion are informed by a webinar held on 25 April 2014, including: (i) approaches and strategies for mobilizing scaled-up climate finance from 2014 to 2020, (ii) Cooperation on enhanced enabling environments and support for readiness activities and (iii) support needs of developing countries.

5. SELECTED SIDE EVENTS

Wednesday, 4 June 2014	13:15-14:45 Room Tram	Germany/UK NAMA Facility	Lessons learned in providing finance for implementation of early NAMAs
Thursday, 5 June 2014	13:15-14:45 Room Wind	FAO, WFP, IFAD and UNDP	NAPs: Supporting the development and implementation of agricultural relevant components
Thursday, 5 June 2014	18:30-20:00 Room Rail	IFAD, WFP, and FAO	Climate Smart Agriculture at Work
Friday, 6 June 2014	16:45- 18:15 Room Wind	German Development Institute	Reducing emissions from Agriculture while improving food security - what role for UNFCCC?
Saturday, 7 June 2014	18:30-20:00 Room Wind	Centro Internacional de Agricultura Tropical (CIAT)	Planning climate adaptation in agriculture: advances in research, policy, finance
Sunday, 8 June 2014	13:15-14:45	University of Copenhagen Malawi	Advancing Climate-Smart Agriculture in Africa
Monday, 9 June 2014	14:00 - 18:00 Gustav-Stresemann- Institut, Langer Grabenweg 68, Bonn	FAO	Informal Consultation: “Integrating Agriculture in the NAPs process”, Developing a Supplement on Agriculture to the NAPs technical guidelines
Tuesday, 10 June 2014	15:00-16:30 Room Solar	GIZ IIED	Measuring and reporting effective adaptation - Challenges, approaches and ways forward
Saturday, 14 June 2014	15:00-16:30 Room Metro	Human Society International	Agriculture and the ADP: Opportunities to support Adaptation, Mitigation and Social goals



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For more information on the project:



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