

ROADMAP TO AGRICULTURE AT THE UNFCCC CLIMATE TALKS (*Bonn, 14-25 May 2012*)

1. Background

This note seeks to map where agriculture will be discussed both specifically and more indirectly at the forthcoming Bonn Climate Talks. It is indicative rather than exhaustive and is meant to help participants follow agenda items of relevance to agriculture.

The session

Since COP17 in Durban, no formal negotiations have taken place. Negotiations will resume in Bonn, Germany on 14-25 May 2012. The following bodies and working groups will meet:

- 36th session of the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice (SBSTA)
- 36th session of the Subsidiary Body for Implementation (SBI)
- 15th session of the Ad hoc Working Group on Long-term Cooperative Action (AWG-LCA)
- 17th session of the Ad hoc Working Group on Further Commitments for Annex I Parties under the Kyoto Protocol (AWG-KP)
- 1st session of the Ad Hoc Working Group on the Durban Platform for Enhanced Action (DPA)

Agriculture in the negotiations

The Bonn meetings will continue to address agriculture, specifically through discussions in SBSTA but also indirectly in other bodies as outlined above and detailed below. Agriculture was previously discussed under the AWG-LCA in the context of mitigation (Cooperative sectoral approaches and sector-specific actions, in order to enhance implementation of Article 4, paragraph 1(c), of the Convention). The idea of a work programme on agriculture was proposed but never agreed. At its 17th session in Durban, the COP, through its decision 2/CP.17 on the Outcome of work of Ad Hoc Working Group on Long-term Cooperative Action under the Convention:

“75. Requests the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice to consider issues related to agriculture at its thirty-sixth session, with the aim of exchanging views and the Conference of the Parties adopting a decision on this matter at its eighteenth session;

76. Invites Parties and admitted observer organizations to submit to the secretariat, by 5 March 2012, their views on the issues referred to in paragraph 75 above;

77. Requests the secretariat to compile the submissions referred to in paragraph 76 above by Parties into a miscellaneous document for consideration by the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice at its thirty-sixth session;”

The Facilitator during recent negotiations on agriculture has been George Wamukoya (Kenya/COMESA). He is likely to continue but with an additional facilitator from a developed country, as is usually the case in the SBSTA. France facilitated ministerial consultations in Durban.

2. Where agriculture will be discussed

SBSTA 36

Agenda item 9: “*Issues relating to agriculture*”. This is THE place where agriculture will be specifically discussed. *Action*: SBSTA will initiate consideration of issues relating to agriculture with a view to recommending a decision for consideration and adoption by the COP at its 18th session. Document *FCCC/SBSTA/2012/MISC.6* contains submissions from Parties (Bolivia, Burundi, China, Costa Rica, Denmark/EU, Gambia/LDCs, Iran, Japan, Malawi, New Zealand, The Philippines, Saudi Arabia, The Sudan, Swaziland/Africa Group, Switzerland/EIG, Tanzania, Uganda, United States, Uruguay, Zambia). A big question is whether there will be a work programme or not.

Agenda item 4 on methodological guidance relating to *REDD* is to include how to address drivers of deforestation and forest degradation. As a key driver of deforestation in many developing countries, agriculture is likely to be mentioned. While some countries believe REDD cannot succeed without considering agriculture, others do not wish to broaden REDD to include agriculture.

Agenda item 10 (c) on general guidelines for domestic measurement, reporting and verification (MRV) of domestically supported Nationally Appropriate Mitigation Actions (NAMAs) by developing country Parties. *Action*: The SBSTA to initiate consideration of this matter and agree on next steps, as appropriate. See *FCCC/AWGLCA/2011/INF.1* containing submission from Parties. Some developing countries are considering the development of NAMAs, including in the agriculture sector. Different aspects of NAMAs are addressed in different bodies: a registry for NAMAs and expert teams under international consultations/analysis will be considered under SBI and there will be an AWG-LCA in-session workshop to understand the diversity of NAMAs as well as implementation and support aspects (see SBI and AWG-LCA below).

Agenda item 11(c): Land use, land-use change and forestry (LULUCF) under Article 3, paragraphs 3 and 4, of the Kyoto Protocol and under the clean development mechanism; The CMP, by decision *2/CMP.7*, requested the SBSTA to initiate work programmes on: (i) more comprehensive accounting of anthropogenic emissions by sources and removals by sinks from land use, land-use change and forestry, including through a more inclusive activity-based approach or a land-based approach; (ii) possible additional land use, land-use change and forestry activities under the CDM; (iii) modalities and procedures for alternative approaches to addressing the risk of non-permanence under the CDM; and (iv) modalities and procedures for applying the concept of additionality. *Action*: SBSTA to initiate consideration of various work programmes. Permanence and additionality have been obstacles to the inclusion of agriculture in compliance markets. This could potentially pave the way for full land-based accounting and CDM crediting for agriculture. Some Parties oppose this and the benefits of compliance markets for smallholders over the short term are not always obvious.

SBI 36

Agenda item 5: Nationally appropriate mitigation actions (NAMAs) by developing country Parties, including Secretariat development of prototype of registry; composition, modalities and procedures of the team of technical experts under international consultations and analysis. *Action*: The SBI to prepare a draft decision for consideration and adoption by the COP at its 18th session.

Agenda item 8: National Adaptation Plans (a) A process to enable LDC Parties to formulate and implement national adaptation plans, building upon their experience in preparing and implementing national adaptation programmes of action (NAPAs) and (b) Modalities and guidelines for LDC Parties and other developing country Parties to employ the modalities formulated to support national adaptation plans. *Action*: The SBI to make recommendations on support for the NAP process for LDCs to COP18. NAPAs had extensive agriculture components, reflecting the largely agriculture-based economies of LDCs. Agriculture are likely to figure prominently in NAPs as well.

Agenda item 9: Approaches to address loss and damage associated with climate change impacts in vulnerable developing countries and to enhance adaptive capacity. *Action*: SBI to make recommendations to the COP at its eighteenth session, as appropriate. Agriculture most sensitive sector to climate change. Loss and damage can mean preventive adaption has failed. Most cost-effective option for agriculture is prevention through use of appropriate technologies and crop/animal genetic resources but safety nets may also be needed, where these fails.

AWG-LCA 15 is to complete its work and in theory should be terminated at the close of its forthcoming session.

Mitigation of climate change:

Agenda item 3 (b) (ii): NAMAs There will be an in-session workshop to further understanding of the diversity of nationally appropriate mitigation actions (NAMAs) by developing country Parties, underlying assumptions and any support needed for implementation of these actions.

Agenda item 3 (b) (iv) Cooperative sectoral approaches and sector-specific actions. Will discuss the general framework for this item and international aviation and maritime transport. Agricultural issues will be taken up by SBSTA. Agriculture to be discussed in the context of the general framework.

Agenda item 3 (b) (v): Various approaches, including opportunities for using markets, to enhance the cost-effectiveness of, and to promote, mitigation actions, bearing in mind different circumstances of developed and developing countries. There will be an in-session workshop on this topic. Different and step-wise approaches may be needed for agriculture, based on different capacities, development pathways, food security requirements and site-specificity. Blending of different financing streams - climate/development, public/private, - rather than market mechanisms alone may be required.

Adaptation

Agenda item 3 (c) (i) – (v) includes a broad spectrum of issues, of particular relevance to agriculture are integration of adaptation actions into sectoral planning, economic diversification to build resilience, disaster reduction strategies and means to address loss and damage, climate-resilient development, risk management and risk reduction strategies, including risk sharing and transfer mechanisms such as insurance.¹ Agricultural adaptation is crucial for vulnerable countries. How can the sector be made more resilience and how can UNFCCC mechanisms support this?

Technology

Agenda item 3 (d) Technology development and transfer to support action on mitigation and adaptation will, inter alia, address the effectiveness of mechanisms and tools for technology cooperation in specific sectors and effective mechanisms and enhanced means for the removal of obstacles to, and provision of financial and other incentives for, scaling up of the development and transfer of technology to developing country Parties in order to promote access to affordable environmentally sound technologies. It is important that the means of implementation for enhanced adaptation and mitigation take into account specificities of agriculture so that the sector is able to contribute to climate change goals, while fulfilling those of food security and development.

Finance

Agenda item 3 (e) provision of financial resources and investment to support action on mitigation and adaptation and technology cooperation will, inter alia, address positive incentives for developing country Parties for the enhanced implementation of national mitigation strategies and adaptation action, means to incentivize the implementation of adaptation actions on the basis of sustainable development policies, mobilization of public- and private-sector funding and investment, including facilitation of climate-friendly investment choices. It is crucial that the design of enabling mechanisms, particularly financing mechanisms, take into account 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.

DPA 1

Agenda item 3: Planning work. For this item the DPA will have before it views on a workplan (contained in *FCCC/ADP/2012/MISC.3AWG*). The DPA workplan is to address: mitigation, adaptation, finance, technology development/transfer, transparency of action and support and capacity building. In other words, workplan addresses action and means of implementation, wherein it will be important to position agriculture. Not yet clear whether agriculture will be addressed in the DPA.

AWG-KP 17 has diverted “other issues” to SBSTA and SBI and will focus on the length of the second commitment period, QELROs, amendments to the Kyoto Protocol and carry-over of AAUs.

¹ The Africa Group had proposed a work programme on agriculture in the context of the Cancun Adaptation Framework but this did not prevail.

3. Agriculture in the negotiations - a quick guide

Body	Agenda items	Key Issues
SBSTA	AI 9: Agriculture	How agriculture will be addressed in future negotiations: work program or not?
	AI 4: REDD	Agriculture a driver of deforestation: part of REDD or not?
	AI 10(c): NAMAs	Guidelines on MRV for domestically supported NAMAs: implications for agricultural NAMAs?
	AI 11(c): LULUCF	Full land-based accounting and CDM crediting for agriculture?
SBI	AI 5: NAMAs	Prototype of NAMA Registry and technical teams under international consultation and analysis
	AI 8: National Adaptation Plans	Enabling NAP formulation and implementation, based on NAPAs that had large agriculture components.
	AI 9: Loss and Damage	Deals with adaptation/mitigation failure. Agriculture perhaps most sensitive sector, prevention most cost-effective option.
AWG-LCA	AI 3 (b) (ii): NAMAs	In-session workshop on national diversity of NAMAs and underlying assumptions and support for implementation. Agricultural NAMAs figured in African submissions.
	AI 3(b)(v): Various approaches to promote mitigation actions	Innovative approaches tailored to agriculture may be required. In-session workshop.
	AI 3(c)(i) – (v): Adaptation	How can the profile of agriculture be raised within this item?
	AI 3(d): Technology and 3(e): Finance	Ensure that design of enabling mechanisms take into account specificities of agriculture, so that it can be part of the solution.
DPA	AI 3: DPA Workplan	Workplan will address action and the means of implementation, wherein it will be important to position agriculture.

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