



Food and Agriculture Organization
of the United Nations



RESEARCH PROGRAM ON
Climate Change,
Agriculture and
Food Security



ASEAN Preparatory Workshop for the UNFCCC COP22

28th October 2016 | Bangkok, Thailand

Novotel Ploenchit Hotel, Bangkok

Background

Overview - UNFCCC, COP and SBSTA

The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) entered into force on 21 March 1994. The objective of the UNFCCC is to “*stabilize greenhouse gas concentrations at a level that would prevent dangerous anthropogenic (human induced) interference with the climate system... ..within a time-frame sufficient to allow ecosystems to adapt naturally to climate change, to ensure that food production is not threatened, and to enable economic development to proceed in a sustainable manner.*” As a result, agriculture and food security are key areas of concern under the UNFCCC.

The Conference of the Parties (COP) is the supreme decision-making body of the UNFCCC. All States that are Parties to the Convention are represented at the COP. There are currently 197 Parties to the UNFCCC including all ASEAN Member States (AMS). The COP meets every year. Under the COP there are a number of associated bodies and working groups to support the effective implementation of the UNFCCC. One such body is the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice (SBSTA) which supports the COP through the provision of information and advice on scientific technological matters as they relate to the UNFCCC.

The Paris Agreement

In December 2015, the 21st Conference of the Parties (COP21) to the UNFCCC concluded negotiations on the Paris Agreement, which establishes a collective commitment by the Parties to the UNFCCC to take action to limit the increase in global average temperatures to well below 2°C above pre-industrial levels. Implementation of the Agreement relies on countries to meet their own ‘nationally determined contributions’ to tackle the drivers and impacts of climate change, as articulated through Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs). Countries are not legally bound under the agreement to meet their NDC contributions. However, the Agreement does establish binding procedural requirements under an “enhanced transparency framework” to promote transparency in the way that countries will report progress against their nationally determined commitments.

Almost all Parties developed and submitted Intended Nationally Determined Contributions (INDCs) in the lead up to COP21 to facilitate negotiations. As of August 2016, 189 Parties had submitted their INDCs to the UNFCCC Secretariat. All AMS have submitted an INDC. Prior to 2020 the INDCs will be formally registered with the UNFCCC upon a country’s ratification of the Paris Agreement and become NDCs. In the interim period, countries have the option to update or reconfirm their INDCs. Generally, the elements of most of the INDCs submitted draw upon existing government policies for development and climate change. While the format and specific content of the initial INDCs was left largely to countries to decide, these documents generally included:

- Target, conditional and unconditional commitments for emissions reductions using a range of acceptable methods and benchmarks;
- Priority areas for adaptation and climate resilience;
- Policies or mechanisms to meet Parties mitigation and/or adaptation contributions; and
- Implementation requirements covering financial assistance, technology transfer and capacity-building.

Agriculture, comprising crops, livestock, forestry, fisheries and aquaculture, feature prominently in developing country INDCs from AMS. Many INDC submissions identified specific actions or measures to be developed and implemented in the agriculture and land-use sectors (Figure 1). Analysis of AMS INDCs by FAO indicates a total of 95 actions were identified by countries for the agriculture and land-use sectors covering a range of technical focus areas (Figure 2). Differences in the number of actions reported by country are generally the result of the way that the INDCs were prepared and not necessarily reflective of a lower level of interest in agriculture and land-use sectors.

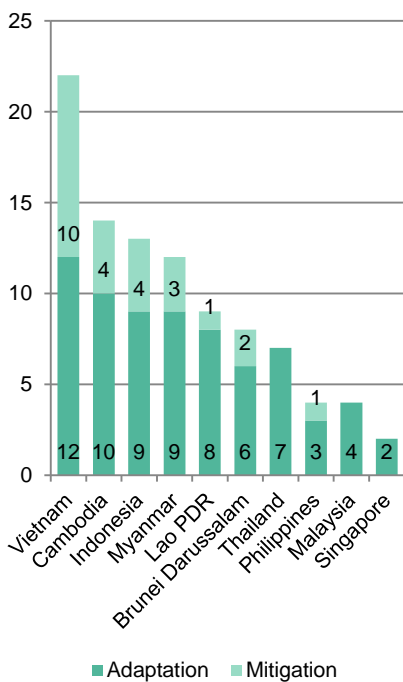


Figure 1 - Number of INDC actions identified for agriculture and land-use sectors in ASEAN (number by country)

Source: FAO

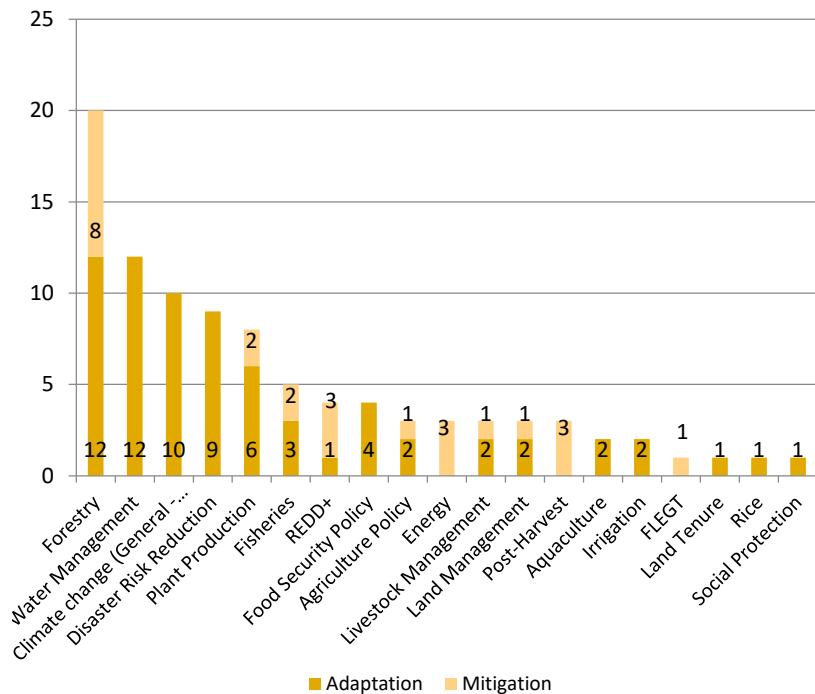


Figure 2 - Primary technical focus of INDC actions for agriculture and land-use in ASEAN (number of actions)

As part of the decision to adopt the Paris Agreement, the Parties also established the Ad Hoc Working Group on the Paris Agreement (APA). The role of the APA is to prepare for the entry into force of the Agreement and for the convening of the first session of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Paris Agreement (CPA).

COP22 and meetings of associated bodies and working groups

The 22nd Meeting of the COP (COP22) will be hosted by the Kingdom of Morocco in Marrakech from 7-18 November 2016. During this period the 45th Session of the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice (SBSTA45) and the 1st Session of the Ad Hoc working Group on the Paris Agreement (APA1) will also be organized. During these meetings there will be a number of opportunities for Parties to make interventions with relevance for how the agriculture sectors will be incorporated in future decisions regarding implementation of the UNFCCC and the Paris Agreement.

An ASEAN common position on agriculture in the UNFCCC

Through endorsement by the 37th AMAF meeting in Makati City in September 2015, ASEAN has committed to the Vision and Strategic Plan for ASEAN Cooperation in Food, Agriculture and Forestry 2016-2025 (FAF 2025). Under its Strategic Thrust 4, the FAF 2025 calls for addressing climate change and its impacts on the food, forestry and agriculture sector in ASEAN Member States by promoting appropriate agricultural practices, building competencies, providing access to financial resources and enhancing regional and international cooperation. Furthermore, Strategic Thrust 6 requests to promote and protect ASEAN interests at international and regional fora by developing ASEAN common positions on relevant issues, including climate change. The importance of coordination and joint approaches amongst ASEAN Member States in this regard is highlighted. While the Action Program 6.1 asks for enhanced cooperation and joint approaches through consultation amongst AMS in general, Action Program 6.2 calls for ASEAN common positions in the processes of the UNFCCC in particular.

ASEAN coordination and joint approaches in SBSTA

To advance the implementation of Strategic Thrust 6 of the FAF 2025, Vietnam, on behalf of all ASEAN Member States through approval by the *ASEAN Technical Working Group on Agricultural Research and Development* (ATWGARD) and in coordination with the *ASEAN Working Group on Climate Change* (AWGCC) and the *ASEAN Working Group on Crops* (AWGC), made two submissions to the SBSTA which were discussed in two in-session workshops during the 44th SBSTA meeting in Bonn, Germany, in May 2016. Those two submissions are based on the *ASEAN Regional Guidelines on Promoting Climate Smart Agriculture Practices*, which have been endorsed by AMAF at their 34th meeting in Vientiane. They were submitted to respond to the SBSTA calls for:

1. views on identification of adaptation measures, taking into account the diversity of the agricultural systems, indigenous knowledge systems and the differences in scale as well as possible co-benefits and sharing of experiences in research and development and on the ground activities, including socio-economic, environmental and gender aspects; and
2. views on identification and assessment of agricultural practices and technologies to enhance productivity in a sustainable manner, food security and resilience, considering the differences agro-ecological zones and farming systems, such as different grassland and cropland practices and systems.

During the in-session workshops, Vietnam on behalf of ASEAN put forward two statements, mentioning selected priorities for action as documented in the *ASEAN Regional Guidelines on Promoting Climate Smart Agriculture Practices* as well as the *ASEAN Regional Study on the Promotion of Climate Resilience for Food*

Security in ASEAN. These priorities included, amongst others, agricultural insurance including the use of weather indices. Vietnam expressed their commitment to share experiences on this particular practice in a knowledge exchange event in August 2016, facilitated by the *ASEAN Climate Resilience Network (ASEAN-CRN)*.

The statements also called for support from the UNFCCC in promoting the scaling-up of agricultural practices and technologies in Southeast Asia by support on cooperation and knowledge sharing amongst parties through leveraging frameworks under the Convention, particularly the capacity building, technology transfer and finance mechanisms. To do so and to create synergies in the region, the statements suggested generating synergies with processes like the ASEAN-CRN, highlighting the importance of and the role such processes can play in the interaction between different sectors, as highlighted in the FAF 2025. Vietnam, on behalf of ASEAN, also expressed that SBSTA 44 should establish a working group to further determine the Terms of Reference and timeline for implementing a SBSTA work program on agriculture, with a view to recommend the establishment of such a work program to COP22.

ASEAN motion to follow-up SBSTA44 and advance a common position in COP related processes

After the in-session workshops, by request of the Philippines, representatives from ASEAN Member States to the SBSTA44 meeting gathered to discuss further modalities for cooperation and follow-up on the ASEAN joint approach to SBSTA and beyond. Under the initiative of Vietnam, the delegates expressed their aspiration to further strengthen their cooperation by developing a joint approach and strengthening their common position on the topics discussed in the in-session workshops in particular as well as on issues of climate change and agriculture in general. A summary of this motion was circulated by e-mail and, based on this summary and by means of an information note, it was agreed to communicate the motion to the Special Senior Officials of AMAF (SOM-AMAF) for their meeting in Puerto Princesa, in August 2016. The circulated summary outlines necessary steps to advance the implementation of the motion and suggests a follow-up meeting to further discuss those steps.

ASEAN Preparatory Meeting on a common position in the UNFCCC COP22 and associated bodies and working groups, Ho Chi Minh City, August 2016

The ASEAN-CRN facilitated a preparatory meeting, hosted by the Vietnam Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development in Ho Chi Minh City, on August 15th, 2016, with the three main objectives to:

- Share the positions of AMS in relation to agriculture and climate change ahead of the COP22 and SBSTA45 meetings to identify synergies and develop a common position for these fora;
- Identify the modalities for a joint approach of ASEAN Member States going into these meetings to advance the ASEAN common position; and
- Agree on the organization of and discuss the necessary arrangements for a ASEAN side event on climate change and agriculture at COP22 in Marrakesh.

The meeting was attended by representatives from 5 ASEAN member states, namely Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar, Thailand and Vietnam, as well as a representative of the UNFCCC Secretariat.

The meeting discussed entry points for an ASEAN common position and emphasized the commitment of AMS to further advance the position expressed in the joint submissions made to SBSTA44. Furthermore, it was

acknowledged that many commonalities exist amongst ASEAN member states of proposed climate actions in the agriculture sector as expressed in their IDNCs and the need for coordination and a joint approach beyond SBSTA44 to strengthen ASEANs voice on issues related to climate change and agriculture in UNFCCC related processes as called for by the FAF 2025 Strategic Thrust 6.

The meeting concluded that a *Concept Note on the ASEAN Common position on issues related to agriculture for the 22nd Meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP22) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and associated bodies and working groups* is developed and passed to the SOM-AMAF meeting in August 2016, to take note of the process and discuss necessary steps for advancing the common position ahead of COP22 and SBSTA45.

The meeting also concluded that ASEAN Member States will make interventions to reiterate the positions in the regional submission to the SBSTA workshops and the suggestion for a work program on agriculture with a clear terms of reference, and will inform SOM-AMAF regarding this.

Special Senior Officials of the ASEAN Ministers on Agriculture and Forestry, Palawan, August 2016

The 37th SOM-AMAF meeting held in Palawan, Philippines, August 2016, considered the concept note submitted, and agreed on the need to have an ASEAN Common Positions on Agriculture Issues.

The meeting also advised to conduct cross-sectoral consultation and collaboration on the proposed ASEAN Common Position by collaborating closely with the UNFCCC negotiators of AMS as well as with the relevant ASEAN working groups (e.g. ASWGC, ATWGARD) and to subsequently submit the Common Position to SOM-AMAF for consideration.

38th Meeting of the ASEAN Ministers on Agriculture and Forestry, Singapore, October 2016

The 38th AMAF in Singapore had approved the ASEAN Common Positions on Agriculture Issues, and agreed to the appointment of Thailand to be the Lead Country Coordinator to coordinate the common positions amongst all AMS.

Objectives of the ASEAN Preparatory Workshop for the UNFCCC COP22

This Workshop therefore, is being organized to prepare for the participation of the agriculture sector to COP22, specifically to bring the approved ASEAN Common Positions on Agriculture Issues, in a coordinated manner.

This workshop is being organized by the ASEAN-CRN and hosted by Thailand as the lead coordinator, with support from the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) Regional Asia Pacific Office, with technical inputs from the CGIAR Research Program on Climate Change, Agriculture and Food Security (CCAFS). The ASEAN CRN is supported by the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH, through the Forestry and Climate Change (FOR-CC) project of the ASEAN-German Programme on Response to Climate Change (GAP-CC) and funded by the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ).

The meeting has the following objectives:

1. Coordinate the endorsed common positions on agriculture issues among AMS, and chart a plan for participation at COP22.
2. Familiarize with the protocols of UNFCCC engagement through the knowledge from the UNFCCC national focal points and the ASEAN Working Group on Climate Change focal points.
3. Coordinate with the nationally-designated UNFCCC focal points.

Expected outcomes:

The following outcomes are anticipated:

- Thailand as lead coordinator, and the nominated ASEAN Agriculture coordinators for the common positions, are prepared for their participation at COP22.
- Agreement on the practicalities of coordination amongst AMSs to represent the common positions at COP22 is achieved.
- An approach to promote the ASEAN common position is defined.
- Greater coordination between national UNFCCC focal points and the nominated agriculture focal points is achieved.

Participants

Participants to the workshop are representatives from the:

- ASEAN Climate Resilience Network
- ASEAN Technical Working Group on Agricultural Research and Development
- ASEAN Working Group on Climate Change
- UNFCCC negotiators from AMS

Tentative agenda – 28 October 2016

08:30 – 09:00	Registration	
09:00 – 09:15	Welcome and introductions	<i>Representative from Thailand as the host</i>
09:15 – 09:30	ASEAN Joint Statement on Climate Change	AWGCC
<i>An ASEAN Common Position on Issues Related to Agriculture for COP22</i>		
09:30 – 09:45	Opportunities for ASEAN to highlight Common Positions at COP22	<i>Mr. Wojciech Galinski, UNFCCC Secretariat (by video message)</i>
09:45 – 10:15	Agriculture in UNFCCC processes and entry points for ASEAN to promote Common Positions on Agriculture	<i>Mr. Beau Damen, FAO</i>
<i>Coffee break</i>		
10:30 – 11:00	Recap of the ASEAN-CRN efforts to develop Common Positions on Issues Related to Agriculture to contribute to UNFCCC processes	<i>Dr. Margaret Yoovatana, representing the Chair of the ASEAN-CRN</i>
11:00 – 12:00	Discussion Possible Topics <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Questions on background presentations and AMAF common position 	Moderated by Chair
<i>Lunch</i>		
<i>Practicalities of Coordination between AMS at COP22</i>		
13:00 – 13:15	AMS coordinators on agriculture issues – practicalities to join COP22	<i>Dr. Pham Quang Huy, Vietnam Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development</i>
13:15 – 13:30	ASEAN Presence and Side Events at COP22	<i>Ms. Imelda Bacudo, GAP-CC</i>
13:30 – 14:30	Discussion Possible Topics <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Country preparations for COP22 • Practical ways to coordinate at COP22 and side events • Who will be attending COP22 and who would be able to coordinate the AMAF common position • Possibility for country delegations to incorporate elements of the AMAF common position 	Moderated by Chair
14:30 – 15:00	Wrap-up and Closing	<i>Representative from Thailand as the host</i>
<i>Coffee break - END</i>		