NAP
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National Adaptation Plan to Climate Variability and Change for the Agriculture Sector of Uruguay

Executive Summary

MINISTERIO DE GANADERÍA, AGRICULTURA Y PESCA
REPÚBLICA ORIENTAL DEL URUGUAY

SNRCC
Uruguay

National Adaptation Plan to Climate Variability and Change for Agriculture in Uruguay

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Adaptation as a long-term task

The objective of the National Adaptation Plan to Climate Variability and Change for Agriculture (NAP-Ag) is to guide the design, coordination, prioritization and implementation of policies, programs and projects that address the particular climate vulnerability of the agricultural production systems in Uruguay. It proposes a paradigm shift towards a resilient and adapted development path for agriculture, with co-benefits in terms of productivity and low carbon development.

The policies of the Ministry of Livestock, Agriculture and Fisheries (MGAP) are directed towards rural development through increased productivity, environmental sustainability and social inclusion in fruit and vegetable farming, crop production, livestock production, forestry, fishing and aquaculture. Adaptation to climate change is one of MGAP's strategic guidelines in this sense, the formulation of the NAP-Ag seeks to consolidate this strategy with a long-term view.

The NAP-Ag aims to **improve the livelihoods of rural populations through the adoption of sustainable animal and plant production systems that are less vulnerable to the impacts of climate variability and change**. To this end, a **2050 Strategy** is proposed, setting forth results, outputs and activities in four key dimensions: production systems, ecosystems and natural resources, livelihoods and institutional capacities.

Furthermore, a **2025 Action Plan** is proposed for the achievement of the goals defined in the 2050 Strategy. It establishes a set of 66 short term adaptation measures, on research and development, technology transfer, information systems, climate insurances, resilient infrastructure, promotion of good farming practices, strengthening farmer's networks and organizations and enhancing institutional capacities for adaptation, among other key issues. For each adaptation measure, the 2025 Action Plan identifies responsible institutions, beneficiaries, goals, financing and implementation barriers. In addition, the document sets out implementation strategies for the NAP-Ag and identifies training and financing needs.

The NAP-Ag was built through a participatory process involving a wide range of agriculture stakeholders; and was developed within the framework of the National Climate Change Policy (PNCC)[1] based on over a decade of national studies and the consensus about the importance of climate change adaptation for this sector. The NAP-Ag formulation included the downscaling of climate projections and updating vulnerability assessments for agriculture. In addition, it allowed to strengthen capacities to analyze adaptation options, to estimate damage and loss due to extreme weather events and to evaluate the impact of adaptation policies and programs.

The challenges posed by climate variability and change demand a cross-cutting and integrated approach to rural development, agricultural production, climate risk management and adaptation. Thus, the NAP-Ag was conceived to be implemented within the framework of the National System of Response to Climate Change and Variability (SNRCC) together with the National Secretariat of Environment, Water and Climate Change (SNAACC), which is part of the Presidency of the Republic.

[1] Adopted by Executive Decree number 310/017 in November 2017. In paragraph 27 it establishes the development of National Adaptation Plans for prioritized sectors.

Uruguay has focused its adaptation planning strategy on sectors that, due to their special climate vulnerability and economic importance, require urgent action[2]. At the same time, sectoral adaptation plans are instruments that contribute to fulfilling the national adaptation and mitigation commitments established in Uruguay's First Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) and the Adaptation Communication of Uruguay to the Paris Agreement of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)[3], and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) established in the 2030 Agenda of the United Nations.

In particular, the NAP-Ag contributes to the achievement of the national adaptation and mitigation targets for agriculture through the implementation of the adaptation measures proposed in the 2025 Action Plan. In addition, the formulation and approval of a NAP for Agriculture is one of the actions pledged in the first NDC towards 2020.

The national contributions regarding the agricultural sector prioritize adaptation and its co-benefits in terms of productivity and mitigation, on the understanding that building more resilient systems with greater adaptation capacity makes it possible to achieve an increase in productivity, reducing greenhouse gases (GHG) emissions intensity. Several of the adaptation measures proposed in the NAP-Ag also contribute to the reduction of GHG emissions and the increase of carbon sinks (in biomass and soils). For example, the sustainable use and conservation of natural grasslands, lead to more resilient production systems, favor increased productivity, and allow for a reduction in the intensity of GHG emissions from livestock. This is especially important for Uruguay, since most of the national GHG emissions (76%) come from agriculture.

The NAP-Ag is part of the proactive actions that the country has been carrying out since the creation of the SNRCC in 2009. The contribution of the adaptation planning process lies in the systematization of actions that aim to increase adaptive capacity and resilience with a long-term vision. In addition, the periodic review of the NAP-Ag and the knowledge base developed during the elaboration of this plan serves as an input for the formulation of future NDCs and to define paths for implementation of its adaptation actions.

In countries such as Uruguay, whose level of absolute emissions is relatively low and are at the same time is a developing country which is particularly vulnerable to the adverse effects of climate change, defining adaptation strategies with mitigation co-benefits is essential to achieve the mitigation targets pledged in the NDC, in which agriculture plays a leading role.

[2] The National Adaptation Plan for Coastal Areas and the National Adaptation Plan for Cities and Infrastructure are under elaboration. In addition, the NAPs for Energy and for Health are in initial stages of development.

[3] Uruguay (2017). *Uruguay's First Nationally Determined Contribution to the Paris Agreement*. Decree No. 310/017. Available at: <http://bit.ly/2Y8OVTf>.