



Climate Action Network International

Submission: Koronivia Joint Work on Agriculture (KJWA)

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Climate Action Network (CAN) is the world's largest network of civil society organizations working together to promote government action to address the climate crisis, with more than 1300 members in over 120 countries. www.climatenetwork.org

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Introduction

In order for the Koronivia Joint Work on Agriculture (KJWA) workshops to provide real benefits to food security, farmers and the climate, Climate Action Network (CAN) recommends modalities to steer the work in a clear direction from the start. The work of the KJWA must enable parties and other actors to take action that builds adaptive capacity and resilience, contributes to the equitable achievement of the Paris Agreement's 1.5°C goal, and safeguards key elements from the Paris Agreement preamble, namely food security, human rights, including the rights of indigenous peoples and local communities, gender equality, ecosystem integrity and biodiversity, as well as public participation, just transition and intergenerational equity. The modalities of the KJWA must seek to address the barriers to scaling up climate action in the agriculture sector, especially Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), and should inform implementation of action.

In this submission CAN proposes a set of “inputs” to orient the KJWA workshops and technical meetings, and some suggestions for deliverables (or “outputs”) to come from the KJWA process. The **“inputs”** and the **“outputs”** should be agreed at the outset, to frame and steer the work in a useful direction. Taken together, these can ensure that the work of the KJWA is practical and meaningful to farmers and food systems in an era of climate change.

Inputs to the KJWA process

CAN proposes that the following are agreed as inputs to guide the KJWA process and ensure its effectiveness and integrity: 1) A set of objectives and principles for the KJWA; 2) A Guiding Framework for Workshops and Submissions; 3) Principles of participation and on conflicts of interest; 4) Baseline information to inform submissions and workshops.

1. Objectives and principles for the KJWA

To effectively focus the work and activities under the KJWA, CAN recommends the following five principles form the basis of this work: a) Food security; b) Adaptation; c) Absolute & equitable emission reductions, d) Ecosystem integrity; and e) Gender-responsiveness.

a) Food security

COP23 decision UNFCCC/SBSTA/2017/L.24/Add.1 mandates that the KJWA in its work to address issues related to agriculture also take into *“consideration the vulnerabilities of agriculture to climate change and approaches to addressing food security.”*

CAN recommends that the UNFCCC Secretariat sets parameters according to an agreed understanding of food security, acknowledging the internationally recognised definition of food security adopted at the FAO World Food Summit in 1996: *“Food security exists when all people, at all times, have physical and economic access to sufficient, safe and nutritious food that meets their dietary needs and food preferences for an active and healthy life.”* This should provide the basis of the UNFCCC understanding

of the term. Relevant decisions of the UN Committee on World Food Security (CFS) should also be respected by the UNFCCC.

In recognition that food security is not only about food production, but also about people's secure access to that food, the KJWA work should be guided by the Four Pillars of Food Security as defined by the FAO:

- i. Physical availability of food;
- ii. Economic and physical access to food;
- iii. Food utilisation influenced by sanitary and nutritional quality of food;
- iv. Stability of the above three dimensions of food security over time.

Each policy, project or approach discussed under the KJWA framework should be evaluated *ex-ante* through a food security lens formed by these four pillars, taking into account the vulnerabilities of agriculture to climate change, to determine whether the approach is effectively contributing to the KJWA's food security goals.

Ensuring food security must therefore be a key objective of adaptation strategies in relation to agriculture. Mitigation strategies must ensure that food security is not threatened. And production levels should not prevent Parties from engaging in equitable and ambitious strategies in line with historical per capita emissions.

b) Adaptation

Recalling the COP23 mandate to "*take into consideration the vulnerabilities of agriculture to climate change,*" the issue of adaptation in agriculture must also be a clear priority for the work of the KJWA. The Paris Agreement calls for adaptation action to be gender-responsive, participatory and fully transparent, focused on vulnerable groups, such as small-scale farmers, communities and ecosystems. Parties have an opportunity to learn from the experience of adaptation in the agriculture sector, especially agroecology, and to leverage the experience of adaptation to inform good practice.

c) Absolute and equitable emission reductions

Article 2 of the Paris Agreement stated the Goal to limit global average temperature increase to well below 2°C while pursuing efforts to limit the temperature increase to 1.5°C reflecting the principle of equity. The recent report by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) on 1.5°C highlighted the severity of climate impacts above 1.5°C, and the urgent need for deep and far-reaching emission reductions if the world is to meet the 1.5°C goal. Article 4 of the Paris Agreement further stated the long-term Goal to reach global peaking of greenhouse gas emissions as soon as possible, recognising that peaking will take longer for developing country Parties, and that this must be done on the basis of equity and in the context of sustainable development and efforts to eradicate poverty. The issue of GHG emission reductions must therefore be addressed with care and integrity.

To ensure the effectiveness of the KJWA, the Paris Agreement and the UNFCCC, Parties must be guided by the objective of equitable absolute (total) emission reductions. This means that reduced “intensity” or increased “efficiency” per kilo of food is not an acceptable objective by itself, as this can often create perverse incentives to increase production, and increase total emissions. Thus work done under the KJWA must pursue efforts to equitably reduce absolute emission reductions, with countries with the highest historical per capita emissions taking the lead. Countries with low historical per capita emissions in agriculture should not bear the burden of leading these reduction efforts. The KJWA should seek input on effective ways to reduce net agriculture emissions through demand-side measures, including reducing consumption and production of GHG-intensive foods, such as meat and dairy, without compromising food security in countries with low historical per capita agriculture emissions.¹

d) Ecosystem integrity

Discussions on Agriculture under the UNFCCC can and must do a better job of taking into account the impacts of climate action in the agriculture sector on biodiversity, ecosystems and planetary boundaries, such as land and water. KJWA presentations and discussions should reflect on and direct work towards holistic efforts, including the progressive transition towards agroecology to ensure the long-term viability of agricultural systems within the natural world that they depend upon. The KJWA should aim to enhance collaboration with the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) with the goal of better integrating climate change adaptation and emissions reductions with biodiversity conservation and sustainable land use, and draw from the upcoming report by the High Level Panel of Experts (HLPE) to the Committee on World Food Security (CFS) on agroecology, and subsequent CFS recommendations.

e) Gender-responsiveness

Policies and programmes must be gender-responsive, actively seeking to overcome the multiple challenges that women farmers face in engaging with government and agriculture processes. One of the most common challenges women farmers face is a lack of access to and control over critical resources for agriculture in the face of climate change, such as land, seeds, loans, extension services, climate information, and decision-making power and processes. The KJWA must make a particular effort to mainstream awareness of and strategies for gender-responsiveness and equity, throughout all elements of the work. To develop synergies with existing processes within the UNFCCC, the KJWA should ask the COP to request the secretariat to organise in-session workshops, within the Gender Action Plan, or gender-responsive climate policy and action. No climate action in agriculture should reinforce gender inequality. Climate change adaptation policies and actions in agriculture give a particular opportunity to address widespread gender inequalities in the agricultural sector.

¹ <https://www.climatelandambitionrightsalliance.org/report>

2. Guiding framework for workshops and submissions

A common framework with guiding questions for submissions and workshops can enable Parties to focus their discussions and to steer work in a common and comparable direction. Suggested questions to guide submissions and workshops can include:

- a) What good practices or approaches or policies are available that can be replicated?
- b) How do these good practices or approaches or policies safeguard or undermine food security, adaptation, absolute and equitable emission reductions, ecosystem integrity, and gender responsiveness?
- c) What are the risks, and how can these be avoided?
- d) What are the key needs in means of implementation, including finance, technology and capacity building?
- e) Which Convention bodies are relevant and can contribute to implementation?

In case any additional KJWA workshops are to take place outside of SB meetings, these should be made open to all Parties and observer organizations, answering to the same rules of procedure as other workshops held at SBs.

3. Principles on participation & conflicts of interest

a) Participation

KJWA workshops must have a balanced representation of expertise and knowledge, including possible additional workshops. This should involve the active participation and presentations by observers in particular peasant movements, ENGOs, the Indigenous People's Caucus and the Gender Constituency, who have significant and relevant expertise to share with the process. Several ENGOs, for example, have extensive experience of implementing international programmes on agriculture, adaptation and mitigation in multiple countries. Members of CAN's Agriculture Working Group can provide valuable contributions to these discussions and should be active participants in the process. Furthermore, KJWA workshops should encourage a diversity of representation on scientific knowledge and practical experience.

b) Avoiding conflicts of interest

The KJWA should be mindful of and draw on the current SBI process to develop criteria for the avoidance of "Conflicts of Interest," particularly when inviting presenters and views for the workshops. This will help to ensure (and prevent any risks to) the integrity, legitimacy and effectiveness of the KJWA and UNFCCC.

4. Baseline information to inform submissions and workshops

Information made available to Parties to as to inform discussions would help Parties to shape their work more effectively. Baseline information could include: a rapid landscape analysis of the work of other bodies under the UNFCCC regarding agriculture at SB49; the key relevant decisions of the UN Committee on World Food Security; Commission the Secretariat at SB49 to conduct a rapid review of means of

implementation available, and an additional rapid review of existing criteria and safeguards that would be relevant to climate action in agriculture.

Outputs from the KJWA Process

As a key modality to guide the work of the KJWA over the next years, Parties should broadly agree that the work will deliver specific outputs (or “deliverables”) as outcomes from the work. These could include: 1) A set of criteria, guidance for Parties’ NDCs, or best practices to guide climate action in agriculture; 2) Safeguarding Food Security in the Paris Agreement “rulebook”; 3) Recommendations to other UNFCCC bodies to address gaps in guidance and support.

1. Criteria, Guidance and/or Best Practices

Climate action in agriculture will likely be carried out as part of Parties’ NDCs. The KJWA has an important role to play in ensuring that as NDCs are implemented, they are effective in reaching the objectives of food security, adaptation, absolute and equitable emission reductions, ecosystem integrity and gender-responsiveness.

The KJWA should therefore consider and look to develop effective outputs that can shape climate action in agriculture. Options should include a set of Criteria, a set of Guidance for NDCs, and suggested best practices/approaches/policies that meet the key principles.

2. Safeguarding Food Security in the Paris Agreement “rulebook”

At COP24 (SB49) in Katowice, Parties will finalise the “rulebook” for implementation of the Paris Agreement. The “rulebook” will guide climate action and reporting for countries, and its development this year is a key opportunity to ensure that key concerns, such as food security, are not threatened by misguided climate action.

CAN strongly encourages Parties to make use of all opportunities to engage with APA negotiators before and during COP24 in Katowice, to underline the importance of key considerations around agriculture and food in the so-called “rulebook”. In particular, Parties must ensure that considerations of food security, human rights, including the rights of Indigenous Peoples and local communities, gender equality, ecosystem integrity, public participation, just transition and intergenerational equity are included in the Guidance for NDCs and the Transparency Framework under the Paris Agreement Work Programme (PAWP) when climate action is taken.

CAN is confident that Parties will not want to miss this key opportunity to influence the Paris “rulebook”, as efforts and outcomes under the KJWA are likely to be rendered less effective, if the rules are not already in place for the implementation of the Paris Agreement.

3. Recommendations to other UNFCCC bodies to address gaps in guidance and support

The KJWA is mandated to work with other bodies under the Convention. The KJWA should consider making recommendations to, or requesting support from, other bodies under the Convention, in order to address gaps in guidance and support. The KJWA should further identify specific gaps and priorities in finance and means of implementation in Agriculture, and make recommendations based on this analysis to the COP and the financial mechanism of the UNFCCC, such as the Green Climate Fund (GCF).