



**Submission by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)
To the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)
In relation to the Koronivia road map under the Koronivia Joint Work on Agriculture (4/CP.23)**

FAO welcomes the adoption of the Koronivia road map and the opportunity to submit its views on the topic 2(a) - *Modalities for implementation of the outcomes of the five in-session workshops on issues related to agriculture and other future topics that may arise from this work*, in the context of the landmark decision 4/CP.23, Koronivia joint work on agriculture (KJWA).

Agriculture^a is at the center of the global response to reduce poverty, increase food security^b and tackle climate change. It is simultaneously highly vulnerable to the impacts of climate change while also being a significant contributor to greenhouse gas emissions. The unique role of agriculture to help countries to deliver on both climate goals and achieve food security, has been recognized by the historic KJWA decision, gaining prominence in the wider climate discourse since the adoption of the Paris Agreement. Despite the positive momentum for action, progress towards ending hunger is stalling. After a prolonged decline, the number of undernourished people increased to nearly 821 million in 2017. Climate change is key driver of the food insecurity and under- or malnutrition.¹

The goals of FAO are to eliminate hunger, food insecurity and malnutrition, reduce rural poverty, and make the agricultural sectors more productive and sustainable. To achieve these goals we need to redouble efforts to build climate resilience for agriculture and food security. FAO, therefore, strongly supports the implementation of the KJWA, as presented through its views in its submission of March 2018.² Given its technical expertise and wealth of knowledge, and guided by its *Climate Change Strategy*³, FAO is pleased to contribute to the modalities for implementation of the outcomes of the five in-session workshops held from 2013 to 2016, as outlined below:

1. Key outcomes from the workshops

The five in-session workshops on *issues relating to agriculture* have highlighted, among other, the overarching importance of:

- Facilitating *knowledge exchange of information on good practices and lessons learned*, possibly through a web platform.
- *Capacity building* for implementation and action in the agricultural sectors.
- Enhancing *access to climate finance* for agricultural sector action in least developed and developing countries.

In addition, Paragraph 2 (b-f) of the KJWA decision identifies further thematic topics to be addressed by the KJWA which will also require modalities for implementation.

2. Key implementing entities

The KJWA decision requested Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technology Advice (SBSTA) and Subsidiary Body for implementation (SBI) to jointly address issues related to agriculture, in collaboration with the seven Constituted Bodies under the UNFCCC. In the order of their creation, the Convention Bodies are: the Consultative Group of Experts on National Communications from Parties not included in Annex I to the Convention (CGE), the Least

^a Agriculture or the agricultural sectors, when used by FAO, comprises the sub-sectors of crops, livestock, fisheries and aquaculture and forestry. The term agriculture in the UNFCCC domain is defined in accordance with IPCC terminology, covering crops and livestock while considering fisheries and aquaculture separately.

^b Food security is a situation that exists when all people, at all times, have physical, social and economic access to sufficient, safe and nutritious food that meets their dietary needs and food preferences for an active and healthy life.

Developed Countries Expert Group (LEG), the Technology Executive Committee (TEC), the Climate Technology Centre and Network (CTCN), the Adaptation Committee (AC), the Standing Committee on Finance (SCF), and the Paris Committee on Capacity Building (PCCB).

To understand how these bodies have been addressing agriculture in their work, and how their experiences could contribute to the implementation of the KJWA, FAO has produced an analysis, *The Koronivia Joint Work on Agriculture and the Convention Bodies: An Overview*.⁴ In addition, the needs and issues emerging to date from past SBSTA discussions should be brought to the attention of the Convention Bodies, so they in turn can better incorporate the specificities of agriculture in their further work.

So far, the seven Convention Bodies have considered agriculture to a varying degree, in line with their different mandates. TEC, for instance, published three policy briefs focusing on agriculture and climate change adaptation between 2014-17.⁵ CTCN receives requests for country support in the areas of adaptation and agriculture. LEG, in its role of providing technical support and advice on National Adaptation Programmes of Action (NAPAs), National Adaptation Plans (NAPs) and supporting countries to access GEF and GCF finance, has often considered agricultural sector issues, as these are of high priority to most Least Developed Countries (LDCs). For example, in response to a call from the LEG for supplementary materials to complement the *NAP Technical Guidelines*, FAO developed the *Addressing Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry in National Adaptation Plans: Supplementary Guidelines*⁶ in 2017. The work of other Constituted Bodies, such as the AC, covers work areas that are highly relevant to the outcomes of the five in-session workshops and the elements of the KJWA decision. Close coordination and synergy between the seven Convention Bodies – to cover climate technology (TEC and CTCN), adaptation action (AC), finance (SCF) and capacity building (PCCB), linked to specific support and advice responding to the need of LDCs (LEG) and developing country Parties (CGE) – will be key to supporting the implementation of the KJWA to help achieve the goals of the Paris Agreement.

Specific topics included in the KJWA, such as improved soil carbon and soil health, nutrient use and manure management, as well as livestock management have not featured prominently in previous work of the seven Convention Bodies. Based on their respective mandates and as guided by Parties, all Convention Bodies could be encouraged to consider KJWA as an opportunity to expand the focus of their work to support the implementation of KJWA, in the context of the Paris Agreement, in line with the outcomes of the five past and six upcoming in-session workshops on agriculture. There is scope for agriculture related work to grow in the future and a work plan of early action on the topics to be addressed by the bodies would be a strong signal to show effective support to the KJWA.

There are other bodies and mechanisms under the UNFCCC's various agreements, protocols, programmes and platforms which should also be taken into a consideration as potential partners for the implementation of the KJWA. The potential support and partnerships available from institutions and entities beyond the UNFCCC, should also be explored. A detailed analysis of such opportunities is outside the scope of this submission, however the Annex of FAO's forthcoming publication *Koronivia joint work on agriculture: Analysis of submissions*⁷ provides a first overview of the existing initiatives and programmes led or supported by observers, as highlighted in their submissions.

3. The way forward

FAO supports the implementation of the outcomes of the five in-session workshops to help progress with the implementation of the KJWA and the Paris Agreement. To help achieve this, Parties may wish to consider the following:

1. Reflect on and identify the technical aspects of the outcomes of the five in-session workshops, as well as the future development of the KJWA that requires modalities for implementation.
2. Request the undertaking of a gap analysis on how the Constituted Bodies and other mechanisms under the Convention can support the implementation of the above-mentioned outcomes.
3. Explore how the Constituted Bodies under the Convention can support the implementation of the KJWA, in a coordinated and synergetic manner.

4. Draw on their national experiences and expertise on agriculture to support KJWA including through projects, initiatives, and mechanisms supported by FAO and other partners. Some examples include:
- The *Thematic Working Group on Agriculture, Food Security and Land Use*⁸ under the NDC Partnership and the *Climate and Land Hub (CL-Hub)* (currently in development) provide a global knowledge platform for peer learning, sharing information and expertise, and providing access to effective tools and knowledge resources for the implementation of NDC in the agricultural sectors (relevant to topic 2(a) of the KJWA).
 - The *Agriculture Module of the Law and Climate Change Toolkit* provides a free, online resource to guide national decision makers on legal and institutional frameworks in support of implementation of Paris Agreement obligations and NDC commitments (relevant to topic 2(a) of the KJWA).
 - The *Conceptual Framework for Tracking Adaptation in Agricultural Sectors*⁹ outlines qualitative and quantitative indicators for four different categories, including elements of adaptation co-benefits and resilience - developed and published by FAO, currently ongoing field testing in selected countries (relevant to topic 2(b) of the KJWA).
 - The *Global Soil Partnership*¹⁰ provides a neutral platform for the scientific community and decision-makers to discuss and build evidence on soil-related issues that can be translated into policies and actions (relevant to topic 2(c) of the KJWA).
 - The *International Code of Conduct for the Use and Management of Fertilizers*¹¹ supports stakeholders to advance nutrient recycling technologies and the efficient and effective use of fertilizers (relevant to topic 2(d) of the KJWA).
 - The *Livestock Environmental Assessment and Performance (LEAP) Partnership*¹² is a multi-stakeholder initiative that is committed to improving the environmental performance of livestock supply chains, whilst ensuring its economic and social viability (relevant to topic 2(e) of the KJWA).
 - Social protection can both help stallholder farmers to cope with climate change impacts and contribute to the creation of more and better employment opportunities for rural workers and their families. *Social protection and decent rural employment* are highlighted in the Climate-Smart agriculture¹³ approach addressing socioeconomic and food security dimension of climate change in agricultural sector (relevant to topic 2(f) of the KJWA).

4. The need for coordination and coherence

The KJWA will play a critical role in driving the transformational change that the agricultural sectors have to undergo in order to become more efficient and resilient to the impacts of climate change, while ensuring sustainable food production and reduction of greenhouse gas emissions. The KJWA offers the Constituted Bodies under the Convention the opportunity to increase their interaction and collaboration by working more together in a coordinated and coherent way. FAO would welcome the opportunity to work closely with the Constituted Bodies and bring its expertise and knowledge through the various activities and initiatives listed above. The potential of involving initiatives and institutions from outside the UNFCCC should also be explored.

FAO is taking a leading role in advocating for food security and sustainable agriculture in the face of climate change and it offers support to countries seeking to undertake climate action in soil, livestock, nutrient and water management, assessment of adaptation, and socio-economic and food security dimensions. In line with its *Climate Change Strategy* and its five Strategic Objectives, FAO is providing the following support to countries:

- Coherent and enabling policy, legal and institutional frameworks for climate action in the agriculture sectors.
- Research, analysis and tools that respond to the needs of countries.
- Knowledge sharing and capacity development for implementation and action in the agriculture sectors.
- Access to finance to scale up climate investment in the agriculture sectors.
- Support in monitoring and reporting progress in climate action in the agricultural sectors.

FAO will continue to provide this support and looks forward to working in partnership with the constituted bodies and others to advance the implementation of the KJWA, in a coherent way, towards 2020 and beyond.

References and Key Documents

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- ³ FAO, 2017. *FAO Strategy on Climate Change*. [online]: <http://www.fao.org/3/a-i7175e.pdf>
- ⁴ FAO, 2018. *The Koronivia Joint Work on Agriculture and the Convention Bodies: An Overview*. [forthcoming on]: <http://www.fao.org/climate-change/resources/publications/en/>
- ⁵ TEC. 2014. *Technologies for Adaptation in the Agriculture Sector* [online]: http://unfccc.int/ttclear/misc/_StaticFiles/gnwoerk_static/TEC_column_L/544babb207e344b88bdd9fec11e6337f/bc4dc66c35340a08fce34f057e0a1ed.pdf
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- ⁹ FAO, 2017. *Tracking adaptation in agricultural sectors: climate change adaptation indicators*. [online]: <http://www.fao.org/3/a-i8145e.pdf>
- ¹⁰ FAO, 2018. *Global Soil Partnership*. [online]: <http://www.fao.org/global-soil-partnership/about/why-the-partnership/terms-of-reference/en/>
- ¹¹ FAO, 2017. *International Code of Conduct for the Use and Management of Fertilizers*. [online]: http://www.fao.org/fsnforum/activities/discussions/CoCoFe_II
- ¹² FAO, 2018. *Livestock Environmental Assessment and Performance (LEAP) Partnership*. [online]: <http://www.fao.org/partnerships/leap/en/>
- ¹³ FAO, 2017. *Climate Smart Agriculture Sourcebook*. [online]: <http://www.fao.org/climate-smart-agriculture-sourcebook/en/>