



REPUBLIC OF KENYA

SUBMISSION OF THE REPUBLIC OF KENYA ON FUTURE TOPICS AND VIEWS ON THE PROGRESS OF KORONIVIA JOINT WORK ON AGRICULTURE

Introduction

Agriculture in Kenya consisting of crops, livestock and fisheries, continues to be a major source of livelihoods and food security for a majority of the Kenyan population. Although less than 20 percent of the land is suitable for cultivation, the sector is mainly dominated by smallholder farmers, pastoralists and fisherfolk. The crops sub-sector consists of food crops (cereals, pulses, roots and tubers). Industrial crops (mainly tea, coffee), and horticulture crops (cut flowers, vegetables, fruits, nuts, herbs and spices). Livestock subsector consisting of mainly of beef, dairy, sheep, goats, camel, poultry and piggery is found in arid and semi-arid lands (ASALs) that are particularly vulnerable to the impacts of climate change¹. The fisheries resources also play a critical role in household food and nutrition security and as a source of livelihoods, incomes and employment creation with the main sources being fresh water and the ocean.

The country continues to rely on rain-fed agricultural systems. With the increasing climate impacts of rising temperatures, variability of rainfall patterns, increasing frequency and extremity of droughts and flooding, the agriculture sector is in jeopardy, thereby affecting food and nutrition security through pressure on availability, access, utilization and stability. Inefficient production systems, limited resources, low adoption/uptake of technologies and low adaptive capacity of local communities further threaten the livelihoods of the farmers, pastoralists and fisher folk. Knowledge on adaptation options, limited human and physical resources and inadequate data on emissions, gender related vulnerabilities all heighten climate risks in the sector and food and nutrition insecurity. Livestock numbers fluctuate with decline trends associated with years of drought always being observed in the pastoral and agro-pastoral systems where livestock is a source of economic livelihoods and social security. Capture fish production has been declining over time resulting to loss of livelihoods to the communities around the water bodies leading to the need for increasing production of fish through aquaculture which is also affected by the climate change impacts.

¹National Climate Change Action Plan (NCCAP 2018-2022)

Country initiatives

Kenya prioritizes actions that will build resilience, adaptive capacity and increase productivity, with reduction of GHG emissions intensities as a co-benefit. Towards this, she has put in place several policies that aim at enhancing agricultural productivity and building climate resilient agricultural systems². A long term low carbon, climate resilient development strategy (LTS) for the sector has been developed to facilitate the country's continued transformation to a green economy by prioritizing adaptation measures with mitigation benefits while ensuring the survival of its productive agriculture sector. The sector needs significant investment to be able to transform from its current state to enter into a climate-resilient, low carbon development pathway, and address food insecurity while endeavoring to fulfil its contribution towards meeting the 1.5 °C target. International support is needed to better align with national initiatives and priorities towards transformation of the Kenyan agriculture into sustainable sector for food and nutrition security as well as national development.

Future KJWA topics

Kenya has participated fully in the KJWA and made considerable contributions towards achieving the outcomes of the road map. However, Kenya is of the opinion that more in depth discussion and analysis of some of the issues would be useful. These include further interrogation of: how carbon credits, carbon certification, economic and capacity building tools can be used to scale up socially equitable carbon sequestration practice; economic, socio-cultural, and institutional barriers to adoption of adaptation practices with mitigation co-benefits practices as well as effective strategies for overcoming these obstacles; development of true-cost accounting through clear communication of the benefits of agricultural management systems. Kenya therefore proposes the following future KJWA topics:

- Characterization (including metrics for tracking full extent of environmental co-benefits) of livestock systems to catalyze a transnational shift in livestock systems towards improved livestock productivity.
- Indigenous knowledge that has traditionally been applied by farmers and livestock keepers to adapt to climate variability in pastoral and agro-pastoral livestock systems
- Methodologies and processes to enable trans-disciplinary research, co-production, and sharing of traditional knowledge in aspects all aspects of local and improved farming and food system.
- Transformative methods/approaches/practices/technologies for reducing post harvest losses, food waste and value addition including indigenous knowledge, marketing issues and pricing issues to create opportunities for reshaping food systems.

²Low Carbon, Climate Resilient Agricultural Development Pathways for Kenya

- Consideration of fisheries, aquaculture and the blue economy that provide security incomes and livelihoods for millions of people in future topics
- Quantitative/quantitative dimension of various methods and approaches including, but not limited to Nature Based Solutions, CSA, CA, Agro-ecology, Regenerative agriculture in achieving adaptation and adaptation co-benefits as well as food and nutrition security.

Proposed progress of the KJWA

- Kenya recognizes and values the work accomplished through the KJWA Road Map and emphasizes the importance of fast-tracking implementation, through a COP decision on the necessary means of implementation that will address the agriculture sector vulnerabilities, enhance resilience of farmers and farming systems, ensure food security, poverty reduction and empower farmers to actively engage in climate action and remove barriers to access of appropriate climate technologies, capacity building and climate finance.

Conclusion

Kenya therefore is of the view that to enhance progress of the KJWA work, beyond the road map, a COP decision is required to (i) either establish resources dedicated to agriculture within the financial mechanisms of the convention that countries can access through calls for proposals, (ii) or establish an agriculture-specific implementation institution/programme based on the KJWA workshop outcomes as well as any other topics to be discussed.