



## NEW ZEALAND

### **Submission to the Subsidiary Bodies of the UNFCCC on future topics not listed in decision 4/CP.23 and views on the progress of the Koronivia joint work on agriculture in order to report to the Conference of the parties as per decision 4/CP.23, paragraph 4**

**October 2021**

New Zealand welcomes the opportunity to submit its views on future topics not listed in decision 4/CP.23 and on the progress of the Koronivia Joint Work on Agriculture (KJWA) to date, with a view to constructively contribute to the discussion on this topic at COP26.

#### **Introduction**

1. Globally, direct and indirect emissions from the agriculture sector account for around 21% per cent of total greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, and they are projected to increase by 4 per cent over the next ten years as global population is estimated to increase from 7.7 to 8.5 billion by 2030.<sup>1</sup>
2. The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) recognises that to keep warming below 1.5 degrees above pre-industrial levels, agricultural methane emissions must reduce by around 24-47% below 2010 levels by 2050.<sup>2</sup> Limiting warming to 1.5 degrees also depends on reductions in nitrous oxide and carbon dioxide emissions from land use change.<sup>3</sup>
3. New Zealand believes that, globally, agriculture has an important role to play. Reducing biogenic methane emissions will present challenges and will inherently require trade-offs to be made. The KJWA can provide guidance on these issues.

#### **Report to COP26 and recognition of the work to date**

4. Paragraph 4 of 4/CP.23 requests the subsidiary bodies to report to the Conference of the Parties on the progress and outcomes of the work referred to in Paragraph 1 at its twenty-sixth session (November 2020).<sup>4</sup>
5. The KJWA has brought together an array of knowledge for Parties to use in undertaking climate action and provided a platform for an inclusive global discussion on how agriculture can contribute to the implementation of the Paris Agreement.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.oecd-ilibrary.org/docserver/19428846-en.pdf?expires=1635117241&id=id&accname=guest&checksum=1B3E93681C47FDAD1F8F83D6FA8F91AF>, page 51.

<sup>2</sup> [https://www.ipcc.ch/site/assets/uploads/sites/2/2019/05/SR15\\_SPM\\_version\\_report\\_LR.pdf](https://www.ipcc.ch/site/assets/uploads/sites/2/2019/05/SR15_SPM_version_report_LR.pdf), page 14.

<sup>3</sup> [https://www.ipcc.ch/site/assets/uploads/sites/2/2019/05/SR15\\_SPM\\_version\\_report\\_LR.pdf](https://www.ipcc.ch/site/assets/uploads/sites/2/2019/05/SR15_SPM_version_report_LR.pdf), page 14.

<sup>4</sup> Paragraph 1 of Decision 4/CP.23 requests the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice and the Subsidiary Body for Implementation to jointly address issues related to agriculture, including through workshops and expert meetings, working with constituted bodies under the Convention and taking into consideration the vulnerabilities of agriculture to climate change and approaches to addressing food security.

6. Recognition of this work should be a crucial element of any report back to the COP. The workshops have provided the opportunity for Parties to exchange views on topics related to agriculture, climate change and food security, and to learn from and engage with the constituted bodies (CBs) and financial mechanisms of the UNFCCC.
7. New Zealand would like to acknowledge the inputs of technical experts, representatives of the CBs of the UNFCCC, operating entities of the financial mechanisms (GCF and GEF), the Adaptation Fund and the Least Developed Countries Fund, and observer constituencies to the workshops under the KJWA. These inputs have made relevant work more visible to Parties.
8. New Zealand sees the below as cross-cutting themes that have been highlighted across the workshops:
  - the importance of safeguarding food and nutrition security;
  - the importance of including farmers, indigenous people, women and youth in decision-making and the integration of traditional and scientific knowledge;
  - co-benefits arising from addressing mitigation and adaptation;
  - the need for better data, methodologies, measurement, reporting and verification (MRV) to allow for the collection of country-specific data;
  - the importance of taking an outcomes-based, context-specific approach; and
  - the need for more effective means of implementation.
9. These workshops, and the previous work on agriculture under the UNFCCC,<sup>5</sup> provide a baseline from which to continue the work, begin implementing the outcomes from the workshop reports and delve further into future topics.

#### **Future of KJWA**

10. There are many options for continuing discussions on agriculture and climate change under the UNFCCC.
11. One such option for Parties to consider, and that has arisen in discussions, is whether future discussions should be under the CMA, rather than the COP, to be more directly linked to the Paris Agreement, the Enhanced Transparency Framework and Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs).
12. Irrespective of the format, New Zealand is committed to dialogue that is non-duplicative, context-specific, and that promotes knowledge sharing and the implementation of no-regret options. New Zealand considers that future modalities and topics should be decided based on these four factors.
  - a) **Non – duplicative** – it is important that any future work builds on existing structures and experiences. There is a range of activity on agriculture and climate change ongoing at different levels and institutions. The KJWA should build on, work with, and learn from, rather than repeat, the work of the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO), CBs, IPCC reports, and international initiatives such as the Global Research Alliance on Agricultural Greenhouse Gases. The KJWA could serve as a nexus that highlights the work of these initiatives, allowing Parties to better engage with them.
  - b) **Context specific** – New Zealand would like to see any future decision take an outcomes-based approach, acknowledging that there are no one-size-fits-all solutions to the issues of agriculture, climate change and food security. Solutions and recommendations should be tailored to country needs and national circumstances, and their requirements to increase adaptation, mitigation and safeguard food security. To this end, it will be important to shape the KJWA to allow integration

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<sup>5</sup> <https://unfccc.int/topics/land-use/workstreams/agriculture/sbsta-work-on-agriculture>.

with national processes related to NDCs and adaptation planning. Better integration across different processes, including NDCs, National Adaptation Plans and Technology Needs Assessments could facilitate greater implementation, as CBs often base work on priorities expressed by Parties.

Crucial to this will be improving MRV and initiatives to improve greenhouse gas inventories that enable Parties to identify mitigation opportunities, and supporting the development of tracking tools. MRV needs to be in place to best promote implementation at the country level.

- c) **Promotes knowledge sharing** – a future for the KJWA should promote knowledge sharing between Parties, and include perspectives from farmers, indigenous peoples, and women. Meeting the needs of farmers and food systems should be at the centre of future work.

Continued involvement of the CBs and operating entities of the financial mechanism will also create interlinkages leading to enhanced action and improvements in implementation.

- d) **No-regret options** – The future of the KJWA should showcase no-regret options, promote their adoption and provide a platform for sharing best practises. Future topics should be focused on facilitating the implementation of mitigation *and* adaptation measures in the agriculture sector, whilst safeguarding food security. New Zealand sees potential for climate change mitigation in agriculture from actions that can be taken on the ground now at relatively low cost, which result in win-win outcomes. Parties could showcase how they are implementing some of these no-regret options such as improving soil health and nutrient management and reinforcing animal health policies through an informal review or report to enhance accountability and encourage Parties to take more action. Such solutions have the potential to increase productivity, contribute to food security, adaptation, mitigation and enhance carbon sinks.

#### **Determining future topics**

13. Setting future topics will provide a signal to financial mechanisms (both within and outside of the UNFCCC) of where resources are required to be directed in agriculture. Consideration should be given to mobilising private sector investment and the contribution of the KJWA in informing agricultural strategies of financing entities.
14. Further work could help identify existing funding opportunities and incentive schemes, as well as tools and platforms to foster climate action in agriculture. It should allow countries the opportunity to discuss their experiences with these schemes, to determine what the barriers to access are, and therefore provide better means of implementation for countries to enact the cross-cutting themes identified in paragraph 8 above. One such option could be to request a mapping of activities and mandates of the CBs related to agriculture for use by Parties and observers.
15. The KJWA can assist Parties to understand domestic enablers in the context of making finance flows consistent with a pathway towards low greenhouse gas emissions and climate-resilient development, as well as funding available through appropriate mechanisms under the UNFCCC. It will be important for Parties to explore how to identify and incentivise scalable mitigation action and remove barriers that are preventing implementation on the ground.
16. New Zealand looks forward to discussing these ideas and those from other Parties at COP26.