

Environmental Integrity Group (EIG)

Koronivia joint work on agriculture (KJWA): Suggestions for the way forward after the ending of its Roadmap

The Environmental Integrity Group (EIG) is pleased to submit its views 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, to the UNFCCC Secretariat.

Experiences and lessons learnt from the KJWA Roadmap 2018-2021

At SBSTA/SBI 48 in May 2018, Parties agreed to the KJWA roadmap, consisting of six in-session workshops on specific topics¹. Later, an inter-sessional workshop was added². Parties and accredited observer organisations were invited to hand in submissions on each of the topics, prior to the respective workshops. The UNFCCC Secretariat made the submissions available on the UNFCCC website and organised the workshops. The workshops typically lasted one day each and included key note presentations, country presentations, presentations of work undertaken by constituted bodies and financing entities, an expert panel discussion and a plenary discussion. For each workshop, the UNFCCC Secretariat compiled a report, which was discussed and adopted by the Parties in one of the subsequent Subsidiary Bodies (SB) meetings, in the form of SB conclusions³.

The KJWA Roadmap 2018-2021 has generated many added values:

a) Within the UNFCCC

The key note presentations, and other expert input, informed Parties on the state of the art in science and practice, thereby contributing to building a common understanding on evidence, interlinkages, and importance, of each of the topics covered.

The inputs of the Constituted Bodies and Financial Entities of UNFCCC showed where these Bodies and Entities are active in the field of agriculture and food security, how they can be accessed, and where potential for institutional improvement might exist. In addition, the discussions held under the framework of the first KJWA Roadmap has raised the awareness of the Constituted Bodies and the Financial Entities of UNFCCC regarding the particularities of agriculture and food security issues in the context of climate change. The spaces provided by KJWA for exchange among UNFCCC Bodies, Entities, Parties and organisations beyond UNFCCC was a crucial element for the success of the KJWA Roadmap 2018-2021. It became clear that, in principle, there are appropriate UNFCCC bodies and financial institutions that can help implement solutions to countries' needs, although there is room for improvement. KJWA has contributed, and will need to do so also in the future, to integrating and coordinating these instances on agricultural issues.

The presentations of countries have created an opportunity to get a better understanding of the challenges that different countries face, and how they approach them.

The Secretariat's workshop reports laid the ground for increasingly constructive subsequent discussions, which were important to clarify views. The common basis that could be created for further joint work is substantial to achieve better outcomes more quickly for agriculture and food security.

¹ Koronivia road map, as contained in annex I of [FCCC/SBI/2018/9](https://unfccc.int/event/koronivia-intersessional-workshop-part-1) and [FCCC/SBSTA/2018/4](https://unfccc.int/event/koronivia-intersessional-workshop-part-2)

² <https://unfccc.int/event/koronivia-intersessional-workshop-part-1> and <https://unfccc.int/event/koronivia-intersessional-workshop-part-2>

³ [Issues related to agriculture | UNFCCC](#), bottom of the page

b) Beyond the UNFCCC

The KJWA Roadmap 2018-2021 has not only had a positive effect within UNFCCC, it has also prompted an impact beyond UNFCCC. For example, various institutions and organizations at national, regional and multilateral level, from funding bodies to implementing agencies, have shifted their programming in accordance with the discussions under KJWA. KJWA has also triggered new and additional initiatives and activities on the issue cluster around agriculture and food systems in the context of climate change. The KJWA Roadmap 2018-2021 and its workshops have thus sent a signal on the importance of agriculture and food systems and their specific aspects in the context of climate change to the world beyond UNFCCC, and it has been well received.

c) On Substance

In terms of substance, the KJWA process has so far come up with a series of options that help to adapt to climate change, and to mitigate greenhouse gases, while increasing food security. Improving soil health, nutrient management, animal husbandry and food systems are among them.

The KJWA process has also showed the need for systemic approaches and context specific solutions. Systemic approaches are important to leverage synergies elsewhere in the system while avoiding negative side effects. The need for context specific solutions arises from the recognition that farming systems are diverse in terms of agro-ecological, socio-cultural and economic context, and that solutions need to be tailored to the context to be successful.

Suggestions for the way forward

Based on the latest reports of the IPCC⁴, the EIG suggests that Parties adopt a second Koronivia Joint Work on Agriculture *and Food Security* (KJWAFS) Roadmap, with similar modalities as those of the KJWA Roadmap 2018-2021. As a complement to the previous workshop topics, potential topics for the second Roadmap might include:

- The role of biodiversity and resilient agroecosystems to increase food security in the context of climate change and climate action;
- The role of food consumption patterns and their linkages with food production in the context of climate change and climate action;
- The role of food value chains and their potential for adaptation to required climate action;
- The role of food systems governance and policy making (including payments for ecosystems services and other policy instruments) to increase food security in the context of climate change and climate action;
- The role of agricultural knowledge institutions (research, extension, vocational education) in finding ways together with farmers, considering their experiences and abilities to manage complex agro-ecological systems, to take climate action.

As the workshops were rather time demanding for all (for the UNFCCC Secretariat to organise the workshops and to write the workshop report; for Parties and accredited observer organisations to write the submissions), it is suggested that only one workshop be scheduled in-session within a year, ideally

⁴ [Climate Change 2022: Impacts, Adaptation and Vulnerability | Climate Change 2022: Impacts, Adaptation and Vulnerability \(ipcc.ch\)](#) Chapter 5, and [Climate Change 2022: Mitigation of Climate Change \(ipcc.ch\)](#) Chapter 7

at the SB meetings in May/June, with the possibility to have virtual participation, given the budgetary restrictions of developing countries.

The second KJWAFS Roadmap should facilitate the understanding of agriculture and food security issues in the context of climate change, and inform the activities and the draft decisions of the Constituted Bodies and inform the Operating Entities of the Financial Mechanisms of UNFCCC, as well as the development of relevant national strategies and policies such as NDCs, NAPs and others. Having a set-up for addressing agriculture and food security issues within the UNFCCC that considers technical (SBSTA) as well as implementation (SBI) issues in a balanced manner, will contribute to enhance coherence and to consolidate a systemic approach necessary for achieving the Objective of the Convention (Article 2). This systemic approach must include the working together of many different sectors and stakeholders beyond UNFCCC.

Implementation of the gathered information under KJWA is decisive to make the necessary progress on adaptation, building resilience and contributing to mitigate climate change. Hence there is the need to continue the work on agriculture to generate an enabling environment for this implementation. This enabling environment may include inter alia better access to existing financial resources, facilitation of technology transfer, innovation, and capacity building within existing schemes. KJWA can thus strengthen the political will to enable climate action and improve food security. Implementation can be done most effectively, and best adapted to the specific context of a country, through NDC, NAPS and other national or regional strategies and policies.

Conclusions

The EIG suggests to continue the discussions on the way forward after the ending of the KJWA Roadmap 2018-2021 and to build on the positive experiences Parties have made so far. We suggest that a draft decision on a second KJWAFS Roadmap to the COP be prepared as a priority at the SB56 meeting.