

Submission by the Republic of Ghana on the views of the elements of the four-year Sharm El- Sheikh Joint Work on the implementation of climate action on agriculture and food security.

March 2023

Preamble

This submission is made pursuant to paragraphs 17 and 18 of the Draft decision -3/CP.27: Joint work on implementation of climate action on agriculture and food security.

1. Background

The Conference of the Parties at its twenty-third session, held in Bonn in 2017, adopted decision 4/CP.23 on the "Koronivia Joint Work on Agriculture (KJWA)", which requested the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice (SBSTA) and the Subsidiary Body for Implementation (SBI) 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.

Parties agreed on the KJWA roadmap on six topics with an additional one on sustainable land and water management, including integrated watershed management strategies, to ensure food security; and strategies and modalities to scale up implementation of best practices, innovations and technologies that increase resilience and sustainable production in agricultural systems according to national circumstances. Six in-session workshops and one intercessional workshop were held between 2018 and 2021.

At the twenty-seventh session of the Conference of the Parties (COP27) held in Sharm El-Sheikh in 2022, the Parties adopted decision 3/CP.27 which:

- recognized the vulnerabilities of agricultural systems to the impacts of climate change and the importance of scaling up support to enhance action on safeguarding food and nutrition security and ending hunger, aiming for inclusive, sustainable and climate-resilient agricultural systems.
- also recognized the need to improve the enabling environment for mobilizing resources for implementing action at the local, national and international levels, as well as enhanced knowledge sharing on best practices, access to finance, technology development and transfer, and capacity-building.

- requested the SBSTA and the SBI to establish the four-year Sharm el-Sheikh joint work on implementation of climate action on agriculture and food security, including implementation of the outcomes of the Koronivia joint work on agriculture and previous activities addressing issues related to agriculture, as well as future topics, recognizing that solutions are context-specific and take into account national circumstances, with the seven objectives.

In light of the above, the Republic of Ghana submits its views on the elements of the joint work referred to in para 14 of the decision, including views on topics for the in-session workshops referred to in paragraph 15(b) of the 3/CP.27 and synthesis report by the secretariat.

2. Context

Ghana's Agriculture and Food Security

Agriculture is important for Ghana's economy and the livelihoods of the majority of the rural population. Its importance is not only in terms of the contribution to food and nutrition security, but the sector employs about 42% of the workforce and contributes about 19% of the national gross domestic product (GDP) (SRID, 2016; World Bank, 2019; GSS, 2019). The sector is characterized by small-scale rain-fed crop and livestock farming systems with an average farm size of less than 1.2 ha, accounting for about 80% of total agricultural production.

Given that, agriculture is the dominant source of livelihood and mainstay of rural economies, key challenges that increase climate change vulnerability of agricultural systems and agricultural-dependent communities, particularly the most vulnerable groups, women and youth need to be addressed.

These challenges include (i) limited adoption of modern technologies leading to low agricultural production and productivity; (ii) high post-harvest losses; (iii) poor market access and low competitiveness for products in domestic, regional, continental and international markets; (iv) low-value addition to agricultural produce; (v) limited access to agricultural financial services and critical inputs; and (vi) poor coordination and inefficient institutions for effective climate change planning and self-organization of actors.

Climate change is causing increased temperatures and unpredictable rainfall patterns in Ghana with negative impacts on agriculture and the people's livelihoods. Ghana is already experiencing a higher average annual temperature of 1°C and a decrease in monthly rainfall by about 2.4% per decade since 1960. The declining rainfall amount is most severe in the southwestern regions of the country while the rest of the country is experiencing more prolonged and severe dry seasons (De Pinto *et al.*, 2012). Climate scenarios indicate an increasing trend in temperature, especially in the northern regions. Various models have revealed that the mean annual temperature in Ghana will

increase by 1.0°C - 3.0°C and 1.5°C - 5.2°C by 2060 and 2090 respectively. Such changes will be more pronounced and severe in the northern region of the country.

3. Views on the elements referred to in para 14 & 15 of the decision 3/CP.27 (Sharm El Sheikh Joint Work on implementation of climate action on agriculture and food security)

As we focus on enhancing implementation under the Sharm El Sheikh Joint Work on the implementation of climate action on agriculture and food security, emphasis should be put on invoking the means of implementation for climate actions. This includes technology development and transfer, capacity building and financing to climate-proof and strengthens the sustainability of measures aimed at increasing the resilience of agricultural systems. The aim is to improve the livelihoods of agricultural-dependent communities, particularly rural communities.

Ghana, therefore, proposes an Expert Group on Agriculture and Food Security be established with a view of facilitating the implementation of the Sharm el Sheikh joint work on the implementation of climate action on agriculture and food security objectives referred to in 3/CP.27 para 14. The expert group on agriculture and food security will facilitate the implementation of modalities agreed upon by Parties (deliberate measures and strategies) for the implementation of the four-year Sharm el Sheikh joint work including coordination with Parties, agencies and financial entities under the convention.

The Expert Group will ensure the strengthening of stakeholder coordination and organization for the integration of climate action. Furthermore, the expert group will create a conducive setting for collaboration and partnerships among national, regional and international organizations and other relevant stakeholders, as well as under relevant processes and initiatives, in order to enhance the implementation of climate action to address issues related to agriculture and food security. This will provide a favourable environment for constituted bodies and the operating entities of the Financial Mechanism on climate action to address issues related to agriculture and food security, respecting the Party-driven approach and in line with their respective procedures and mandates.

The Expert Group (up to 24 members) should have an Equal/balanced representation of both developing and developed countries (Annex 1 parties and non-Annex 1 parties). The expert group should be facilitated by two co-facilitators/chairs (one from Annex 1 parties and one from non-Annex 1 parties).

4. Views on new topics under Joint Work on the implementation of climate action on agriculture and food security

Ghana proposes that Sharm El Sheikh Joint Work on implementation should consider new topics related to agriculture and food security and therefore, submits the following new topics for consideration in the in-session workshops referred to in paragraph 15(b):

- a) Climate-Smart value addition and agro-processing technologies for small-scale producers.
- b) Approaches in institutional strengthening, organizational capacity and partnerships among value chain actors to enhance climate action in agricultural systems.
- c) The Role and effectiveness of land-based solutions in climate disaster risk management and building the climate resilience of agricultural ecosystems, livelihoods and economies.
- d) Technologies and practices to reduce post-harvest and food loss within agriculture and the food system.
- e) Development of cost-benefit policy evidence on adaptation options and just transition pathways.
- f) Approaches to implement climate action on agriculture for food security including Nature Based Solutions, Agroecology, Climate-Smart Agriculture, Landscape approach and food systems.

5. Views on the preparation of the annual Synthesis Report by the Secretariat

Ghana is of the view that the Expert Group guides the format and the structure, as well as the timeline of submission of the annual synthesis report, referred to in paragraph 15 of the decision 3/CP.27.

This report will be adopted by SBSTA and SBI at the appropriate COP session to be defined.