

SUBMISSION BY THE REPUBLIC OF GHANA ON THE SHARM EL-SHEIKH ONLINE PORTAL UNDER THE FOUR-YEAR SHARM EL-SHEIKH JOINT WORK ON IMPLEMENTATION OF CLIMATE ACTION ON AGRICULTURE AND FOOD SECURITY

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, Egypt, in November 2022, Parties adopted decision 3/CP.27 which:

- recognized the vulnerabilities of food production systems to the adverse 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 level, 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;
- established the Sharm el-Sheikh online portal under the joint work for sharing information on projects, initiatives and policies for increasing opportunities for implementation of climate action to address issues related to agriculture and food security.

In light of the foregoing, **Ghana** submits its views on the operationalization of the portal.

Context

The economy of Ghana is highly dependent on agriculture, employing about 42% of the workforce and contributing about 19.7% 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. Climate change adaptation and information services would help agricultural practitioners, especially smallholder farmers and fisher folks in Ghana to build resilience and adapt to climate variability and change. However, limited infrastructure for Information Communication Technology (ICT) poses a challenge to internet access by farmers, especially in rural settings. Coupled with the limited infrastructure are the low literacy levels among smallholder farmers. Notwithstanding, digital information and access to technology offer an important platform to smallholder farmers especially the youth by providing links to increased production and marketing opportunities for implementing climate actions to address agriculture and food security-related issues. Given these, it is envisaged that the online portal should to the extent possible be farmers user-friendly and inclusive to accommodate both indigenous and scientific materials.

1. Scope of the portal

a. Objective for setting up the portal

It is expected that the online portal will play an important role in sharing and exchanging information on projects, initiatives and policies for increasing opportunities for the implementation of climate action to address issues related to agriculture and food security. Further, the online portal is expected to facilitate the linking of Parties, Constituted Bodies and Operating Entities of the Financial Mechanism under the Convention, United Nations organizations and other relevant institutions, agencies and entities, the research community, the private sector, civil society and farmers organizations, among others and as appropriate. In particular:

- Facilitate the sharing of information on projects, initiatives, and policies;
- sharing scientific, technological and other information, knowledge (including local and indigenous knowledge), experiences, innovations and best practices;
- facilitate matchmaking, partnerships and cooperation for the implementation of climate action on agriculture and food security;
- facilitating awareness creation, peer-to-peer learning, capacity building, and networking to promote the implementation of climate action on agriculture and food security;
- sharing information on opportunities for finance, capacity building; and technology development and transfer;

b. Topics of focus

The online portal topics of focus are those related to sharing information on projects, initiatives and policies for increasing opportunities for implementation of climate action to address issues related to agriculture and food security, including, but not limited to, those addressed in the Koronivia joint work on agriculture and previous activities addressing issues related to agriculture, as well as future topics.

2. Design and operationalization of the portal

Ghana wishes to highlight the importance of making the information on the online portal easily accessible and user-friendly with appropriate search functions:

- a. Interface/structure:** information on the online portal can be organized by:
- category and subcategory of activity (projects, initiatives and policies) that can be accessible to farmers, fisherfolks, and other users;
 - Stakeholders: Parties, accredited observer organizations, UN agencies, and others, including farmer organizations;
 - Regions, subregions, and countries;
 - Link to other relevant websites;
 - Clarity on the administrator/Focal Point of the online portal;

Due to the increasing mobile penetration in Ghana, the online portal should, to the extent possible, be compatible and or accessible by mobile technology.

b. Submitters (who has the right to post?)

Documents could be uploaded on the online portal by all Parties; organizations with observer status, Constituted Bodies and Operating Entities of the Financial Mechanism.

Party's submissions should be, **through sector contact points**, through the National Focal Points. Each submission should be accompanied by an abstract/summary of the initiative, policy or action, to facilitate its use.

c. Language(s) of the online portal

The online portal should be available in the official UN languages.

d. Safeguarding information/privacy/confidentiality

It is important to have the protection of proprietary information submitted to the online portal.