**SUBMISSION BY THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA 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](https://unfccc.int/documents/65126) 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 KJWA roadmap on six topics with an additional 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 intersessional 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](https://unfccc.int/documents/65126) 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, Nigeriapresents its views on the operationalization of the Online portal under the Four Year Sharm El Sheik joint work on implementation of climate action on agriculture and food security.

**Context**

In Nigeria, agriculture is the most important economic sector in terms of its contribution to the GDP, after oil. The sector contributes about 41% of the country’s GDP, employs about 65% of the total population and provides employment to about 80% of the rural population while women constitute a substantial part of 75% of the agricultural labour force. Nigeria agriculture is largely characterised by smallholder farmers that mostly cultivate rain-fed farms. One of the major constraint facing the sector is poor technology including limited access to internet facility that provides information as solutions to the climate change crises in the country.

Agricultural development is vital for national transformation and to increase food security. To achieve this, farmers, researchers/scientist, and extension workers need to be well informed, however, a recent finding revealed that Nigeria farmers lack awareness for using the internet as an alternative means of getting information in the absence or lack/shortage of extension agent. This low awareness is coupled with low internet access and the lack of skills for internet usage. (Abdulazzez Harunna and D. Baba)

The internet offers opportunities for collaborative and parallel communication and opening up new, non -traditional communication channels for rural communities and development organizations. Most notably, it can sustain button-up enunciation of development needs and perceptions, (Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)) Going by the shortage of extension agents who facilitates adoption of new farming innovations in Nigeria, it is therefore paramount for all agricultural stakeholders, most especially farmers, to effectively utilize the potential of the internet to enhance their activities in terms of information and communication dissemination.

The online portal should, to the extent possible, be farmer-friendly, inclusive of both scientific and indigenous knowledge systems.

**Scope of the portal**

1. Objective of the portal

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

In particular:

* facilitating information sharing on projects, initiatives, and policies.
* sharing scientific, technological and other information, knowledge (including local and indigenous knowledge), experiences, innovations and best practices.
* facilitating matchmaking, partnership and cooperation.
* facilitating awareness creation, peer-to-peer learning, capacity building, and networking to promote implementation of climate action on agriculture and food security, including support for increase in farm yield, crop species and;
* sharing information on opportunities for finance and technology development and transfer.

1. 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.

**Design and Implementation of the portal**

Nigeria highlights the importance of making the information on the online portal easily accessible with appropriate search function:

1. **Interface/Structure**: information on the online portal should be organized by:

* category and subcategory of activity (projects, initiatives and policies) that can be accessible to farmers, pastoralists, extension workers, buyers 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.

Because of the increasing mobile penetration in the country, the online portal should also be accessible by mobile phones.

1. **Submitters (who has rights to post?)**

The documents can be uploaded on the online portal by all Parties; organizations with observer status, Constituted Bodies and Operating Entities of the Financial Mechanism. Parties submissions should be **from the sector Contact Point** and through **the National Focal Point**. Each submission should be accompanied with an abstract/summary of the initiative, policy or action, to facilitate its use.

1. **Safeguarding Information/Privacy/Confidentiality**

Need to have protection of proprietary of information submitted to the online portal.