



## Australian Government

### Submission on the Sharm el-Sheikh joint work on implementation of climate action on agriculture and food security referred to in paragraph 14 of 3/CP.27

April 2023

Australia welcomes the opportunity to provide a submission to the *Sharm el-Sheikh joint work on implementation of climate action on agriculture and food security*. As the only sector specific workstream under the UNFCCC, the four-year work program continues the important work initiated under the *Koronivia Joint Work on Agriculture (2017-2022)* to assist countries address climate change, food security, and emission reduction challenges.

Australia supports the continuation of the joint work to build capability, share information, test and pilot ideas, and deliver meaningful context-specific outcomes. We also support action that is based on the best available science, is inclusive in its operation and recognises contributions that contribute to both adaptation and mitigation efforts, while continuing to support agricultural production and trade.

Australia's submission supports the four objectives for the *Sharm el-Sheikh joint work on implementation of climate action on agriculture and food security*:

- evaluating progress in implementing climate action
- enhancing further research and development, as well as information sharing
- promoting a holistic approach to addressing issues related to agriculture and food security, and
- improving coherence between bodies within the UNFCCC and among relevant external stakeholders to further climate action related to agriculture and food security.

Australia's participation in the *Sharm el-Sheikh joint work* is an opportunity to share our policy expertise and lived experience in soil health, livestock management, drought response and biosecurity, and to learn from other parties in return. Australia values the opportunity to fortify our engagement with party members, specifically our Pacific family and near neighbours, and to collaborate with First Nations peoples, organisations, communities and industry on policy development and practical solutions.

Australia's proposed workshop topics will generate critical thinking required in a fast moving and worsening global climate outlook<sup>1</sup>. This approach has the intent to scale up workable climate-resilient initiatives and test innovative concepts that will contribute to global emissions reductions, while maintaining a sustainable and productive agriculture industry. The joint work is also an important opportunity for Australia to engage and align with international commitments that address climate change, sustainability and food security, and to learn from best practice worldwide.

In leveraging the momentum and direction established under the *Koronivia Joint Work on Agriculture*, Australia's proposed workshop topics to 2026 are outlined in this submission. The proposed workshop topics complement parts of the Republic of Fiji's regional submission on behalf of Pacific Small Island Developing States. We welcome their workshop topics on *food systems and integrated climate resilience*

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<sup>1</sup> IPCC, 2022: Summary for Policymakers. In: *Climate Change 2022: Mitigation of Climate Change. Contribution of Working Group III to the Sixth Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change* [P.R. Shukla, J. Skea, R. Slade, A. Al Khourdajie, R. van Diemen, D. McCollum, M. Pathak, S. Some, P. Vyas, R. Fradera, M. Belkacemi, A. Hasija, G. Lisboa, S. Luz, J. Malley, (eds.)]. Cambridge University Press, Cambridge, UK and New York, NY, USA. doi: 10.1017/9781009157926.001

*approaches; promoting traditional knowledge and practices; and impacts of climate change on food security.*

Australia uses a highly collaborative approach between government, industry and agricultural producers to deliver outcomes in water efficiency, soil management and digital agriculture and seeking to drive effort towards emissions targets, climate resilience, responsible innovation and the integration of First Nations knowledge and science. We are also testing innovation partnership models to better direct Australia's diverse research efforts into meeting our national climate challenges in agriculture. In doing so, Australia has much to share with others in our region and across the world. We look forward to contributing to and learning from the *Sharm el-Sheikh joint work on implementation of climate action on agriculture and food security*.

## Proposed workshop topics

### Workshop Topic #1

- **Climate smart agriculture to maintain productivity and rural livelihoods**
  - This workshop will explore innovative options for the agriculture industry to increase climate smart capabilities while maintaining production and productivity. Discussions will include the policy options available to countries to put the agriculture sector on an efficient and productive trajectory as their economies track towards emission goals. Case studies relating to livestock management, land management, sustainable agriculture and other relevant subjects will be shared.
  - This workshop will also explore ways to effectively engage with and learn from the lived experiences and innovative approaches of practitioners including in the agriculture industry. It will include views of First Nations peoples and incorporate traditional knowledge into land management practices and efforts towards becoming climate smart.

While many options exist for emissions abatement and carbon sequestration in agriculture, some of these may not be suitable in all environments (i.e. not a one-size-fits-all). Effective solutions and innovations would benefit from international collaboration and information sharing to inform further research and development. Ineffective policies could risk locking farmers into costly paths to emissions reduction, or unsustainable land use practices, with potential detrimental outcomes for farmers as well as consumers.

This workshop will support the priority objectives of the joint work to evaluate progress and develop research through sharing information. It will provide an opportunity for parties to present on progress toward international initiatives they are party to that address climate change and global hunger through investments in climate-smart agriculture and food systems innovation, such as the Agriculture Innovations Mission for Climate, Agriculture Breakthrough Agenda and Sustainable Productivity Growth Coalition. Additionally, this workshop will support objectives of the Global Methane Pledge, which pursues opportunities to reduce methane emissions.

The workshop will also provide an opportunity to share insights from Australia's (and other member parties) engagement with the Global Research Alliance on Agricultural Greenhouse Gases – a pre-eminent international network that brings together the world's best agricultural greenhouse gases emissions research. The network supports countries to improve their agricultural productivity while enhancing their resilience, adaptive capacity, and emissions reduction.

Australia plans to share knowledge and lessons learned from government policy and industry-led programs, as well as context-specific experience, technical advice and tools from key stakeholders such as industry experts and research scientists.

### Workshop Topic #2

- **Protecting resources and encouraging resilience to a changing climate**

- This workshop will consider the role of soil carbon, soil health, including soil fertility, for increased productivity and climate change resilience, building on the findings of the soil workshop held in 2019 under the *Koronivia* workplan.
- This workshop will also consider the approaches taken around the world to address the threats and impacts of drought due to a changing climate. Specifically, how to position agricultural industries and impacted communities to be prepared and better situated to manage and recover from drought.
- Up-to-date information will be shared with an opportunity to examine case studies from a range of countries to allow participants to identify context-specific options that are relevant for their national circumstances.

The recent IPCC synthesis report points out the critical importance of building resilience and preparing for climate changes to lessen the impact<sup>2</sup>. Australia's unseasonal and variable climate, in combination with being the driest inhabited continent in the world, has resulted in the government and agriculture sector collaborating to boost preparedness and resilience. Australia values the opportunity to share experiences from our risk-based approach to drought management, developed in conjunction with agricultural producers, including the tools and programs developed with Australian Government research organisations (e.g. the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO) and Bureau of Meteorology) and membership in the Global Research Alliance. We would also value the opportunity to share experience from the implementation of Australia's Future Drought Fund, which supports farmers and the agriculture sector to build their resilience to drought and climate risk.

This workshop would complement the objectives the Coalition of Action 4 Soil Health, which Australia is a member along with nine other countries. The overarching goal of the Coalition of Action 4 Soil Health is to improve soil health globally by addressing critical implementation, monitoring, policy, and public and private investment barriers that constrain farmers from adopting and scaling healthy soil practices.

Australia looks forward to contributing our successes and lessons learnt in drought response and soil management through the participation of industry experts and research scientists.

### Workshop Topic #3

- **Biosecurity measures for food security and resource protection**

- This workshop will discuss biosecurity research and development to find innovative approaches to managing biosecurity risk in a changing climate.
- This workshop will discuss how different countries are managing biosecurity measures as a mechanism for protection of resources and associated social amenity, livelihoods and industries, food security, trade security and market access.
- The workshop will also consider information from a range of policy and practical perspectives, with proposed case studies on:
  - Australia's risk-based approach to African swine fever prevention along the biosecurity continuum, from preborder partnerships to border and postborder activities
  - Development of pragmatic biosecurity border measures for protection of marine resources from the accidental introduction of marine pest and diseases, vectored by ships (biofouling and ballast water), and
  - Plant biosecurity case study - Innovative research and management approaches for fall army worm and development of the National Hitchhiker Plant Pest Action Plan 2022-2032.

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<sup>2</sup>Dhakal, S., J.C. Minx, F.L. Toth, A. Abdel-Aziz, M.J. Figueroa Meza, K. Hubacek, I.G.C. Jonckheere, Yong-Gun Kim, G.F. Nemet, S. Pachauri, X.C. Tan, T. Wiedmann, 2022: Emissions Trends and Drivers. In IPCC, 2022: Climate Change 2022: Mitigation of Climate Change. Contribution of Working Group III to the Sixth Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change [P.R. Shukla, J. Skea, R. Slade, A. Al Khourdajie, R. van Diemen, D. McCollum, M. Pathak, S. Some, P. Vyas, R. Fradera, M. Belkacemi, A. Hasija, G. Lisboa, S. Luz, J. Malley, (eds.)]. Cambridge University Press, Cambridge, UK and New York, NY, USA. doi: 10.1017/9781009157926.004

Responding and preparing for biosecurity threats that are increasing with climate changes is imperative to building resilience to agriculture and food security. Australia is a world leader in the development and implementation of preventative policies and practices that reduce terrestrial animal, plant, and aquatic biosecurity risks, leading to more resilient ecosystems and improved agricultural and marine resources, with strengthened food security outcomes. Australia will share its Commonwealth Biosecurity 2030 policy and recent Pacific Biosecurity Strategy (2022-2027) to demonstrate its journey and capability in managing terrestrial animal, plant and aquatic pests, diseases and invasive species.

The proposed workshop will support priority objectives relating to capability and capacity building, research and evaluation through information sharing. Australia looks forward to contributing evidence-based content from industry experts, research scientists, and government regulators.