



## **Farming First**

### **Submission to the UNFCCC Secretariat on**

### **Enhanced action on mitigation, Cooperative sectoral approaches and sector- specific actions, in order to enhance the implementation of Article 4, paragraph 1(c), of the Convention, (SBSTA)**

(Submitted by CropLife International on behalf of Farming First)

Agriculture constitutes a crucial sector in many countries economies and for the livelihoods of millions around the world. In addition to extreme weather events, gradual changes in temperature and precipitations are expected to significantly affect food security and livelihoods. Smallholder farmers are particularly vulnerable to these changes and need to be at the heart of policies for adaptation and increasing ecosystem resilience.

Given the trends for growing demand for agricultural products the agriculture sector faces a unique challenge as mitigation and adaptation efforts cannot come at the costs of reduced agricultural productivity and production. Governments will need to put in place policies that balance the joint objectives of adaptation, mitigation and food security, and which maximise benefits in all three areas.

To guide policy making, decision makers will need access to knowledge about best practices, scientific and engineering knowledge and technologies that are specific to their context. Additional work under SBSTA on a number of issues, with due consideration of linkages and synergies to existing mechanisms and initiatives both inside and outside the UNFCCC, would provide a valuable source of information to governments as they seek to design policies and action plans that benefit their farmers.

The following aspects should be taken into account when establishing a SBSTA work program:

1. **Identifying existing available scientific knowledge:** Significant work on various issues related to agriculture and climate change is underway in fora outside of the UNFCCC. A work programme under SBSTA could help coordinate and link with initiatives outside of the UNFCCC process to ensure the knowledge acquired elsewhere is shared, and the research, technical and practical efforts underway are fed into the UNFCCC process and complementary.
2. **Identifying gaps in existing scientific knowledge:** As a corollary to the efforts to assess existing knowledge, carrying out gap analysis to help identify key research needs would provide helpful guidance to the donor and scientific communities, as well as governments and policy makers. In addition to areas linked to agronomy, ecology and other fields, assessing knowledge of engineering and other fields related to the food chain could be useful.

CropLife International is a member of Farming First and makes this submission on behalf of the coalition. Farming First is a multi stakeholder coalition which aims to articulate, endorse and promote practical, actionable programmes and activities to further sustainable agricultural development worldwide. Farming First enjoys the support of 131 organisations representing the world's farmers, scientists, engineers and industry as well as agricultural development organisations. [www.farmingfirst.org](http://www.farmingfirst.org)



3. **Identifying the linkages between agriculture and existing UNFCCC mechanisms and tools:**  
As negotiations under UNFCCC progress, a number of mechanisms have been set up, such as the Green Climate Fund, the Climate Technology Center and Network, the Adaptation Fund, the Clean Development Mechanism and potential future initiatives. Entry points and linkages for agriculture-related issues into these mechanisms, including entry points for farmer constituencies, should be examined.



## ANNEX – Possible areas for additional research

- **Measuring, accounting and understanding GHG emissions from agriculture and food systems:** Efforts to define commonly agreed methodologies for measuring and accounting GHG emissions from agriculture and promote work to establish global evaluation guidelines for measuring emissions from agriculture would provide a useful basis for further integration of agriculture in the various mechanisms and processes underway under UNFCCC and into Parties national action plans. It would also provide governments, farmers, businesses, scientist and others valuable common reference points
- **Identify linkages, synergies and trade-offs between mitigation and adaptation strategies based on best available science, context specific practices and local knowledge;** with specific attention to the strategies and techniques most likely to create 'win win' solutions, as well as the practical challenges in implementing these. The relationship between mitigation and adaptation actions needs to be clarified. Approaches to measuring and understanding co-benefits need to be explored and identified.
- Complement work taking place elsewhere under SBSTA to assist in identifying possible **linkages between sustainable intensification of agricultural production and deforestation**, bearing in mind different contexts and farming systems, and the actions and policies needed to implement landscape level solutions for food security, adaptation and mitigation.
- Identify the **strategies and techniques to tackle climate extremes** in the agricultural sector and the associated mechanisms to reduce social vulnerability to climate change.
- Further **research in areas of high potential for carbon sequestration and resilience enhancements** such as resilience of soil ecosystems, breeding and potential of perennial crops
- Further **research in areas where climate change impacts are not well understood**, such as impacts on pest and diseases affecting crop and livestock production, and impacts on grain quality.
- Further **research into technologies, tools and techniques to improve resource utilization and efficiency as well as decision-making capacity**, such as water storage and irrigation technologies, food storage methods, and spatial data collection and dissemination.

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