



Country Update

DEALING WITH AGRICULTURAL ISSUES AFTER THE PARIS AGREEMENT: VIEWS ON THE EAC INDCS AND THE WAY FORWARD

Provided by



CUTS Africa Resource Centre, Nairobi
www.cuts-international.org

Introduction

This note has obtained the views of various stakeholders in Kenya on their take from Kenya’s “Intended Nationally Decided Contributions”, focusing on how this plan of actions is taken into account agriculture and its challenges facing climate change, and the extent to which it fulfilled their expectations, as well as the road ahead. The information contained in this note was obtained through field visit to the respondent organisations as well as phone calls and electronic response by the involved organisation representatives. The respondent institutions include:

Kenya Association of Manufacturers (KAM): This is a business membership organisation representing manufacturers even those in agro-processing who are affected by the INDCs.

Kenya Small Scale Farmers Federation (KSSFF): This is an association of small scale farmers in Kenya who are directly affected, when it comes to agriculture and climate

change issues.

Pan African Climate Justice Alliance (PACJA): This is a continental coalition of Civil Society Organizations from diverse backgrounds in Africa which is a platform in climate change and sustainable development.

Climate Change Agriculture and food security/ International Livestock research institute (CAAFS / ILRI): This is a research organisations that works on addressing the increasing challenge of global warming and declining food security on agricultural practices, policies and measures through a strategic collaboration

Agriculture in the UNFCCC system and the in the UNFCCC Paris Agreement



The world has been coming to terms with the realities of Climate Change. Therefore a number of global initiatives have been created to address the persistent climate change issues that pose a threat to the world food security and livelihoods. Agriculture is seen to be a key area of discussion, given that it is the largest contributor of non CO₂ Green House Gases (GHG) which are a great contributor to climate change¹, this makes it an issue of interest in the discussion on reducing GHG emissions.

Looking back in history the concerted efforts in addressing climate change began with the creation of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change in 1992. Amongst the commitments in the convention in Article 4 paragraph 1 (c)² was to “Promote and cooperate in the development, application and diffusion, including transfer, of technologies, practices and processes that control, reduce or prevent anthropogenic emissions of greenhouse gases not controlled by the Montreal Protocol in all relevant sectors, including the energy, transport, industry, **agriculture**, forestry and waste management sectors”. This commitment shows that the concerns on the effects of climate change on agriculture had been put into consideration at the initial stages.

However, the discussions that followed were loudly silent on operationalizing this commitment particularly on the sector of Agriculture. Notably, the discussions during the seventeenth session of the conference of parties held in 2011 in Durban, marketed the

beginning of agriculture being explicitly discussed from a technical view. At this time, the Ad Hoc Working Group on Long-term Cooperative Action under the Convention" requested the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice (SBSTA³) to consider issues relating to agriculture, with the aim of exchanging views and the Conference of the Parties adopting a decision on this matter at its eighteenth session⁴.

The SBSTA has since engaged parties to submit their views on Agriculture and Climate change and has been doing so since May 2012 to the latest one in May 2016. The views are being collected in the areas of:

Identification of adaptation measures, taking into account the diversity of the agricultural systems, indigenous knowledge systems and the differences in scale as well as possible co-benefits and sharing experiences in research and development and on the ground activities, including socioeconomic, environmental and gender aspects;

Identification and assessment of agricultural practices and technologies to enhance productivity in a sustainable manner, food security and resilience, considering the differences in agro-ecological zones and farming systems, such as different grassland and cropland practices and systems.

In the recent Paris agreement signed in December 2015, which has the main objective of limiting the average global temperatures to below 2 degrees and pursue efforts to limit it to

¹ Vermeulen SJ, Campbell BM, Ingram J SI. 2012. Climate change and food systems. Annual Review of Environmental Resources 37. (Available from <http://www.annualreviews.org/doi/abs/10.1146/annurev-environ-020411-130608>)

² https://unfccc.int/files/essential_background/background_publications_htmlpdf/application/pdf/conveng.pdf

³ The SBSTA is one of two permanent subsidiary bodies to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change

(UNFCCC) established by the Conference of the Parties (COP) and the Conference and Meeting of the Parties of the Kyoto protocol (CMP). It supports the work of the COP and the CMP through the provision of timely information and advice on scientific technological matters as they relate to the Convention or the Kyoto Protocol.

⁴ FCCC/CP/2011/9/Add.1_ Decision 1/CP.17. _Page 16, Agriculture paragraph 75_ <http://unfccc.int/resource/docs/2011/cop17/eng/09a01.pdf#page=4>

1.5 degrees. There is no explicit mention of agriculture, it mentions a number of issues relating to and affecting agriculture such as food security and food production have been consistently mentioned in the document. The agreement in particular “Recognizing the fundamental priority of safeguarding food security and ending hunger, and the particular vulnerabilities of food production systems to the adverse impacts of climate change”. Article 2.1 (b) *identifies Increasing the ability to adapt to the adverse impacts of climate change and foster climate resilience and low greenhouse gas emissions development, in a manner that does not threaten food production*⁵ as a strategy of implementing the convention.

In the UNFCCC processes and the recent Paris agreement, agriculture has been presented with a very good opportunity for being incorporated in the negotiations through the ongoing processes of the SBSTA on agriculture, which is consolidating views of parties on agriculture under various topics.

Overview of Kenya’s INDC in relation to agriculture

In the Paris agreement, countries are obliged to prepare, communicate and maintain their nationally determined contributions and pursue domestic measures to achieve the nationally determined contributions. Kenya is amongst the countries that have already submitted their INDCs⁶. Kenya’s INDC document is anchored on the national policy documents such as the Kenya vision 2030, the Constitution of Kenya, National Climate Change Response Strategy (NCCRS 2010), National Climate Change

Action Plan (NCCAP 2013), and a National Adaptation Plan (NAP), draft National Climate Change Framework Policy and the Climate Change Bill (2014). Therefore, the sectors of focus in the INDC are in line with the Kenya Vision 2030 Medium term plan (MTP) sectors.

On adaptation measures, the INDC intends to promote and implement climate smart agriculture which is in line with the national climate smart agriculture framework⁷. The National CSA envisions having “Climate resilient and low carbon growth sustainable agriculture that ensures food security and contributes to national development goals in line with Kenya Vision 2030.” The objectives of the NCSA will be realised through the following results areas: Agricultural productivity, Building resilience and associated mitigation co-benefits through CSA, Value chain integration, Improving and sustaining agricultural and agro weather advisory services, improved institutional coordination. This programme is to be coordinated by the ministry of Agriculture livestock and fisheries in conjunction with the ministry of environment and natural resources.

On adaptation, the INDC has prioritized “*Enhancing the resilience of the agriculture, livestock and fisheries value chains by promoting climate smart agriculture and livestock development*” under the agriculture, livestock development and fisheries sector. On the implementation of the INDC, Kenya has not yet established how much it will be giving as part of the domestic support to these activities outlined in a bid to reduce their emissions by 2030.

SUMMARY OF VARIOUS

⁵ FCCC/CP/2015/L.9_Page 22 , Article 2 (1)(b)_
<http://unfccc.int/resource/docs/2015/cop21/eng/l09r01.pdf>

⁶
http://www4.unfccc.int/submissions/INDC/Published%20Documents/Kenya/1/Kenya_INDC_20150723.pdf

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http://www4.unfccc.int/submissions/INDC/Published%20Documents/Kenya/1/Kenya_INDC_20150723.pdf

Stakeholder perspectives on their INDCs and the ways agriculture is dealt with in this national plan

KENYA'S INDC IN RELATION TO AGRICULTURE

PACJA was of the opinion that the Agricultural Sector contributes 30% of the country's emissions and therefore moving to a low carbon development pathway and more sustainable agricultural practices will have to be adopted.

KESSAF added that Kenya faces the true effects of climate change especially droughts and floods which are not so visible some years ago. The respondent from KESSF went on to cite the example of the rain patterns whereby, currently the rains are unusually heavy leaving farmers uncertain of what will happen given the planting seasons in the months of September October, which are known for rains.

The respondent from ILRI noted that it is a positive direction given that mitigation issues have been pegged on the National Climate Smart Agriculture framework (NCSA), which ILRI was part of the team involved in developing the framework. This is because the NCSA addresses not only agriculture issues but the livestock matters as well which have higher GHG emissions.

KAM respondent was of the opinion that CSA is one of the pillars that Kenya has identified as priority actions to transition to a low carbon climate resilient development pathway. Kenya being an economy whose GDP is agriculture driven and very sensitive to climate change related disasters means that the agricultural system needs to adapt to ensure adequate provision of food for the growing population (NCCAP 2013-2017). Its inclusion in the INDC

to UNFCCC underscores GoK plans to reduce GHG emissions from this sector from the BAU scenario capping emissions from LULUCF and agriculture which are the highest contributors of emissions from anthropogenic sources (30% reduction of GHG by the year 2030).

IMPACT OF INDCS ON STAKEHOLDERS' MANDATE

KESSFF noted that it will impact the small scale farmers depending on the measures that they take in adaptation and mitigations. He gave the example of the El-Nino fund, which was a very good idea, but the money got lost and hasn't been used to support farmers as it was intended.

PACJA was of the opinion that the Implementation of the Kenyan INDC is a commitment by Kenya in the implementation of the Paris Climate Change agreement and therefore developing countries will have a bargaining power in the international climate change negotiations. The implementation of the Kenyan INDC will enhance community's adaptive capacity hence sustainable livelihoods.

The ILRI respondent added that as a research institution it will impact on them, in terms of partnerships. She said "Governments cannot implement the INDCs on their own therefore, they need research partners to assist in the technical capacity building so that they are able to take advantage of the revision opportunity ,which comes after 5 years , and negotiate from a research informed perspective".

KAM respondent added that, the INDC provides a set of action plans by the Kenyan govt. on actions to reduce GHG emissions, which translates to an improvement in technological and resilience capacities, awareness/capacity building and market instruments including finance for adaptation and mitigation for the manufacturing (agro-processing) sectors in Kenya.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR INDCs TO BENEFIT THE AGRICULTURE SECTOR

KESSFF was of the opinion that the implementation of the INDC will only be of benefit to their members, if they first take the research based interventions. He emphasised that they should respond to the needs of the farmers from the grassroot level and additionally, information dissemination should be made more effective so that the available resources for farmers are known.

PACJA highlighted the fact that Kenya aims to cut its emissions by 30% by the year 2030, however it is not clear how the INDC intends to cut down the emissions. The Kenyan INDC needs to include strategies for emission cuts as well as the responsible institutional so as to facilitate its effective implementation.

The respondent from ILRI noted that, the countries in Africa set their emissions targets in a hurry without any backing from local data, they were relying on generic information from the UNFCCC. Therefore, Kenya set their target at 30% which is a very high target given our contribution to the global GHG emissions. He was of the opinion that there needs to be revision of our target based on research to see if it is feasible given that our emissions are not that much.

KAM respondent recommended that the implementation of the INDCs should be done by engaging all stakeholders in the Agriculture and livestock sector and promoting awareness on opportunities for a climate smart agriculture and implementation of the climate smart agriculture framework in Kenya.

ADAPTATION TO CLIMATE CHANGE: Challenges and Opportunities

KESSFF noted that small scale farmers who are their members have already adopted new

ways of production, though due to lack of resources they are doing it in a small way, and they therefore need support for the ongoing initiatives to be sustainable. The KAM respondent highlighted Technological gaps, Market instruments and mechanisms and inadequate Local knowledge and capacities as challenges in adapting to adapting to new ways of producing. PACJA added that the main challenge in shifting production patterns is the resistance from Governments as it will involve change of technologies and also levels of production which can be costly.

ILRI giving their perspective as a research institution was of the opinion that, the opportunities for partnership are presented given that there are a number of existing research tools that can be used by government to make evidence based decisions, as well as promote the NCSA which the INDC for Kenya is anchored on. For example, they have the Mazingira lab that can measure emissions from the livestock sector. This offers a very big opportunity for the government to partner with organisations such as ILRI in building the capacity of policy makers to be able to take advantage of such tools to inform decisions.

Recommendations on the implementation of the Kenya's INDCs

i. KESSFF was concerned about the budgetary allocation towards support to farmers. They noted that sharing of information is really Key for farmers to benefit with the new developments on climate change and agriculture.

ii. The respondents from PACJA and KAM echoed the fact that the implementation of the INDC's requires both domestic and international financial support and therefore the country needs to tap into the international climate financing mechanisms. This is to be

coupled with Clear methodologies and targets for realizing the INDC's ambition targets should be prioritised.

iii. ILRI recommended that the government needs to partner with research institutions such as ILRI and universities to build their capacity in using available tools in research to enable them make very informed decisions in negotiations.

This will also enable them to have lessons when the country reviews her INDCs after five years.

iv. ILRI respondent underpinned the need for developing countries to have their own country specific emission factors in the agriculture forestry and other land use sector (AFLO).



CUTS International, Geneva

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The PACT EAC2 project is undertaken with funding support from the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida).