

Submission by the North America Climate Smart Agriculture Alliance

In Response to Decision 4/CP.23

Koronivia Joint Work on Agriculture

March 2018

The North America Climate Smart Agriculture Alliance welcomes the opportunity to submit its views and experiences, pursuant to Decision 4/CP.23.

The North America Climate Smart Agriculture Alliance (NACSAA) is a farmer-led platform for inspiring, educating, and equipping agricultural partners to innovate effective local adaptations that sustain productivity, enhance climate resilience, and contribute to the local and global goals for sustainable development. NACSAA reflects and embraces all scales of agriculture in Canada, Mexico and the United States, ranging from small landholders to midsize and large-scale producers. NACSAA encourages climate smart agriculture (CSA) strategies to enhance the adaptive capacity of North America agriculture to changing climate conditions and works to achieve this goal through three complementary strategies: 1) sustainably increasing agricultural productivity and livelihoods (i.e. sustainable intensification); 2) enhancing adaptive capacity and improving resilience; and 3) delivering ecosystem services, sequestering carbon, and reducing and/or avoiding greenhouse gas emissions.

This submission covers four areas: 1) Overarching Themes; 2) Experts; 3) SBSTA/SBI Joint Effort; and 4) Specific Areas of Focus.

Overarching Themes

The North America Climate Smart Agriculture Alliance supports the reference in 4/CP.23 that the joint work on agriculture take into consideration the vulnerabilities of agriculture to climate change and approaches to addressing food security. This effort should be undertaken within the context of the three primary pillars of climate smart agriculture:

- a) Sustainably increasing agricultural productivity and livelihoods;
- b) Enhancing adaptive capacity and improving resilience to climate change; and
- c) Delivering ecosystem services, sequestering carbon, and reducing and/or avoiding greenhouse gas emissions.

Furthermore, it is understood that this joint work on agriculture is equally applicable to both developed and developing countries. It will be critical that the work under the UNFCCC make use of relevant expertise and coordinate actions with other UN and allied programs that support the achievement of UN Sustainable Development Goals (FAO, CGIAR, IFAD, UNCCD and others).

Experts

The North America Climate Smart Agriculture Alliance strongly supports addressing issues related to agriculture through the involvement of agricultural experts, as referenced in 4/CP.23. It is important that recognized technical agricultural experts drawn from farmer organizations, academia, industry, and international and regional organizations become directly involved in any joint work on agriculture. These experts should, among other things, be asked to assess the state of scientific knowledge of issues related to agriculture as well as identify innovative and state-of-the-art agricultural technologies and know how.

SBSTA/SBI Joint Effort

The North America Climate Smart Agriculture Alliance supports the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice (SBSTA) and the Subsidiary Body for Implementation (SBI) jointly addressing issues related to agriculture. To date the UNFCCC has not addressed how issues related to agriculture should be addressed in the SBI agenda with regard to the Adaptation Committee, Standing Committee on Finance, and the Technology Mechanism. In order for the SBI and the SBSTA to work together on issues related to agriculture, the SBSTA must provide the SBI with appropriate guidance, as referenced in Article 9, paragraph 2, of the Convention, by initially addressing the specific areas of focus identified below.

Specific Areas of Focus

The North America Climate Smart Agriculture Alliance recommends that the joint work of the SBSTA and the SBI on issues related to agriculture include conducting expert meetings and workshops, in the context of developing an integrated strategy that enhances the sustainability and climate resilience of working landscapes as well as reducing and/or avoiding greenhouse gas emissions, on the following topics:

Livestock Production Systems

Provide assessments of the state of scientific knowledge and identify innovative, efficient and state-of-the-art technologies and know how relating to improved production of livestock to enhance sustainability and climate resilience.

Soil Health

Provide assessments of the state of scientific knowledge and identify innovative, efficient and state-of-the-art technologies and know how relating to the management of soil carbon and soil health, including crop and livestock interactions.

Water Resource Management

Provide assessments of the state of scientific knowledge and identify innovative, efficient and state-of-the-art technologies and know how relating to water resource practices that sustain water productivity and protect water quality.

Bioenergy

Provide assessments of the state of scientific knowledge and identify innovative, efficient and state-of-the-art technologies and know how relating to bioenergy as a climate change mitigation solution pathway.

Crop and Nutrient Management

Provide assessments of the state of scientific knowledge and identify innovative, efficient and state-of-the-art technologies and know how relating to crop and nutrient management strategies that enhance the sustainability and climate resilience of working landscapes.

Agroforestry

Provide assessments of the state of scientific knowledge and identify innovative, efficient and state-of-the-art technologies and know how relating to the management of agroforestry and other ecologically diverse cropping systems as an integrated strategy to enhance the sustainability and climate resilience of working landscapes.

Integrated Solutions

Provide assessments of the state of scientific knowledge and identify innovative, efficient and state-of-the-art technologies and know how relating to the provision of ecosystem services in working landscapes as an integrated strategy to enhance sustainable productivity and livelihoods, increase the adaptive capacity and climate resilience of working landscapes, and avoid or reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

**North America Climate Smart Agriculture Alliance Partners
June 2018**

- 25x'25 Alliance
- Advanced Biofuels USA
- Agricultural Retailers Association
- American Coalition for Ethanol
- American Farm Bureau Federation
- American Farmland Trust
- American Society of Agricultural and Biological Engineers
- American Society of Agronomy
- American Soybean Association
- Association of Equipment Manufacturers
- Association of Public and Land-Grant Universities
- BIO
- Business for Social Responsibility
- Canadian Federation of Agriculture
- Canadian Forage and Grassland Association
- CAST
- Cater Communications
- Center for Climate and Energy Solutions
- Conservation Technology Information Center
- Cornell Institute for Climate Smart Solutions
- Crop Science Society of America
- CropLife America
- EcoAgriculture Partners
- Environmental and Energy Study Institute
- Environmental Defense Fund
- Family Farm Alliance
- Farm Foundation
- Farm Journal Foundation
- Farm Management Canada
- Fertilizer Canada
- Field to Market
- Florida Climate Institute (FCI)
- Genscape Inc. /University of Illinois at Chicago
- ILSI Research Foundation
- Innovation Center for U.S. Dairy
- Iowa Soybean Association
- Iowa State University
- Irrigation Association
- Kellogg Company
- Monsanto
- National Association of Conservation Districts
- National Corn Growers Association
- National Farmers Union
- National FFA Foundation
- National Pork Producers Council
- Native Pollinators in Agriculture Project
- Ontario Federation of Agriculture
- Soil Science Society of America
- Soil and Water Conservation Society
- Solutions from the Land
- Southeast Climate Consortium (SECC)
- Sustainable Corn Coordinated Agriculture Project
- Syngenta
- The Fertilizer Institute
- The Samuel Smith Noble Foundation
- The Toro Company
- United Soybean Board
- University of Florida
- U.S. Department of Agriculture
- Western Growers Association
- World Business Council for Sustainable Development
- World Wildlife Fund