

Sharm el-Sheikh joint work on implementation of climate action on agriculture and food security

Response from the Farmers' Constituency

The Farmers' Constituency represents crop and livestock farmers, horticultural growers, pastoralists, foresters, ranchers, aqua-culturists, farmers organisations and co-operatives, farm workers, family farmers and businesses, women farmers, young farmers, indigenous farmers, landowners and tenants, in all their diversity producing food, fibre and energy, from smallholder farmers to those managing large areas of land and including agricultural and other NGOs supporting farmers on the ground.

We support Decision-/CP.27 Joint work on implementation of climate action on agriculture and food security as proposed to the secretariat with explicit attention to the value and importance of the Koronivia Joint Work on Agriculture and efforts to strengthen climate action on agriculture and food security and enhance coordination by the request (item #14) to establish the four-year Sharm el-Sheikh joint work on implementation of climate action on agriculture and food security. This is in line with the Farmers' Constituency desire for a body under the convention to deal with all aspects of agriculture and perform coordinating roles that further global climate action.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit our views on the new Sharm el-Sheikh joint work on implementation of climate action on agriculture and food security. In preparing our response we first affirm the following:

- Agriculture is on the frontline of climate impacts and is unique in being both a source and sink of GHG emissions. Agriculture and its people are central to climate action and delivering the Paris Agreement's goals. **Agriculture is part of the solution.**
- **Farmers' participation in this process is instrumental** in raising global climate ambition for our sector, unleashing the great potential that agriculture and its people have in the fight against climate change and in empowering the world's farmers to adapt to its ongoing impacts.
- **Climate policy must remain consistent with the Paris Agreement, complementing action on improving global food security** by "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," hence "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."
- There is **no one size fits all approach** - a **holistic approach to agriculture and food systems** is needed. The diversity of farming systems, environmental, economic, and social dimensions of agriculture and food systems must be recognised. Research, innovation, adaptation, and mitigation measures should reflect local and national circumstances, be easily accessible to farmers, pragmatic, and scalable to ensure fast and effective adoption and boost farmer-driven solutions.
- **Livestock (including working livestock) are integral to sustainable economic, social, and environmental development.** Livestock production systems hold untapped potential in fostering soil health, soil fertility, biodiversity, and increased carbon sequestration.
- The **rights of farmers must be protected.** This is particularly relevant to issues of land rights and tenure, and in strengthening their bargaining power in supply chains and their resilience in the face of global market volatility. There is no climate justice without social justice.

1. Objectives of the work including future topics

In planning for the Sharm joint work on agriculture and food security, we propose the following priorities and/or topics for future workshops:

(i) Delivering finance for implementation of climate action in agriculture

- In 2019, the KJWA workshop report on ‘Improved soil carbon, soil health and soil fertility under grassland and cropland as well as integrated systems, including water management’ noted that ‘one source of finance could come out of recognition of soil carbon sequestration in carbon markets.’ We would like to revisit the state of play, risks, and opportunities of the voluntary carbon market to enable investment for implementation.
- Climate finance should deliver for all farmers by involving them in the design of climate programmes, by empowering them to adapt and become more resilient, and by encouraging the shift to lower carbon supply chains. Farmers’ organisations should be established as co-owners of projects and targeted as direct recipients of grants, specifically the grant portion of the Green Climate Fund, which they would use to accompany governments’ action in the implementation of the Paris Agreement in the agricultural sector. Governments also need to ensure that farmers are fairly compensated, that there is encouragement for and confidence in data collected on farm, that the use of such data is transparent and appropriate, for the benefit of farmers, governments and others.
- Recalling that climate change affects smallholder farmers and agricultural workers in the countries least responsible for its causes, this should be included in the discussions of the Summit on a new “Global Financing Fact” to be held on 22-23 June 2023 in Paris, specifically addressed by Working Group 4 on innovative solutions for additional resources in support of countries vulnerable to climate change.

(ii) The role of innovation in providing climate solutions for agriculture

The TEC (Technology Executive Committee) 2023-2027 workplan includes work on Water-Energy-Food systems including an analysis on knowledge gaps on the nexus of agriculture, water, food security, energy and climate and plans to identify relevant adaptation technologies (including indigenous), innovations, and digital solutions that can strengthen adaptation planning (NAP) and NDCs in agriculture. The Farmers constituency has already been identified as a potential partner for this work and so we look forward to working with the TEC to identify practical innovations and solutions, and sharing this information with the Sharm joint work on agriculture and food security. Considering the role of new technologies is consistent with Decision CP.27 item #2 (d) we “recognize the importance of the continued involvement of scientific and technical knowledge in transforming the agriculture sector, enabling conditions, the crucial role of farmers, youth, local communities and indigenous peoples, including gender considerations, and of meeting the needs of farmers and food systems;”

(iii) Exploring a Just Rural Transition and Food Systems

- Context-specific priorities and solutions must be aligned with national policies and priorities, be determined based on the local social, economic and environmental conditions, including the diversity in types and scale of agricultural activity, and be subject to evaluation of potential synergies, tradeoffs, and net benefits. A Just Transition for agriculture must ensure that farmers are central to the transition, be farmer-led and promote fairness and transparency across the value chain. Fairness and transparent supply chains are also integral to sustainable food systems. Agriculture must remain economically and socially viable and provide a fair income and decent working conditions for farmers. Farmers must have a voice in the shaping of decisions

that affect them, and governments must support agricultural development and innovation through customized financial schemes which would allow farmers to make fair and effective investments at farm level to contribute to the transition.

- With several interconnections between the Sharm el-Sheikh joint work on agriculture and food security and the UN Food Systems Summit (UNFSS), there is value in seeing the processes as complementary. The 2023 Stocktaking Moment taking place in June as part of the roll out of the UNFSS should be carefully monitored as it will likely provide useful input for the Sharm joint work and vice versa.

(iv) Global Roadmap to 2050 for food and agriculture

The FAO is to produce a Global Roadmap to 2050 to align the Agriculture, Forestry and Other Land Use sector with a sustainable 1.5 degrees Celsius pathway. It is imperative that this is linked with existing initiatives and that there are opportunities for the involvement of farmers.

(v) Using the KJWA outputs

The Farmers constituency would be very interested in hearing from Parties about how they have used the outputs from the KJWA roadmap. Many topics were discussed such as water and livestock which are of critical importance to the Farmers constituency. We believe that sharing experiences on optimisation of the Koronivia outputs to meet national circumstances would be of value as the agriculture family embarks on the next four years of joint work.

2. The Online Portal

- The online portal should enhance the sharing of information and experiences related to agriculture and climate change. This could provide a platform for case studies to demonstrate actions that farmers are taking, highlighting locally appropriate technologies and innovations. The 15th Berlin Agriculture Ministers' Conference noted that 'many sustainable solutions, including in the form of traditional and local knowledge, have already been developed and successfully implemented. We commit to foster better dissemination of these approaches.'¹ The online portal should therefore promote locally led action and recognise the local knowledge and practical expertise of farmers in designing and implementing solutions. Farmers learn best from farmers so could the online portal showcase knowledge exchange between farmers on practical actions that can be taken at local levels?
- A key component of the online portal should entail the pooling of existing resources and information, including lesser-known regional projects and research. There is, and has been, extensive work on agriculture and climate change and providing a recognised platform for this knowledge would enable farmers, and decision-makers, a key resource - a one-stop shop - in supporting implementation. Other hubs e.g. The Nairobi Work Programme's knowledge to action hub for climate adaptation and resilience could provide useful models and inputs to enable needs of knowledge users and accessibility to be met.

¹ [gffa-2023-communique-en.pdf \(bmel.de\)](https://www.bmel.de/SharedDocs/DE/08/08_2023/2023_gffa_communique_en.pdf)