

**Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technical Advice (SBSTA)**

**Agenda Item: Matters related to Agriculture**

**SUBMISSION FROM AILAC (Independent Alliance of Latin America and the Caribbean - Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Guatemala, Panama and Peru)**

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Agriculture is fundamental for food security and human well being worldwide, and is central to the economies of the Independent Alliance of Latin American and the Caribbean (AILAC). Climate change is expected to significantly impact agricultural production in the region, and is likely to be particularly damaging to rural populations and regional food security. Urgent action must be taken both to reduce the climate change impacts and to adapt production systems to changing environmental conditions. Agriculture is a key sector not only regarding food security but also as a source of livelihood, raw materials and national income. As such, agriculture is a sector with a significant need and potential for adaptation to the adverse effects of climate change. It is also a sector with a great potential of co-benefits that include water cycle regulations and efficiency, improved productivity and mitigation, among others. As agriculture activities are the source of approximately 13% of all global greenhouse gas emissions, undertaking measures to reduce emissions within the sector can offer key opportunities for mitigation and is vital to achieving the overall objectives of the Convention. Thus, further discussion within the UNFCCC is required in order to promote agricultural systems and approaches that contribute to adaptation and its co-benefits regarding mitigation, and food security solutions at local, national and international levels.

**1. Identifying the potential for adaptation efforts in agricultural systems and associated co-benefits.**

Climate change mitigation and adaptation actions related to agriculture should be integrated into broader strategies to help the sector adopt sustainable, climate smart agricultural practices. Mitigation is one of adaptation's co-benefits in the agricultural

sector, given that many strategies to reduce GHG emissions from agriculture or enhance carbon storage within or around agricultural land also enhance the overall adaptive capacity of agricultural lands, making them more resilient to climate change (e.g. through the establishment of agroforestry systems on degraded lands, soil conservation techniques, conservation agriculture, diversification, genetic improvement, conservation of remaining natural habitats through REDD+, etc.) Additionally, many adaptation strategies that seek to sustain agricultural productivity in the face of climate change enhance carbon sinks, contributing to climate change mitigation (e.g. via practices that increase soil organic matter, plant growth, protection of water sources, waste management, manure management, etc.). Therefore, we propose creating a Work Program that will consider different co-benefits for adaptation that will help to achieve a sustainable development and contribute to the Convention's ultimate objective.

## **2. Promoting integrated landscape level approaches to climate change and food security.**

Rather than focusing solely on improving agricultural productivity or enhancing the adaptive capacity of a given crop, an integrated landscape view takes a holistic approach to designing and managing agricultural plots, farms and landscapes so that they contribute to both climate change mitigation and adaptation while also providing a full suite of benefits to meet food security and other livelihood needs, contributing to poverty alleviation, and at the same time conserving biodiversity and ensuring the provision of ecosystem services. Agriculture is identified not only as a driver of deforestation, but also as a priority sector for delivering REDD+ goals, hence an integrated landscape approach in agriculture can provide key strategic input to REDD+. Integrated landscape approaches should also complement tried-and-tested, no-regret, and low-regret options, risk management, diversification, and integrated land use planning measures. There is ample literature on integrated landscape management that can serve as a guide for UNFCCC approaches to agricultural landscapes, a theme which should be examined with interest, and engaged in detail within the SBSTA working group.

### **3. Supporting implementation through access to financial resources, technology transfer and capacity building.**

In addition to continued discussion under the UNFCCC, financial resources, technology transfer and capacity building support should be made available to developing countries to address agricultural climate change adaptation and co-benefits, particularly to ensure food security and resilience goals. Support mechanisms should include:

- Research, development, and transfer of technology that improves natural resource use efficiency through systematized means of providing information to producers at all scales and regions through appropriate outreach mechanisms;
- Financing and budget tracking for adaptation and co-benefits in the agricultural sector;
- Assistance with the implementation of pilot projects and scaling up successful strategies to a national level;
- Use of financial mechanisms such as the Green Climate Fund and Global Environment Facility, as well as the inclusion of climate and agriculture in the portfolios of multilateral and regional institutions in more ambitious ways;
- Promoting non-traditional market incentives such as payments for ecosystem services;
- Capacity-building with a strong emphasis on MRV, climate policy integration, human resources improvement, methodologies and metrics;
- Building on previous experiences of both developed and developing countries in areas such as NAMAs, NAPAs, REDD+, LULUCF, and the Nairobi Work Program, amongst others.