



## **CONCEPT NOTE**

**ON**

### **WRITESHOP TO PREPARE POLICY BRIEFS FOR THE AFRICAN MINISTERS OF AGRICULTURE CONFERENCE AND PREPARE AGN INPUTS TO THE SBSTA 52 DIALOGUE ON IPCC SPECIAL REPORT ON CLIMATE CHANGE AND LAND**

**28-31 JANUARY 2020, NAIROBI, KENYA**

#### **INTRODUCTION**

Africa is vulnerable to climate change, not only because of its high exposure to climate change, but also because many African communities lack the capacity to respond or adapt to the impacts of climate change. Warming trends have already become evident across the continent, and it is likely that the continent's 2000 mean annual temperature change will exceed +2°C by 2100. Much of African agriculture's vulnerability to climate change lies in the fact that its agricultural systems remain largely rain-fed and underdeveloped, as the majority of Africa's farmers are small-scale farmers with few financial resources, limited access to infrastructure, and disparate access to information. At the same time, as these systems are highly reliant on their environment, and farmers are dependent on farming for their livelihoods, their diversity, context specificity, and the existence of generations of traditional knowledge offer elements of resilience in the face of climate change. Overall, however, the combination of climatic and non-climatic drivers and stressors will exacerbate the vulnerability of Africa's agricultural systems to climate change, but the impacts will not be universally felt. Climate change will impact farmers and their agricultural systems in different ways, and adapting to these impacts will need to be context-specific.

Already the region suffers from recurring risks to food production, and without adequate measures to adapt, these risks could become more intense under a changing climate; for scenarios approaching 4°C warming, the risk to food security in Africa would be extremely severe, with limited potential for reducing risk through adaptation. African women are especially vulnerable to the impacts of climate change because they shoulder an enormous, but imprecisely recorded, burden of responsibility for subsistence agriculture, whose productivity can be expected to be adversely affected by climate change and overexploited soil.

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) Special Report on Climate Change and Land (SRCCL)<sup>1</sup> released in August 2019 states equivocally that land is critically important as well – both as a source of greenhouse gas emissions and as a climate solution. It established that while land sequesters almost a third of all human-caused carbon dioxide emissions, it will be impossible to limit temperature rise to the 2°C without fundamentally altering the way the world food and manages land. The most overarching insight from the SRCCL is that land use and climate stability are a delicate balancing act; getting it right can reduce emissions while creating significant co-benefits; getting it wrong can fuel climate change while worsening food insecurity and environmental problems.

The SRCCL is an integrated assessment of interactive changes of climate and land cover/use, including changing climate on land, climate change impacts on terrestrial ecosystems and land use, as well as land-based climate change adaptation and mitigation. The report focuses on new understanding on land-climate issues since the IPCC 5th Assessment Report (AR5), with special attention on issues related to desertification, land degradation, and food security. It assesses the existing science to date on how greenhouse gases are released and absorbed by land-based ecosystems, and the science on land use and sustainable land management in relation to climate change adaptation and mitigation, desertification, land degradation and food security.

At the Twenty-fifth Conference of the Parties (COP25) of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), Parties recognized the role of the IPCC in providing scientific input to inform Parties in strengthening the global response to the threat of climate change, in the context of sustainable development and efforts to eradicate poverty<sup>2</sup> and expressed its appreciation and gratitude to the IPCC and the scientific community for providing the 2019 SRCCL, which reflect the best available science, and encourages Parties to continue to support the work of the IPCC. The decision invites Parties to make use of the information contained in SRCCL in their discussions under all relevant items of the UNFCCC governing and subsidiary bodies and requests the Chair of the SBSTA to convene at SBSTA 52 a dialogue on the relationship between land and climate change adaptation related matters,<sup>3</sup> and invites Parties to make submission on inputs to inform the dialogue by 31 March 2020.<sup>4</sup>

To ensure that the SRCCL informs Africa's future policies on agriculture, the African Group of Negotiators Experts Support (AGNES) with financial support from the CAADP-GIZ Support Programme convened a writeshop on unpacking IPCC special report on climate change and land: its implications to Africa held on 18-21 November 2019 in Accra Ghana. The writeshop brought together scientists and climate experts from across Africa and was facilitated by Prof. Ayalneh Bogale, GIZ/AUC an IPCC reviewer of Chapter 5: Food Security and Dr. Louis Verchot, CIAT, contributing author, Chapters 2 and 4 of the SRCCL. The writeshop was very successful in building capacity of the experts on how to review, unpack and package IPCC and other scientific reports for wider use especially policy makers.

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<sup>1</sup> IPCC (2019). IPCC Special Report on Climate Change, Desertification, Land Degradation, Sustainable Land Management, Food Security and Greenhouse Gas Fluxes in Terrestrial Ecosystems.

<sup>2</sup> UNFCCC, 2019. Chile Madrid Time for Action. FCCC-CP-2019-L.10. paras 5-7

<sup>3</sup> Ibid, para 32

<sup>4</sup> Ibid, para 33

The proposed writeshop builds on the work done in Accra and is intended to package key messages from the unpacking of the SRCCL in policy briefs for the upcoming Africa Ministers of Agriculture Conference to be held between 23-27 March 2020 in Vic Falls, Zimbabwe and identify inputs to inform the AGN submission for the SBSTA 52 Dialogue on the relationship between land and climate change adaptation related matters to be held in June 2020 in Bonn, Germany.

## **OBJECTIVES**

The objectives of the workshop are:

- a) Prepare policy briefs from the SRCCL for the upcoming African Ministers of Agriculture Conference and as inputs for the AGN submission for SBSTA 52 Dialogue on SRCCL
- b) Prepare Training Manual for the Climate Change, Diplomacy and Negotiations Leadership Program.
- c) Exchange views on the understanding of the Global Goal on Adaptation and gaps, challenges and opportunities for assessing and monitoring collective aggregation of adaptation progress.

## **EXPECTED OUTPUTS/OUTCOMES**

The expected outcomes/outputs are:

- a) Four Policy briefs on SRCCL and AGN submission on inputs to the SBSTA 52 Dialogue on SRCCL.
- b) Training Manual for Climate Governance, Diplomacy and Negotiations Leadership Program.
- c) Preliminary ideas on the Conceptual Framework of the Global Goal on Adaptation and gaps, challenges and opportunities on how to assess and monitor collective aggregation of adaptation progress.

## **DATES AND VENUE**

28-31 January, 2020, Nairobi, Kenya