

EIGHTH REGIONAL MEETING OF
PACIFIC HEADS OF AGRICULTURE AND FORESTRY SERVICES (PHOAFS)
(Nadi, Fiji, 09 March 2023)

Paper reference	Session 2 Agenda Item 2.5
Title	Updates on the implementation of the “Koronivia joint work on agriculture (KJWA)” and of the COP27 Outcome on the “Joint work on implementation of climate action on agriculture”
Action	Decision

Summary/short description

1. Safeguarding food security, ending hunger and the vulnerability of food production systems to the adverse impacts of climate change is recognised as a fundamental priority under the Paris Agreement¹. With the adoption of the KJWA at the 23rd Session of the Conference of the Parties (COP) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), it is the only programme that focus on agriculture and food security. This mainstreams agriculture into the UNFCCC processes, which can drive transformation in agricultural and food systems.
2. Agriculture remains the backbone of Pacific economies as a source of livelihoods and as a major export earner. Short term and long-term adaptation measures can strengthen resilience of vulnerable Pacific SIDS. At the same time, it can provide solutions to climate change and environmental challenges facing Pacific SIDS, while also contributing to the achievement of the sustainable development goals. Pacific Small Island Developing States have been implementing some of the activities under the KJWA roadmap through support by FAO, SPC and regional partners and welcomes the “Joint work on implementation of climate action on agriculture and food security” decision adopted at COP27².
3. The objectives of this papers are to:
 - i) Update the implementation of the KJWA under the UNFCCC and in the Pacific Small Island Developing States (Pacific SIDS);
 - ii) Inform on the “Joint work on implementation of climate action on agriculture and food security”, adopted at COP27;
 - iii) Consideration of recommendations by Pacific Heads of Agriculture and Forestry and for the endorsement of Pacific Ministers of Agriculture and Forestry.

Recommendations

4. **The Heads are invited to**
 - a) welcome the updates on the progress in the implementation of the Koronivia Joint Work on Agriculture (KJWA) in the Pacific, including activities endorsed by Pacific Ministers of Agriculture and Forestry at the Second Meeting held in Apia, Samoa on 4th October 2019;
 - b) further welcome the updates on the KJWA, and note the adoption of the “Joint work on implementation of climate action on agriculture and food security” at the 23rd Session of the

¹ In the preamble of the Paris Agreement.

² <https://unfccc.int/documents/624317>

Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change at COP27 in Sharma el-Sheikh, Egypt;

- c) endorse that a paper on the updates of the implementation of the KJWA and Joint work on implementation of climate action on agriculture and food security” become a standing information paper for the PHOAFS, with decision papers as required;
- d) further endorse the development of regional submissions on topics referred to in paragraph 17;
- e) request FAO and SPC to support the Pacific SIDS³ with the implementation of the KJWA and the “Joint work on implementation of climate action on agriculture and food security” where possible.

Background

1. The Koronivia joint work was a landmark decision⁴ adopted at the 23rd Session of the Conference of the Parties (COP23) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change in November 2017 during the Government of Fiji’s COP Presidency.
2. The Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice and the Subsidiary Body for Implementation under the UNFCCC are requested to jointly address issues related to agriculture, including through workshops and expert meetings, working with constituted bodies under the Convention and taking into consideration the vulnerabilities of agriculture to climate change and approaches to addressing food security⁵.
3. Parties agreed on the KJWA Roadmap, and through this process workshops were organised, and parties and observer organizations were invited to make submissions on the topics captured in decision 4/CP.23 and listed below:
 - a. Modalities for implementation of the outcomes of the five in-session workshops on issues related to agriculture and other future topics that may arise from this work.
 - b. Methods and approaches for assessing adaptation, adaptation co-benefits and resilience.
 - c. Improved soil carbon, soil health and soil fertility under grassland and cropland as well as integrated systems, including water management.
 - d. Improved nutrient use and manure management towards sustainable and resilient agricultural systems.
 - e. Improved livestock management systems.
 - f. Socioeconomic and food security dimensions of climate change in the agricultural sector

³ Recognising Pacific Countries and Territories and member countries for both FAO and SPC

⁴ Decision 4/CP.23

⁵ Paragraph 1, Decision 4/CP.23

Updates on implementation of the KJWA in the Pacific

4. Through FAO technical Cooperation Projects, virtual meetings were facilitated during the pandemic by FAO-SAP, inviting SPC and regional partners, which included a webinar series on the topics of the KJWA⁶, a regional submission and key messages for COP26 based on priorities identified by Pacific SIDS⁷. COP26 key messages recognize the diversity in our agriculture systems and expressed “key asks” and suggested topics to be addressed beyond COP26. Pacific countries agreed for Dr. Tekini Nakidakida from Fiji to lead the negotiation on the KJWA on behalf of Pacific SIDS and to push forward the common Pacific priorities.
5. Pacific Small Island Developing States’ COP26 Key Messages on the Koronivia Joint Work on Agriculture highlighted key priority areas which are impacted by climate change and requires urgent actions and include:
 - Food systems and integrated climate resilience approaches.
 - Community vulnerability assessment, promoting documenting and use of traditional knowledge and practices, and building capacity on food production systems.
 - Climate Information and long-term weather forecast.
 - Improved soil health.
 - Correlation between climate change, pest, disease and transboundary/invasive species, and related impact of food security.
 - Water management.
 - Improved biodiversity.
 - Improved climate resilience value chain and marketing.
6. Future topics on the implementation of the outcomes of the KJWA and the “Joint work on the implementation of climate action on agriculture and food security” should consider the Pacific SIDS priorities mentioned in paragraph 10 above including new and emerging topics and issues.
7. In preparation for SBI/SBSTA 56 and COP27, FAO organized a COP27 negotiation coordination meeting to support the KJWA negotiators traveling to COP27.
8. Recognising the many priorities in the various negotiation streams for PSIDS and the constraints on capacity and resources, Fiji was the only Pacific SIDS following and attending the agriculture negotiations between COP23 and COP26 and have been representing the Pacific SIDS on this agenda item under the convention.
9. The Pacific representation was boosted in June 2022 and at COP27 when the FAO Global Programme⁸, funded by the Government of Norway supported an additional four female agriculture staff from Fiji, Palau, Samoa and Solomon Islands to participate and follow the Gender and KJWA agenda items.

⁶ Topics listed in paragraph 3

⁷ The Pacific SIDS here refers to the 13 Pacific Small Island Developing States that are FAO members and were target beneficiaries of the FAO TCPs.

⁸ Scaling up implementation of the Enhanced Lima Work Programme on Gender and its Gender Action Plan in Agriculture and the Koronivia Joint Work on Agriculture

10. Fiji continued leading the Pacific SIDS negotiation in the KJWA workstream and provided technical support to the new negotiators who were confident to make interventions during the negotiation sessions.
11. Due to past resource constraints, for the first time KJWA received One CROP support during the negotiations through SPC. SPC will work closely with FAO through the OneCROP+ mechanism to ensure strengthened collaboration and coordination.

COP27 Outcomes

12. In the KJWA negotiations, the G77+China, in which most Pacific SIDS countries are members has been strong and united for Adaptation in agriculture and only addressing Mitigation as a co-benefit of Adaptation.
13. Agriculture is fast evolving outside the UNFCCC boundaries and many new terms such as food systems, agro-ecology and nature based solutions were welcomed by parties but need to be digested and considered further through workshops to be understood before they can be a basis of negotiations under the convention.
14. Developed countries specifically wanted Mitigation in the decision text to allow them to implement climate actions and mitigate within their agriculture systems.
15. The recent COP27 decision establishes a 4 year Sharma el-Sheikh joint implementation plan on climate actions in agriculture and food security, including the implementation of the outcomes of the Koronivia joint work on agriculture, past and future topics.
16. The decision also establish the Sharma el-Sheikh online portal for sharing information on projects, initiatives and policies for increasing opportunities for the implementation of climate action to address issues related to agriculture and food security, and this may include new and practical concepts such as those mention in paragraph 13.
17. Parties and observer groups are invited to submit by 27th March,2023, their views on i) elements of the joint work referred to in paragraph 14-15 of the decision, including views on topics for workshops for consideration in June 2023, and ii) views on the operationalization of the Sharm el-Sheikh portal.

Recommendations

18. While the UNFCCC is negotiated only amongst the parties to the convention, its outcomes and results are critical for all Pacific Island Countries and Territories. It is recommended that KJWA **and the “Joint work on implementation of climate action on agriculture and food security”** updates becomes a standing information paper for the PHOAFS, with decision papers as required.
19. Food systems and food production is taking a significantly higher profile in UNFCCC Pavilion space and warrants stronger engagement from Pacific SIDS in the KJWA and the “Joint work on implementation of climate action on agriculture and food security”. This would also provide added capacity to and other work streams where agriculture and forestry play a role, including on Adaptation and Loss and Damage

and to voice the context specific agriculture issues and related circumstances unique to each country as well as provision of strong scientific and data inputs that may be required on an ad hoc basis during preparatory work and negotiations themselves. As climate change affects all members of society and all sectors, it is recommended that more government agriculture experts, and local farmers, are capacitated and encouraged to participate in national, regional and international climate change processes where possible.

20. Stronger collaboration and coordination by supporting organisations (FAO, SPC, SPREP) is needed through the One Crop mechanism to ensure full support to negotiators in the agriculture space and to ensure that relevant agriculture and forestry data and evidence are input to other relevant workstreams. It is recommended for stronger collaboration and coordination by supporting organisations - FAO, SPC and SPREP, to support Pacific SIDS negotiators through the One CROP+ on agriculture and climate change.
21. The KJWA does not stand alone in the UNFCCC process and it is important that PSIDS provide inputs across UNFCCC workstreams to ensure visibility, complementarity and uptake of Pacific priorities. It is recommended that language on key issues such as access to finance, loss and damage and social inclusion need to be consistently presented in KJWA negotiations as well as other technical streams.
22. Recognising the progress made in the implementation of the KJWA⁹ and the adoption of the “Joint work on implementation of climate action on agriculture and food security” at COP27¹⁰, it is recommended that FAO and SPC continue to work together to support Pacific SIDS with the work under the KJWA and the “Joint work on implementation of climate action on agriculture and food security”, including on a regional submission referred to in paragraph 17 and to be made through the COP online portal.
23. Pacific SIDS are also encouraged to make national submissions as referred to in paragraph 17 through the online portal.

⁹ Under the UNFCCC and the work implemented in the Pacific SIDS

¹⁰ COP 27 decision on the Joint work on implementation of climate action on agriculture and food security, yet to be allocated with a decision number