

CONCEPT NOTE

Conference at COP22 Marrakech

Adaptation of African Agriculture: “From Science to Action”

a. Background

The relationship between agriculture and climate change is complex, as one puts it: “Agriculture is part of the cause of climate change, but it is also part of the solution”, thus this complex relationship raises the need to shift agricultural production to simultaneously enhance its resilience to climate impacts and mitigate agriculture’s negative environmental impacts, while ensuring that food security is not compromised along the way.

The Paris Agreement has opened the door for action by including food security in the text, and the international community has acknowledged that urgent attention is needed to address the future of those who are on the frontline of climate change threats and impacts.

African Countries have presented their *Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs)*; Agriculture is well represented in their commitments; 100% include agriculture in adaptation strategies according to FAO. This underscores the importance of agriculture for African economies and societies. The willingness by countries to address agriculture and food security finally appears to be having some impact and Parties must now show their ability to follow through.

This could be a game changer for the 230 million people still suffering from chronic hunger and the 80 percent of the Africa’s poor who live in rural areas and earn their income via agriculture sectors.

One of the most pressing impacts of climate change is global warming and more extreme weather, which puts our food security at risk. The agreement in Paris aims to limit the increase in global average temperatures to “well below two degrees C” and to pursue efforts to limit it to 1.5 degrees C. Analyses show that the agricultural sector will have to cut emissions if global warming is to remain below the 2 degree threshold. Can adaptation and mitigation go hand-in-hand?

In this context, this event will focus on the implementation of the Adaptation of African Agriculture (“AAA”), an ambitious new initiative launched by the Moroccan Government to transform African Agriculture. The AAA aims to mobilize US\$ 30 billion for Africa to support innovative policies, financial mechanisms and capacity development at multiple scales.

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b. Issues to address

- How can the **investments** needed for transformative change be mobilized?
- How can **capacity needs** of African countries be met?
- What **cooperation mechanisms** are needed to facilitate technology transfer and innovation?
- The NDCs provides an action plan moving forward. **How to help countries begin implementation of the NDCs?**
- **How to define indicators to measure adaptation?** We have the techniques to help countries and farmers to adapt, but we have difficulties in measuring if they have really adapted.
- World leaders are now debating whether to aim at limiting global warming to two degrees C or 1.5 degrees C. But nobody is talking about **what these different targets mean for future agricultural production.**

c. Key messages:

- **Transforming future food and agriculture to adapt to climate change.** Innovation, science and new technologies for agriculture can lead to climate change adaptation.
- **Essential investments required for implementation of the NDCs include: Financial, Technology and Innovation, Capacity Building, Partnerships.**
- Considerable finance is required for agricultural adaptation in Africa. **Countries need better information in order to refine their finance needs.**

d. Conference format – Methodology

The conference will provide a platform for national governments, local practitioners, farmer organisations and civil society to present, reflect upon experiences, and share success stories and approaches to enhance food security, resilience and productivity in the agricultural systems. It will provide an opportunity to inform the AAA initiative, which aims to transform agriculture in Africa.

e. Outcome

Key policy recommendations from each of the sessions will be captured and compiled into a summary document which will be developed into a *framework for implementation* for the AAA initiative.

f. Timing, Scale, Duration

- i. Date: Sunday, 13th November 2016
- ii. Duration: 1 day event
- iii. Scale: 250 participants

g. Participants

- i. Political figures and key actors who are engaged in the issues related to COP22
- ii. National government representatives from Africa concerned with implementation of NDCs
- iii. Farmers
- iv. Investors and Foundations
- v. Private sector

- vi. Civil society representatives
- vii. International organisations
- viii. Researchers and experts

Proposed Program

Time	Objective	Content	Proposed speaker
10.00 – 11.00	<p>Title: Opening session</p> <p>Welcome, setting the scene, outlining objectives</p>	<p>Opening session</p> <p>Formal speeches</p> <p>Welcome address and introduction of key objectives of the event. Highlighting the importance of key issues to address (refer to section b – issues to address)</p> <p>Opening video: African farmers stories on climate change</p>	<p>Plenary</p> <p>Facilitator welcomes participants, formally opens event and invites speakers on stage (5 mins)</p> <p>Speakers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Welcome remarks: HE Aziz Akhannouch, Minister of Agriculture, Morocco (10 mins) - HE Amadou Coulibaly, Minister of Agriculture, Cote d'Ivoire (15 mins) - <i>José Graziano da Silva</i>, DG, FAO (15 mins) - One very high profile person (e.g. <i>Leonardo di Caprio</i>, Actor and UN Messenger for Peace for Climate Change; Emma Thomson, Actor and climate activist; <i>Al Gore</i>; <i>Mary Robison – ex Premier Ireland</i>; <i>Kofi Annan AGRA</i>) (15 mins)
11.00 – 11.30	Coffee break		
11.30 – 13.00	<p>Title: Agriculture in Africa: Challenges and solutions</p> <p>The state of African agriculture in the face of climate change (50mins)</p> <p>Introduction to the breakout parallel sessions (10 mins)</p>	<p>Understanding the fundamentals of African agriculture in relation to climate change.</p> <p>Presentations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Topic 1: How to deal with challenges that African Agriculture are facing (focusing on the science context) • Topic 2: How AAA has taken NDCs into account with the focus on 3 pillars <p>Speaker to highlight FAO work on NDCs</p>	<p>Session chair: Minister of Agriculture of Senegal (ex DG of AfricaRice)</p> <p>Sonja Vermeulen/Bruce Campbell, CCAFS (15 mins)</p> <p>Mohamed AIT KADI, CGDA (15 mins)</p> <p>Martin Frick, FAO (15 mins)</p> <p>Chair/Facilitator</p>
13.00 – 14.30	Lunch		

14.30 – 16.00	<p style="text-align: center;">Title: The Pillars of Adaptation of African Agriculture Alternative title: Delivering Adaptation of African Agriculture 3 Breakout Parallel Sessions (50-80 participants in each session)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Presentations / contributions from practitioners presenting their experiences and proposals for the way forward</p>		
	<p>Pillars:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What do we know, what are the best bets, and what do we need to do to make it happen? (all to include a finance section and to also include discussions on the instruments required). <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Sustainable and Resilient Soil Management (ICRAF, INRA Morocco, ICARDA) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Mohamed Badraoui, DDG INRA-Morocco ✓ Improved Agricultural Water Management (General Consul of France, Morocco, IWMI, CIRAD, IRD) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Guillaume Benoit, (CGAAER, Ministry of agriculture –France) - Mhamed Belghiti, (DIEA, Ministry of agriculture-Morocco) ✓ Climate Risk Management (CCAFS FP2 + private sector, WMO, IRI, Syngenta Foundation for Sustainable Management) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - OlgaSpeckhardt, (<i>Head of Global Insurance Solutions, Syngenta Foundation for Sustainable Agriculture</i>) 		
16.00 – 16.30	Coffee		
16.30 – 17.00	<p>Title: Delivering Adaptation</p> <p>Key messages from breakout sessions</p>	<p>Each rapporteur from breakout sessions to present summary of discussions, linking to how the conference can feed into the AAA initiative</p>	<p>Moderated discussions – Moderator TBC</p> <p>Rapporteurs from each of the breakout sessions</p>
17.00 – 17.30	<p>Title: Closing session</p> <p>Closing message on way forward and closing remarks</p>	<p>Presenting the outcome statement from the conference</p> <p>Closing remarks</p>	<p>representative from Moroccan Ministry of Agriculture and CCAFS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Mohamed Ait Kadi, President of CGDA