

USDA Foreign Agricultural Service

GAIN Report

Global Agricultural Information Network

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Voluntary - Public

Date: 05/03/2010

GAIN Report Number: FR9037

France

Post: Paris

TAKING STOCK AFTER COPENHAGEN

Report Categories:

Climate Change

Food Security

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Report Highlights:

This report is an overview of discussions at the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) roundtable on sustainable development, held February 24, and hosted by the International Food and Agricultural Centre for Trade Policy Council (IPC) and the International Centre for Trade and Sustainable Development (ICTSD) on the topic titled, "Climate Change and Food Security: Taking Stock after the COP15."

General Information:

Meeting climate change, food security, and trade commitments present both challenges and opportunities for the agri-food sector. This report is an overview of discussions at the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) roundtable on sustainable development, held February 24, and hosted by the International Food the International Food and Agricultural Centre for Trade Policy Council (IPC) and the International Centre for Trade and Sustainable Development (ICTSD) on the topic titled, “Climate Change and Food Security: Taking Stock after the COP15.” This seminar discussed the climate change and food security issues facing the agricultural sector. Participants exchanged views on the outcomes of the Copenhagen Summit and next steps for the climate change and agriculture agenda.

Author Defined:**Making Sense of Copenhagen – Next Steps for Agriculture**

Agriculture is one of the few sectors that can both contribute to mitigation and sequestration of carbon emissions. Accounting for agriculture’s carbon footprint is necessary, particularly if agriculture is included in greenhouse gas reduction commitments. ICTSD and IPC hosted a roundtable discussion on “Climate Change and Food Security: Taking Stock after the COP15 (15th Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change).”

The Copenhagen Summit – Outcome for Agriculture

Agriculture had not been featured prominently in the Kyoto Protocol (KP) — the current international climate change agreement. The outcome for agriculture (land use, land use change, and forestry) of the Ad Hoc Working Group (AWG) on further commitments for Annex 1 Parties under the KP on its tenth session, held in Copenhagen from December 7 to 15, 2009 were as follows:

- Status quo for agriculture soils (grazing land and cropland management) with the question of voluntary versus mandatory accounting still to be decided (Annex 1 Parties only).
- Possible program of work to look at a more comprehensive accounting in the future (including land-based accounting).
- Scope of Clean development mechanism (CDM) status quo (i.e., limited to afforestation and reforestation activities).

- Possible program of work on possible activities in CDM, including soil carbon activities.

The AWG on long-term cooperative action (LCA) presented the following decisions for consideration for agriculture by the COP at its fifteenth session in Copenhagen:

Shared Vision

- The preamble of the LCA notes the important role of food production systems in mitigation and adaptation efforts.

Adaptation

- All Parties to enhance adaptation action and international cooperation (resources, technology, and capacity-building) on agriculture and food security.

Mitigation

- Sectoral approaches and sector-specific actions in the agriculture sector to include promotion and cooperation in research and development, including the transfer of technologies, practices, and processes.
- Program of work on agriculture

The Kyoto Protocol (AWG-KP), implementation phase 2, negotiations will resume as mandated. Likewise, the new agreement, convention (AWG-LCA), negotiations will resume as mandated by COP15. The SBSTA work program was not formally decided at COP15; however, there was no obvious opposition to it. It was noted that the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice (SBSTA) work program could be independent from the LCA process and should facilitate and inform a future climate agreement, and not just be an outcome of an agreement.

Next Steps for International Climate Change Negotiations and Agriculture

According to an official from the French Ministry of Food, Agriculture, and Fishery, the current state of play is that there is nothing specific on agriculture in the Copenhagen Accord (Accord); however, the Accord could eventually encompass the majority of world emissions. The political agreement does not include AWG-LCA and KP negotiations. Annex I Parties (40 developed countries) are to submit emission cut targets for 2020 by January 31. Non-Annex I Parties (30 developing countries) are to submit a list of mitigation actions by January 31. The next conference (COP16) is to be held in Cancun, Mexico, from November 29 to December 10, 2010. An additional meeting has been added and will be held from April 9-11 in Bonn on the process only. In June of this year, a negotiating meeting will be held in Bonn on how to implement the Accord.

Two options for the work program are i) wait until the Mexico meeting to have a COP decision, or

ii) in order not to lose time, start the work as soon as possible. A SBSTA decision is expected in June requesting submissions from Parties, scope and content are to be established at COP16, and the development of the work program is expected in 2011. Contentious questions are anticipated for the work program. Questions relating to food security, productivity, sustainability, technical issues, as well as emissions and how it relates to policies have not been raised in the discussions, but would become possible issues.

Keeping A Focus on Farmers

The International Federation of Agricultural Producers (IFAP), a farmers' organization representing over 600 million farm families in 79 countries, expressed that it is their belief that there is a positive tone on agriculture despite failure to adopt negotiating texts. Progress has been made since Copenhagen. First, the informal contact group of parties on Agriculture has consolidated. Secondly, agriculture is in the draft LCA negotiating text, but all bracketed following the [nothing is agreed until everything is agreed] principle. The three areas of agreement were as follows: i) reference to Article 2 of the Convention on the importance of food security to address climate change, ii) recognition of the link between agriculture, food security, and climate change adaptation and mitigation, and iii) request for SBSTA to establish and agriculture program of work. Parties would need to agree on a timeline for proposal submissions. The two areas of disagreement were: i) trade issues, and ii) terminology i.e., shall versus should.

Where does agriculture stand after Copenhagen? In order to define specific areas of cooperation, The Global Research Alliance on Agricultural Greenhouse Gases was launched at the climate change conference. This initiative brings together over 20 countries to discuss the challenges of food safety and rising agricultural emissions. The objectives are to contribute to mitigation efforts through both reducing emissions and increasing soil carbon sequestration, and to increase both public and private international research collaboration.

The remaining challenges for farmers and agriculture are increasing global food production while adapting to climate change, as well as linking agriculture, food security, livelihoods, and climate change mitigation and adaptation. According to IFAP, a fair mention of food security is needed in Article 2 of the Convention. For mitigation and sectoral approaches, agriculture should be kept in LCA, and the draft text presented in Copenhagen should be kept because extension of mandate to be further negotiated. For adaptation, there is an absence of direct mention of agriculture, due to some thinking that it is not strategic to "crowd" the text with sectoral references. There is no specific mention to financing activities related to agriculture. According to IFAP, there needs to be further mention of the following: 1. Pro-poor financing to be used for agricultural activities, and 2.

Initiatives on adaptation and mitigation to work in concert rather than in separate streams. Technology transfer and capacity building remain a challenge. Intellectual property rights (IPR) continue to be the main sticking point, as developing countries request free access to adaptation-related technologies.

If agriculture is not included in the future agreement at COP16 there will be no risk management tools to cope with and prevent the effects of climate change. Additionally, research on adaptive new crop varieties would be limited and the adaptation fund would not be accessible to farmers and the cost would fall on the sector and farmers. For mitigation, agriculture would be penalized for emissions through unfair tax systems (biased accounting rules, no difference between natural and anthropogenic emissions). Agriculture's contribution to mitigation (carbon sequestration, renewable energy, and ecosystem services) would not be recognized if agriculture were not included in the future agreements. Emission costs would have to be borne by farmers and the agriculture sector to the benefit of other industries. Border tax adjustments on carbon-intensive imports (opposed by developing countries) remain unresolved.

IFAP farmers call for full integration of agriculture in the resuming climate change negotiations leading up to COP16. The specificities of agriculture should be recognized as an affected sector, farmers' organizations recognized as partners, and recognition and rewards for farmers' emissions savings, carbon sequestration practices (accounting rules), and nonfood services (ecosystem services) risk management tools. IFAP expects access to appropriate financing mechanisms and increased investments in sustainable agriculture.

Mitigation and Adaptation Priorities

The draft conclusions and commitments from Annex 1 countries are few. Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations analysis shows that countries want to mitigate, but not take mitigation actions. These countries want to use agriculture in the role for offsets. The role of the SBSTA Work Program is to serve as a meeting point for initiatives around agriculture and to serve as a forum for reaching common understanding on contentious issues. At the December scoping meeting in Rome last year, terrestrial, lifecycle analysis, lifecycle assessment, greenhouse gas emissions, and carbon footprint boundaries and their implications for international trade were debated.

Again, the research-based initiative, the Global Research Alliance on Agricultural Greenhouse Gases, takes place in the attitude of engaging in agriculture. At COP15, twenty-one countries launched this Alliance. The Alliance was originally developed in close cooperation between the

United States and New Zealand. This is of particular interest to New Zealand because 50 percent of its emissions come from agriculture. The security of access to food is a global issue that affects everyone. The population is expected to rise to 9 billion by 2050. Estimates suggest livestock agriculture contributes between 8 and 18 percent of GHG emissions.

Food security and emissions are ideal for bringing developed and developing countries together and require the engagement of all countries. The ideas of the Global Research Alliance are to share national and regional level knowledge, identify gaps in the global portfolio of research, and leverage new resources for collaborative projects. The Alliance will bring together agricultural scientists to develop the science and technologies farmers around the world need to reduce greenhouse gases, and yet ensure agriculture will continue to meet the world’s growing needs for food, feed, fiber, and biofuels. The Alliance will focus on improving the measurement and estimation of greenhouse gas emissions and carbon storage in different agricultural systems around the globe. To date, \$150 million has been pledged by three countries; the United States Department of Agriculture will commit up to \$90 Million over four years towards this scientific Alliance. On April 9, 2010, New Zealand will host Alliance member countries, as well as countries who have expressed an interest in the Alliance to organize around sectors and map out declarations of the Alliance.

The following is an overview of the history of agricultural discussions in the current round of COP15 negotiations.

Date	Current Round of Negotiations
June 2008	Work program on agriculture proposed in the SBSTA as part of Socio-Economic and Technical Aspects of Mitigation agenda item – could not reach agreement, but agreed to reconsider the item in June 2010- rationale was that the AWG LCA was addressing mitigation
June 2008	AWG LCA agreed on the production of technical paper on Challenges and Opportunities for Agriculture Mitigation to be completed by COP 14.
August 2008	AWG LCA agreed to hold workshop during March 2009 session (Bonn I)
April 2009	In-session workshop on “Challenges and Opportunities for Mitigation in the Agriculture Sector” (Bonn II)
June 2009	Informal dialogue on agriculture started (Bonn II)
August 2009	Second informal dialogue on agriculture
September/October 2009	Third informal dialogue on agriculture and beginning of negotiations on agriculture under 1 b (iv) of the Bali Action Plan (Bangkok)
November and December 2009	Negotiations on agriculture continue under 1 b (iv) (Barcelona and Copenhagen)

Note: Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice (SBSTA), Ad Hoc Working Group (AWG), Long-term Cooperative Action (LCA)

