

Modalities for the first Sharm El-Sheikh Joint Work on Implementation of Climate Action on Agriculture and Food Workshop

Submission to the UNFCCC¹

February 28, 2025

Center for Climate and Energy Solutions

A.	Introduction	1
B.	Context.....	2
C.	Proposed Modalities for the First Workshop	3
	Objectives.....	3
	Topics.....	3
	Speakers and Participants	4
	Modes of Engagement	5
D.	C2ES Related Resources	6
E.	References	7

A. Introduction

1. The urgency of addressing climate change through integrated, systemic approaches has never been more pressing, particularly in sectors such as agriculture, food systems, and food security. Climate change presents a multifaceted challenge to global food systems, exacerbating food insecurity, increasing vulnerability of agricultural systems to extreme weather events, and compromising biodiversity. At the same time, agriculture is both a contributor to climate change and a key sector for mitigating its impacts. Therefore, transitioning to climate-resilient, sustainable agricultural practices is vital not only to ensure food security but also to help achieve broader climate goals.
2. The workshops under the joint work seek to advance cooperation, knowledge sharing, and actionable recommendations for integrating agriculture into national climate strategies and enhancing climate resilience. Stakeholder involvement, including non-governmental organizations (**NGOs**), the private sector, and local communities, will play a vital role in ensuring systemic solutions for food security and sustainable agricultural development.
3. This submission outlines the objectives, topics, participants, and modes of engagement for organizing the first workshop under the Sharm el-Sheikh Joint Work on implementation of climate action on agriculture and food, scheduled for June 2025 during the 62nd meeting of the Subsidiary Bodies (**SB62**).

Topics and questions for consideration for the first workshop:

- **Policy integration:** How can Parties more effectively integrate agriculture and food security goals into their nationally determined contributions (**NDCs**), national adaptation plans (**NAPs**), long-term low-emissions development strategies (**LT-LEDS**), and national biodiversity strategy action plans (**NBSAPs**)?
- **Sectoral cooperation:** What are the best strategies for fostering cooperation between climate, agriculture, health, energy, and biodiversity sectors at the national and international levels?
- **Alignment with global frameworks and national plans:** How can global frameworks (e.g., the UAE Framework for Global Climate Resilience) support the integration of agricultural targets, policies, and/or information into national climate strategies? What synergies can be built or enhanced?
- **Barriers to implementation:** What key barriers do Parties face in implementing climate-resilient agricultural policies and how can these be overcome?
- **Innovative solutions:** What are the most promising technological innovations or approaches for achieving climate-resilient agriculture, especially for vulnerable and smallholder farmers?
- **Role of non-Party stakeholders:** How can NGOs, the private sector, and local communities contribute to the successful implementation of climate-resilient agricultural policies?

B. Context

4. The 27th Conference of the Parties to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (**COP27**) established the Sharm el-Sheikh Joint Work on Implementation of Climate Action on Agriculture and Food Security, a four-year initiative to discuss increasing ambition on climate action in agriculture and food security.² The joint work provides a platform for discussion with the aim of advancing cooperation and integration across climate, agriculture, and food security.
5. The UAE Framework for Global Climate Resilience (**UAE Framework**) adopted at COP28 further underscores the need for systemic and holistic approaches to agriculture. The UAE Framework set a target to achieve global climate resilience by 2030, urging Parties to prioritize sustainable, climate-resilient agriculture. The Framework has also highlighted the importance of developing national strategies that include agriculture as a central element in addressing climate impacts and building resilience, especially for vulnerable communities reliant on agriculture for their livelihoods.^{3,4}
6. The COP28 global stocktake (**GST**) decision further sets out a number of key, transformational global targets and signals to Parties to: (i) inform their next NDCs; and (ii) enhance implementation and international cooperation.⁵ These targets and signals include a call to Parties to achieve by 2030 the UAE Framework target of: attaining climate-resilient food and agricultural production and supply; distribution of food and increasing sustainable and regenerative production; and equitable access to adequate food and nutrition for all, as well as to implement and integrate multi-sectoral solutions like sustainable agriculture and resilient food systems. In this context, the joint work could further add value to the follow-up to the first GST as Parties explore how to advance cooperation and integration across climate action, agriculture, and food security.
7. The Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice (**SBSTA**) and Subsidiary Body for Implementation (**SBI**) requested the UNFCCC Secretariat to hold in-session workshops under the Sharm el-Sheikh Joint Work on Implementation of Climate Action on Agriculture and Food Security.⁶



They have called on Parties and observers to submit their views on how to structure the first workshop, scheduled for June 2025. The aim of this first workshop is to drive the achievement of climate action by through discussion on how to integrate sustainable agriculture and food systems into Parties' national climate strategies.⁷

8. This submission identifies considerations and sets out recommendations for the design and structure of the first workshop.⁸

C. Proposed Modalities for the First Workshop

Objectives

9. This workshop should provide:
 - a space for collaboration
 - aim to ensure a holistic and systemic approach to food security, climate resilience, and sustainable agricultural development
 - encourage the development of best practices
 - creation of actionable planning processes.
10. The primary objectives of the workshop should be to:
 - facilitate dialogue on the integration of climate-resilient agricultural practices into national climate policies (NDCs, NAPs, LT-LEDS, and NBSAPs)
 - foster cross-sector collaboration between climate, agriculture, energy, health, and biodiversity sectors to align goals and enhance policy coherence
 - promote knowledge sharing on effective strategies and of successful case studies of integration of agriculture into national climate plans and processes
 - strengthen partnerships for scaling up sustainable, climate-resilient agricultural practices through coordinated international efforts
 - explore policy alignment between global frameworks and coalitions (e.g., the UAE Framework for Global Climate Resilience, UAE COP28 Declaration⁹) and national agricultural strategies
 - develop actionable guidelines for integrating agriculture and food systems into climate action plans, NDC updates, and NAP submissions
 - capture key messages in a summary report of the first workshop.

Topics

11. Given the above objectives, the following are a list of topics of the first workshop could address:
 - **Policy integration:** Effective integration of agriculture and food security goals into NDCs, NAPs, LT-LEDS, and NBSAPs by aligning these goals across policies. Ensuring consistent, coordinated action across all sectors is essential for fostering a unified approach and synergizing plans.¹⁰
 - **Sectoral cooperation:** Fostering cooperation between the climate, agriculture, health, energy, and biodiversity sectors at both the national and international levels. Establishing clear communication channels, creating cross-sectoral working groups, and promoting joint initiatives and policies that address shared objectives.



- **Alignment with global frameworks and national plans:** Exploring how global frameworks, such as the UAE Framework for Global Climate Resilience, can help shape the integration of agriculture into national strategies by providing a structured approach and synergies between climate resilience and sustainable agricultural practices.
- **Barriers to implementation:** Overcoming key barriers to implementing climate-resilient agricultural policies such as limited financial resources, lack of technical expertise, and insufficient political will. Strengthening institutional capacities, increasing financial support, and enhancing collaboration between stakeholders.¹¹
- **Innovative solutions:** Exploring promising technological innovations or approaches for achieving climate-resilient agriculture include the development of drought-resistant crops, precision farming technologies. These approaches help improve yields while reducing environmental impact, especially for vulnerable and smallholder farmers.
- **Role of non-Party stakeholders (NPS):** Exploring roles for NGOs, the private sector, and local communities to contribute to the successful implementation of climate-resilient agricultural policies, such as funding, expertise, advocacy, and grassroots support that complement government efforts and ensure the long-term sustainability of climate adaptation strategies.¹²

Speakers and Participants

12. The first workshop should involve a broad range of stakeholders to ensure a holistic discussion on agriculture and climate action, bringing together both governmental and NGO actors, as well as international organizations. Engaging a wide range of stakeholders is crucial for ensuring that climate policies are inclusive, informed by diverse perspectives, and effective at addressing the needs of vulnerable populations, particularly those most dependent on agriculture for their livelihoods. NPS bring invaluable knowledge, expertise, and resources to the table, complementing the efforts of Parties in addressing climate change and ensuring food security. Their engagement helps shape more effective policies, foster innovation, and create an enabling environment for action at multiple levels, from local to global.
13. Suggested speakers and participants for the first workshop could include:

Table 1- Suggested speakers and purpose

Speaker	Purpose
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • UNFCCC Secretariat • Chairs of the Sharm el-Sheikh Joint Work on Agriculture and Climate Action 	Set the tone for the workshop, emphasize the importance of agriculture and food security in global climate action.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) • UN Development Programme (UNDP) Climate Promise¹³, etc. • UN4NAPs¹⁴ • NAP Global Network¹⁵. 	Outline the urgency of integrating climate-resilient agriculture into national climate planning processes. Scaling climate-resilient agricultural practices. Identifying partnerships. Aligning NDCs, NAPs, NBSAPs, and LT-LEDS.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Relevant UN bodies, such as UN Environment Programme, World 	Best strategies for fostering cooperation between the climate, agriculture, health, and

Speaker	Purpose
Health Organization, UN Children’s Fund, UN Convention on Biological Diversity. ¹⁶ <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • International Fund for Agricultural Development (<i>IFAD</i>)¹⁷ • Global Alliance for Climate Resilient Agriculture (<i>GACRA</i>)¹⁸ 	biodiversity sectors within national planning processes.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agriculture business/private sector representatives • Academic institutions and research organizations • Local communities’ representatives 	Discuss the main barriers in implementing climate-resilient agricultural policies and how these can be overcome.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Food and Agriculture for Sustainable Transformation Initiative • Africa Food Systems Transformation Initiative • Marrakech Partnership • Race to Resilience and Sharm el-Sheikh Adaptation Agenda 	Examine innovative solutions for climate-resilient agriculture include technologies, financing, and approaches to support smallholder farmers. Additionally, the role of non-party stakeholders involves engaging NGOs, the private sector, and local communities in agricultural transformation.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adaptation Committee • Least Developed Countries Expert Group • Facilitative working group of the local communities and indigenous people’s platform 	Align processes within the UNFCCC on adaptation, agriculture, and the inclusion of the priorities of least developed countries and indigenous peoples.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Alliance of Champions for Food Systems Transformation 	Give examples and present on Parties that agreed to update their NDCs, NAPs, LT-LEDS, and NBSAPs to align with revised National Food System Transformation Pathways and report annually.

Modes of Engagement

14. Parties should consider how the first workshop could utilize various modes of engagement to ensure broad participation and collaboration. Modes might include:

- **Panel discussions and expert presentations:** Featuring key stakeholders and subject-matter experts to provide insights on specific topics such as climate resilience, agricultural adaptation, and multi-sectoral approaches.
- **Breakout sessions:** Thematic discussion groups where participants can engage in more focused dialogues on specific challenges, opportunities, or regions.
- **Interactive Q&A:** Allowing participants to ask questions and engage directly with speakers and panelists to clarify issues or discuss points of concern.



- **World café/roundtable discussions:** Small, interactive group discussions to foster cross-sector dialogue between agriculture, climate, health, and finance sectors. To ensure that the roundtable discussions are reflective of the proposed cross-sector dialogue between agriculture, climate, health, and finance sectors, it would be important to invite a diverse set of stakeholders who can bring valuable perspectives and expertise to the discussion.
- **Live polling and feedback:** Real-time polling to gather participants' perspectives and feedback on key issues (e.g., top priorities for integrating agriculture into NDCs and/or NAPs).
- **Hybrid participation:** Virtual participation could be allowed for maximum participation and to minimize costs.

D. C2ES Related Resources

15. Center for Climate and Energy Solutions (C2ES)'s *Enhancing Action & International Cooperation for Sustainable Agriculture and Resilient Food Systems* policy brief¹⁹ focuses on the GST decision's calls to Parties to achieve by 2030 the UAE Framework for Global Climate Resilience target of attaining climate-resilient food and agricultural production and supply and distribution of food and increasing sustainable and regenerative production and equitable access to adequate food and nutrition for all, as well as to implement and integrate multi-sectoral solutions like sustainable agriculture and resilient food systems. It further sets out barriers and solutions, as identified by our work and others, that must be addressed and implemented to enable real action. It also sets out key leadership considerations, how such a leadership role can be effectively utilized, and key priorities for 2024-26.

References

- ¹ UN Framework Convention on Climate Change [hereinafter UNFCCC], *Report of the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice on its sixtieth session, held in Bonn from 3 to 13 June 2024*, FCCC/SBSTA/2024/7, ¶ 114 (July 30, 2024), https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/resource/sbsta2024_07E.pdf; UNFCCC, Report of the Subsidiary Body for Implementation on its sixtieth session, held in Bonn from 3 to 13 June 2024, FCCC/SBI/2024/13, ¶ 61 (July 30, 2024), https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/resource/sbi2024_13E.pdf.
- ² UNFCCC, Joint work on implementation of climate action on agriculture and food security, Decision 3/CP.27, (November 6, 2022), <https://unfccc.int/documents/626561>.
- ³ UNFCCC, Global goal on adaptation, Decision 2/CMA.5, ¶ 9(b) (December 13, 2023), <https://unfccc.int/documents/637073>.
- ⁴ The Alliance of Champions for Food Systems Transformation, launched at COP28, aims to support these efforts by fostering greater collaboration among countries to align their NDCs, NAPs, LT-LEDS, and NBSAPs with revised National Food System Transformation Pathways. The Alliance of Champions for Food Systems Transformation is a coalition of countries seeking to transform the food system to deliver better outcomes across adaptation and resilience, climate mitigation, food and nutrition security, equity and livelihoods, and nature and biodiversity. “Transforming Food Systems for People, Nature and Climate,” Alliance of Champions for Food Systems Transformation, accessed February 11, 2025, <https://allianceofchampions.org/>.
- ⁵ UNFCCC, Outcome of the first global stocktake, Decision 1/CMA.5, ¶ 79 (December 13, 2023), <https://unfccc.int/documents/637073>.
- ⁶ UNFCCC, Joint work on implementation of climate action on agriculture and food security, Decision 3/CP.27, ¶ 15(b).
- ⁷ UNFCCC, Sharm el-Sheikh joint work on implementation of climate action on agriculture and food security, Draft conclusions proposed by the Chairs, FCCC/SB/2024/L.2, ¶ 7 (June 11, 2024), https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/resource/sb2024_L02E.pdf.
- ⁸ UNFCCC, Sharm el-Sheikh joint work on implementation of climate action on agriculture and food security Draft conclusions proposed by the Chair, FCCC/SB/2024/L.2, ¶17, Annex.
- ⁹ “COP28 UAE Declaration on Sustainable Agriculture, Resilient Food Systems, and Climate Action,” COP28, accessed February 11, 2025, <https://www.cop28.com/en/food-and-agriculture>.
- ¹⁰ Center for Climate and Energy Solutions [hereinafter C2ES], *Enhancing Action & International Cooperation for Sustainable Agriculture and Resilient Food Systems*, (Washington: DC, C2ES, October 2023), <https://www.c2es.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/10/Sustainable-Agriculture-and-Resilient-Food-Systems-Discussion.pdf>.
- ¹¹ C2ES, *Enhancing Action & International Cooperation for Sustainable Agriculture and Resilient Food Systems*.
- ¹² C2ES, *Enhancing Action & International Cooperation for Sustainable Agriculture and Resilient Food Systems*.
- ¹³ “Climate Promise,” UN Development Programme [hereinafter UNDP], accessed February 11, 2025, <https://climatepromise.undp.org>.
- ¹⁴ “UN4NAPs,” UNFCCC, accessed February 11, 2025, <https://unfccc.int/UN4NAPs>.
- ¹⁵ “About,” NAP Global Network, accessed February 11, 2025, <https://napglobalnetwork.org/about/>.
- ¹⁶ This list is non-exhaustive, and speakers could be considered for the workshop within this list.
- ¹⁷ “Home,” International Fund for Agriculture Development [hereinafter IFAD], accessed February 11, 2025, <https://www.ifad.org/en/>.
- ¹⁸ “Global Alliance for Climate-Smart Agriculture”, Nationally Determined Contributions Partnership, accessed February 11, 2025, <https://ndcpartnership.org/knowledge-portal/climate-toolbox/global-alliance-climate-smart-agriculture>.
- ¹⁹ C2ES, *Enhancing Action & International Cooperation for Sustainable Agriculture and Resilient Food Systems*, (Washington: DC, C2ES, October 2023), <https://www.c2es.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/10/Sustainable-Agriculture-and-Resilient-Food-Systems-Discussion.pdf>.