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COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

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FAO-Adapt – FAO's Framework Programme on Climate Change Adaptation

I. The Need for FAO-Adapt

1. In order to fulfil its mandate, FAO has to address the two challenges of food security and climate change simultaneously. Climate change adaptation is a must for the agricultural sectors. It will require new and appropriate policies and strategies to guide the huge investments needed.
2. FAO has a long history of dealing with climate-related issues and has taken significant initiatives for climate change adaptation in agriculture, forestry and fisheries at the request of member countries, regional bodies and development partners. However, the magnitude of the challenges requires additional efforts in line with the global call for enhanced adaptation action in the context of the United Nations Cancun Adaptation Framework.
3. To better serve its member countries, FAO has established a framework programme for climate change adaptation. It addresses the cross-cutting issue of climate change across FAO's strategic objectives, as also recommended by FAO's Programme Committee in February 2011¹.
4. It has been developed through a collaborative effort across FAO involving all departments, regional and sub-regional offices and liaison offices, coordinated by the FAO Interdepartmental Working Group on Climate Change (IDWG-CC) and its adaptation subgroup.

II. FAO-Adapt: Value added

5. FAO-Adapt is an organization-wide framework programme that provides general guidance and introduces principles, priority themes and implementation support to FAO's climate change adaptation activities related to its work for food and nutrition security, alleviation of rural poverty and environmental sustainability. In particular, it:
 - a) Offers an initial consensus and comprehensive view of the way forward for mainstreaming climate change adaptation into all FAO development activities and contributing to heading off negative climate impacts.

¹ CL 141/4

- b) Catalyses FAO's adaptation activities to increase its ability to respond to member country requests for support in implementing climate change adaptation measures in agriculture, forestry and fisheries.
 - c) Brings together the body of climate change adaptation work accomplished by FAO, its technical units, decentralized offices and regional bodies.
 - d) Aims to enhance coordination, capacity development and sharing of experiences on adaptation within FAO and among its member countries to widen the coverage, encourage synergies, enhance cross-sectoral approaches and optimize the use of resources for adaptation.
 - e) Facilitates external and internal communication as well as mobilization of additional resources for FAO's work on adaptation.
 - f) Fosters partnerships related to adaptation, including UN agencies, international financing and research institutions, and regional organizations.
6. The ability of FAO-Adapt to consolidate and catalyse FAO's work for adaptation is expected to make a big contribution towards the achievement of FAO's strategic objectives.

III. FAO-Adapt: Priority Themes

7. With the objective to increase the resilience of production and management systems in agriculture, forestry and fisheries from the local to the global level, FAO presents its work on adaptation under five overarching themes, each of which is supported by a set of activities:
- a) **Data and knowledge for impact and vulnerability assessment and adaptation:** FAO supports countries and decision-makers in strengthening capacities and developing innovative tools and methods for assessing climate impacts and vulnerabilities and planning adaptation. FAO facilitates the use of climate information and emphasizes information and experience sharing to promote people's participation and ownership in adaptation actions.
 - b) **Institutions, policies and financing to strengthen capacities for adaptation:** in view of uncertainties of potential climate change impacts, FAO stresses that adaptation requires adjusting institutional arrangements in a flexible way, building on policy analysis and existing or newly emerging policy instruments. Key actions include promoting global advocacy; mainstreaming adaptation into regional, national and sub-national policy, planning and legal frameworks; supporting coordination mechanisms and partnerships, and developing institutional capacity for community-based adaptation, strengthened food value chains, plant, forest and animal health, and accessing financial resources.
 - c) **Sustainable and climate-smart management of land, water and biodiversity:** FAO fosters sustainable and adaptive natural resources management, including land-use planning and vegetation, soil and water management. This involves support to monitoring trends of natural resources, adaptive management, conservation, sustainable use- and policy integration of biodiversity and genetic resources for food and agriculture and the promotion of incentives and tools for the climate-smart management of land, water and biodiversity.
 - d) **Technologies, practices and processes for adaptation:** FAO supports the development and dissemination of technologies, practices and processes related to agriculture, forestry and fisheries, value chains and rural energy demands, as well as rural income diversification and breeding and conservation. FAO also supports the development of the enabling economic and institutional environment for faster update of good practices leading towards climate-smart and sustainable agriculture, land and resource management. Actions also include efforts to increase efficiency of input use and communication for development strategies for adaptation.
 - e) **Disaster Risk Management:** FAO prioritizes disaster risk reduction and management as an entry point to adaptation in areas under frequent threat of climate-related emergencies. FAO's work under this theme includes actions on implementing and planning disaster risk

reduction in line with FAO's Disaster Risk Reduction for Food and Nutrition Security Framework Programme.

8. The principles that guide FAO's work on adaptation ensure that FAO will: (i) focus on food and nutrition security, (ii) mainstream climate change into development efforts, (iii) support country-driven processes and long-term programmatic approaches, (iv) build synergies between adaptation, mitigation and sustainable increases in productivity (climate-smart agriculture), (v) design participatory, gender-sensitive and location-specific adaptation activities and promote an ecosystem-approach, and (vi) deliver through partnerships and support trans-boundary collaboration.

IV. FAO-Adapt: Implementation Arrangements

9. FAO-Adapt is part of a dynamic process and covers a five-year life span (2011-2015). FAO departments, divisions and decentralized offices implement adaptation activities as part of FAO's Strategic Framework and Programme of Work and Budget. Due to the highly decentralized implementation of FAO's adaptation work, FAO-Adapt puts strong emphasis on raising the capacity of its member countries and the decentralized offices to implement adaptation activities.

10. Initial efforts of FAO-Adapt focus on (a) support services: (i) strengthening the IDWG-CC and improving communication, coordination and knowledge management, (ii) mobilising resources and upgrading FAO's internal adaptation-related capacities and tools, (iii) improved reporting and monitoring systems linked to FAO's Programme of Work and Budget, and (b) the technical cross-sectoral body of FAO's adaptation, work including piloting of a programmatic approach.

11. Financing for FAO's work for adaptation comes from multiple sources, such as regular programme budget, extra-budgetary funds, including climate change financing mechanisms and broader food security finance at multiple levels, and government funds. It follows a modular, decentralized approach, with FAO-Adapt being one additional channel for mobilizing corporate resources for adaptation.

12. More information is available at: <http://www.fao.org/climatechange/fao-adapt/>