A CALL BY KENYA’S AGRICULTURE ACTORS
MORE ACTION ON AGRICULTURE AND FOOD SYSTEMS FROM COP 28

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COP 28: ANOTHER OPPORTUNITY FOR GLOBAL COOPERATION FOR CLIMATE ACTION IN AGRICULTURE AND FOOD SYSTEMS

Each climate COP provides an opportunity for global cooperation while ensuring increased ambition towards implementation of climate actions across key affected sectors. Since the ratification of the Paris agreement in 2021, parties’ efforts have mainly focused on national obligations to reduce emissions through Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), coordinating global adaptation strategies, and setting structures and priorities for climate finance. For the agriculture and food sector, COP 27 was a defining moment as the landmark decision 3/CP.27 was reached; the "Sharm el-Sheikh joint work on implementation of climate action on agriculture and food security" (SSJWA).

The decision provided a framework for a holistic implementation of issues related to agriculture and food systems. During COP 27, other decisions impacting agriculture agreed on included the decision on Loss and Damage, which establishes a fund to assist developing countries devastated by the increasing impacts of climate change, among others.

For COP 28, an official agenda tagged the “4 Fs” has been spelt out by the COP presidency. The Four Fs entail Fast-tracking the transition to a low-CO2 world; Fixing climate finance; Focusing on people, lives and livelihoods; and Full inclusivity. The presidency declaration on having an Africa day and a food day that will focus on food systems is a signal on why the COP and global leaders need to increasingly give attention towards transforming Africa’s agriculture and food systems to feed the growing African population.

This is the first COP to contain a trade agenda, indicating a growing acknowledgment of the role of commerce in responding to the climate challenge. Furthermore, COP 28 will be the culmination of the first Global Stocktake, when parties will assess progress toward reaching the Paris Agreement. It is on the basis of the above COP 27 decisions and COP 28 agenda that Kenyan agriculture stakeholders, through the convening of the Kenya Climate Smart Agriculture Multi-stakeholder Platform (KCSA MSP) have developed this COP 28 expectation paper to advocate for enhanced ambition towards implementation on climate actions in Agriculture.

The platform has identified the below 6 areas of action and calls upon the Kenya government and other stakeholders in COP 28 to elevate discussions on the topic of implementation of climate actions in agriculture and food systems.
ACTION AREA ONE

From talk to action: Implementation of the COP 27 Agriculture Decision on Sharm-el Sheikh Joint Work on Implementation of Climate Action on Agriculture and Food Security

With rising temperatures, variability in rainfall patterns, and the increase in the frequency and intensity of climate extremes such as droughts and floods including their associated cascades of risks, agriculture and related food systems are under threat. Slow implementation of climate actions due to a lack of human, financial, and physical resources, compounded by gender-related vulnerabilities, will exacerbate climate risks in the agriculture sector. The objectives of SSJWA will not be met with only continued discussions by parties. Achieving the objectives as set out in the decision will require increased capacities, coordinated expert support and enhanced finance if Kenya and other developing countries have to make progress toward the implementation of SSJWA.

CALL FOR ACTION

- Establish a Coordinating body of Experts to facilitate the implementation of the four-year joint work by driving the objectives of SSJWA in a way that will reach farmers. Without this dedicated group driving the implementation, we will remain with high-level discussions that do not reach our food producers.

- We want to see the online portal created as part of SSWJA to become active and accessible for everyone, including farmers, to showcase their climate action innovations.

- Implementation of climate actions in agriculture and food systems must be holistic, and should be a connected process drawing from the outcomes of other global processes like the UNCBD, UNFCCC and UN Food Systems Summit.

- Develop a robust agricultural research and extension service to facilitate technology development and transfer to small-scale farmers and other marginalized populations.

- Propose that the following new topics be tackled as a way to increasingly address vulnerabilities in agriculture and food systems: 1) Understanding diverse actions, practices, and technology in order to deliver sustainable food systems for food security, 2) Enhancing social cohesion, peace, and security for resilient agri-food systems in fragile contexts.

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ACTION AREA TWO

Strengthen local food production systems for resilient Kenyan communities

Africa leaders during Dakar 2 Summit on unleashing Africa’s food potential convened to forge a pathway towards a food sovereign Africa. It was during that great convening that Kenya among other Africa countries pledged to reduce food imports by 30% by supporting local food production (Dakar summit Kenya country food and agriculture delivery compact). Achieving food sovereignty in Kenya faces a number of challenges that are worsened by climate risks, for instance, international pandemics and wars such as Ukraine-Russia, and Israel-Palestine among others that caused shocks within our input supply system leading to food inflation. In Kenya Post harvest losses in food commodities stands at 30% to 40% which is high in aquaculture. This has been worsened by the changing climate. Climate change has severely impacted livestock systems in Kenya as evidenced by the previous droughts and floods. A sovereign food economy for Kenya requires a short supply chain that could ultimately shorten carbon footprints of Kenya’s food and agriculture systems.

CALL FOR ACTION

- Facilitate the creation of resilient food and seed supply chains by developing short, climate-smart and nutritious supply chains that farmers and consumers through local aggregation.

- Support national and sub-national strategies on food loss and waste management along food value chains, especially in staple crops and fisheries.

- Adaptation in agriculture systems is urgent and hence the need to secure key productive resources through increased investment in water resources for irrigation. For livestock systems, mechanisms on feed management and rehabilitation of degraded rangelands are needed to also reduce the livestock carbon footprint.

- Address barriers to/ drivers of local food production (this includes cost of local food production, policy barriers towards the use of local seed systems among others).

- That achieving food sovereignty need not happen at the expense of biodiversity, hence the need to promote agroecological approaches, including greater support for organic fertilizers and seed systems to ensure that farmers easily access farming inputs with minimized impacts on the environment.
ACTION AREA THREE

Prioritize local Indigenous knowledge systems and practices

Indigenous knowledge systems and practices have sustained and will continue to sustain life in the margins. The inadequacy of weather forecasting techniques due to climate change, indigenous people have adopted mimicking nature and mobility as well as common trans-boundary resource management and reciprocity through informal intercommunity protocols. For example, the Maasai community of Kenya have traditional protocols that govern mobility, carrying capacity, security, fodder banking and wildlife management. However, there is a gap in integrating indigenous knowledge and practices in addressing climate related risks and damages alongside adaptation and mitigation interventions.

CALL FOR ACTION

- Global recognition and support for indigenous knowledge systems and practices on climate change.

- Create a fund to invest in indigenous technical knowledge, practices and their responses to climate change.

- Document and intellectually protect indigenous technical knowledge and practices related to climate change.

- Document evidence of indigenous people’s adaptive capacities and develop indicators that can be replicated elsewhere among indigenous communities regionally and globally.

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CALL FOR ACTION

Recognize that climate change continues to impact food production, livelihoods, and nutritional health which are central elements of human security especially among indigenous peoples whose livelihoods are nature based.

Embrace community peace responsive climate smart agricultural practices to bolster food production and enhance climate, peace and security.

Prioritize community level engagement in resilient agricultural practices in a bid to forestall climate change induced insecurity and enhance cohesion.

Peace and human security are directly or indirectly affected by changes in climate patterns. Farming communities are confronted with climate change induced insecurity thereby further compounding their precarious situation during and after drought incidenes, making it difficult to respond to climate change impacts.

ACTION AREA FOUR

Strengthen the role of Climate security in climate response.
ACTION AREA FIVE

Strengthening capacities for quantification and attribution of climate impacts

At COP 28, during the global stock take (GST), parties will need to address critical gaps in the implementation and reporting of climate change impacts and climate actions. Kenya and the developing countries are still challenged with quantification and attribution of climate change impacts. The lack of standardized methodology, tools, targets, and metrics, inadequate data systems and data access on agricultural specific practices and methodologies addressing climate impacts, and inadequate human capacities in data collection and analysis are the key glaring gaps. In most cases, quantification is mainly directed to the emission and overlooks the positive attributes of sinking carbon, simply because data to support the positive impacts have not been documented.

CALL FOR ACTION

- To support research and capacity development in support of generation of country and context specific data.

- Create new and customized tools, agriculture-specific methodologies and practices.

- To address climate change impacts and attribute the role of national agricultural systems to climate action, review the IPCC inventory determinant on agricultural inputs.

- Support developing countries to enhance observation and access of Data science knowledge products and increase access to AI in Agriculture, guided by fair data governance systems.

- Address the technology gap by supporting developing countries to scale up the transfer of appropriate technologies to enhance farmers resilience to climate change.

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ACTION AREA SIX

Increase and explore innovative Climate Financing mechanisms and facilitative trade agreements that support climate action in agriculture.

Climate finance flows to African countries including Kenya are still inadequate. More so, climate finance has been structured predominantly for mitigation, currently standing at 79% while agriculture which is adaptation only receives 11.7%. The rise in frequency and intensity of extreme climate events has significantly increased the vulnerability of the smallholder farmers, pastoralists and fishing communities. Implementation of innovative financing mechanisms including, carbon markets and blue bonds, debt relief, debt restructuring and the promotion of trade in environmental goods and services could go a long way in supporting our farming communities enhance their resilience.

CALL FOR ACTION

- Integration of blue carbon generated from blue bonds. This will help finance marine conservation and restoration and enhance the resilience of fisheries and aquaculture.

- Call for debt relief and debt restructuring to free resources at the domestic level to support the implementation of climate actions in agriculture.

- Operationalize the funding arrangement for the Loss and Damage fund to facilitate compensation to smallholder farmers, pastoralists and the fishing community.

- Implement simplified access modalities to the Green Climate Fund for farmer facing intermediaries including multi-stakeholder platforms, cooperatives, community-based organizations working with smallholder farmers, pastoralists and fisherfolks.

- Global trade regime should implement multilateral trade agreements that support climate action in agriculture and food systems, by providing guidelines on food safety and environmental protection, while providing flexibility in patent protection, technology development and transfer, and incentives for innovation and technology transfer.
This call for action, developed by the Kenya Agriculture Stakeholders through the Kenya Climate Smart Agriculture Multi-stakeholder Platform (KCSA-MSP), supported by the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock Development, WWF-Kenya, AICCRA and SNV. The Kenya Climate Smart Agriculture Multi-stakeholder platform (KCSA MSP) has engaged on climate COP processes since its formation in 2018, convening stakeholders and supporting Kenya Agriculture negotiators on the identification of key issues for negotiation. The KCSA MSP is an innovative Kenyan stakeholder platform coordinated by the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock Development Climate Change Unit. It provides a stakeholder coordination framework for both state and non-state actors. The platform works at both levels of Government (national and county) in areas of research-extension-farmer liaison, policy prioritization and advocacy, programmatic planning and implementation, monitoring and evaluation, reporting on climate action, institutional capacities development as well as data collection, information management and dissemination.

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