Uruguay Baseline Assessment Summary

How far is Uruguay in addressing agriculture in its NAP [1]

1. What is the national climate change policy and legislative context?

In 2016, Uruguay promoted a nationwide consultation to develop a National Policy on Climate Change (PNCC). The policy was approved by the National Cabinet of Water, Environment and Climate Change and it will serve as a roadmap for future adaptation and mitigation actions and plans. The goals of the PNCC are to contribute to the sustainable development of Uruguay, seeking a more resilient, less vulnerable society that is more adaptable to climate variability and change, to promote a low carbon economy, based on environmentally sustainable production processes and services that incorporate knowledge and innovation. Agriculture adaptation challenges are addressed in the National Policy of Climate Change with the aim to reduce vulnerability of production systems while contributing to food production.

Furthermore, the Ministry of Livestock, Agriculture, and Fisheries (MGAP) has prioritized and incorporated adaptation among one of the key pillars of the sustainable intensification process. For more information, reference should be made to the NAP-Ag Partner Country webpage.

The government of Uruguay reiterates its strong commitment to climate change adaptation in its National Climate Change Response Plan (2010) and the Five Years of Responses: Facing the Challenges of Climate Change and Variability in Uruguay (2014).

2. What is the status of the NAP?

Uruguay is in the process of formulating a NAP for the agriculture sectors and a NAP for the coastal areas. A NAP for Resilient Cities is at its design stages. As part of the process of building an Adaptation Plan for Agriculture, the MGAP is holding wide stakeholder consultation meetings and has also produced a stocktaking report on the status of formulation of the NAP[2].

3. What are the NAP priority adaptation actions for the agriculture sectors?

The MAGP has prioritized adaptation as part of organizational strategy. One of the key approaches is the creation of opportunities for farmers to develop or play a role in existing agricultural value chains, an approach that is considered key to meet the climate resilience and socio-economic challenges of the future. The main focus is including some family farmer programs that are tailored to support rural youth and womens´ initiatives. The ministry plays a key role through its public programs that support investment, strengthening of farmer organizations and technical support for the implementation of measures that increase resilience and adaptive capacity and promote rural development.

Climate scenarios for Uruguay indicate a likelihood of increased overall rainfall and increased intensity of rainfall events. The implementation of measures to prevent the impact of rain on the soil surface, prevent soil erosion and promote soil conservation is one of Uruguay´s adaptation strategies. The MGAP established a soil use regulation system that requires farmers to present Land Use Plans that take into account soil management practices, crop sequence and erosion estimates. In determining a crop rotation, or a succession of crops that keeps the estimated

[1] The information in this brief was collected through the review of existing country policy documents and a baseline survey on the status of NAP formulation and implementation carried out as part of the NAP-Ag Programme in April 2017. The NAP-Ag Baseline Assessment Report is available online at: http://adaptation-undp.org/resources/reports-and-publications-relevance-country-teams/baseline-assessment-report

[2] MGAP. 2016. Estado de situación plan nacional de adaptación a la variabilidad y cambio climático en Uruguay.

erosion below a threshold for each soil type, the Land Use Plans contribute to prevent soil erosion and limit the impact of soil on streams and aquatic systems.

Climate risk coverage tools were prioritized by the MGAP to address the increased variability in climatic conditions and the associated risk for farmers. At the present time, index insurance for horticulture contributes to manage excessive rainfall risk for small farmers and index insurance for livestock farmers are being piloted, as a tool for management of the risk associated with water deficit and drought during summer.

Additionally "Adaptation Dialogues", bottom-up participatory consultations with the main stakeholders of agricultural production systems, are being carried out during 2017 to identify vulnerabilities and adaptation priorities. These systems are forestry, agriculture, animal husbandry and livestock production, horticulture and fruticulture, irrigated rice, family farming and dairy production.

4. Who is involved in NAP formulation and implementation?

The following are key actors in agriculture sector NAP formulation and implementation. The **National System for Response to Climate Change and Variability** (SNRCC) has a mandate to coordinate and plan public and private actions for risk prevention, mitigation and adaptation. More recently, the **National Environmental System** was created with the objective of implementing policies related to environment, water management and climate change. Furthermore, the Climate Change Division of the Ministry of Housing Territorial Ordering and Environment acts as an operational and implementing body for the fulfillment of the national commitments derived from the UNFCCC.

The MGAP has the mandate for the formulation of the agriculture sector NAP and its future implementation, through coordination the Ministry of Environment, Office of Planning and Budgeting and the International Cooperation Agency.
Moreover, the MGAP coordinates adaptation actions with other Ministries through the National Environmental Cabinet and the SNRCC.

Table 2: Overview of key actors for involved in agriculture sector NAP formulation and implementation

Ministry/Departments/ other actors and stakeholders	Sector	Role in national adaptation planning	Role in national adaptation planning
Agriculture and Climate Change Unit of the Office of Programing and agricultural policies	Agriculture	Planning, policies design, impact assessment, sectoral GHG inventories	Project activities at landscape units
Rural Development Direction Natural Resources Division of the Ministry of Livestock, Agriculture, and Fisheries	Family Farming	Policies implementation at territorial level	Policies implementation at territorial level
Forestry Division of the Ministry of Agriculture	Forestry	Afforestation policies and native forest conservation	
Environment Division and Climate Change Division of Ministry of Environment	Environment	Policies coordination, Focal Point of UNFCCC, Chairs the National CC Response System. International negotiations	Implementation of Policies at National level
National Dairy Institute	Dairy Farming	Institute that has the goal of improving the dairy value chain in Uruguay	has National responsibility on Dairy sector, through MGAP
National Agricultural Research Institute	All agricultural sectors	Research and Development of technology for all agricultural sectors	Provides inputs for public policies
Farmer Unions and Cooperatives and civil society	All agricultural sectors	They are the target of public policies and actors of the adaptation to climate change	Stakeholders
Specialized Meeting of Family Farmers (REAF)	Family farmers of	Represents the interests of family farmers in Uruguay	Stakeholders

Ministry/Departments/ other actors and stakeholders	Sector	Role in national adaptation planning	Role in national adaptation planning
	all agricultural sectors		
University of the Republic	Agriculture	Academic and research institution	
Agricultural Institute of Extension services	Livestock	Extension service for livestock production	

5. How do adaptation planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation occur at national and subnational levels?

The MGAP is the entity that implements all agricultural plans and programmes at the national level. Several Divisions of the MGAP are responsible for specific areas of agriculture and report to the Minister. Moreover, the MGAP has a decentralized structure that implements and monitors the actions at the subnational level. At this level the Development Boards meet with regional stakeholders to aid in the implementation, monitoring and evaluation of MGAP projects and programs.

Regarding climate change strategies and actions the SNRCC is the entity that coordinates the efforts of the Ministries of Agriculture, Environment, Industry and Energy, Finance, Education, Defence, Health, Local Governments and the National System for Emergencies. Uruguay has included adaptation goals in its NDC and the SNRCC will contribute to monitor and evaluate those achievements.

The National Environmental System has a mandate to coordinate and implement policies related to environment, water and climate change. At the present time it is providing support to the SNRCC and acting as a high level coordination instance.

6. Mainstreaming gender in adaptation responses

In the MGAP there is a specialized commission on gender, where several divisions of the Ministry meet to mainstream a gender perspective in the Ministry´s work. There is a Technical Adviser on gender within the Division of Rural Development and Extension (DGDR). Disaggregated data by sex for all the policies and programs financed by the Rural Development and Extension Division are collected, many of them include adaptation actions.

Regarding adaptation to climate variability and climate change, the MGAP, together with the Institute of Women Affairs of the Ministry of Social Development and the Ministry of Environment, is engaged in a gender survey to strengthen agricultural and rural statistics with a gender focus. As part of the work, indicators will be developed to analyze the contribution of women to primary production and strategies and attitudes in the face of the challenges of climate change in agriculture. The objective of the study is to provide knowledge on perceptions, attitudes and behaviors in agricultural production with a gender perspective. The study aims to generate inputs to improve the design of public policies that support the adaptation of agro-ecosystems.