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Integrating agriculture in National Adaptation Plans (NAP-Ag)

Inception workshop report

Project Inception Workshop

7 July 2016| Montevideo, Uruguay

MINISTERIO DE GANADERÍA AGRICULTURA Y PESCA

MVOTMA Ministerio de Vivienda Ordenamiento Territorial y Medio Ambiente

PRESIDENCIA Oficina de Planeamiento y Presupuesto

auci Agencia Uruguaya de Cooperación Internacional

Supported by:

Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Building and Nuclear Safety

based on a decision of the German Bundestag

Objectives of the workshop

The goal of the workshop is to launch the project and the set the scene for the NAP-Ag process. Public and private organizations from all agricultural sectors are invited to participate in this event. The work will be successful if the participating institutions and organizations take ownership of the process and internalize it in the planning management.

Justification

The MGAP has defined adaptation to climate change and variability as one of its main policies. Through strategic actions is working to reduce the vulnerabilities associated with food production and to manage natural resources in a sustainable manner.

The National adaptation plans to climate change and variability were established by the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (Cancun 2010) as a tool to promote the integration of the adaptation policies with the national strategies and budgets.

In 2016, Uruguay begins the elaboration of a NAP-Ag with the support of UNDP and FAO, through funding from the German Ministry of Environment and Environmental Conservation (BMUB).

This plan seeks to integrate the actions of adaptation to climate change and variability being implemented by the Ministry of Animal Husbandry, Agriculture and Fisheries (MGAP) and to identify knowledge and capability gaps to reduce the vulnerability to climate impacts by building adaptive capacity and resilience. It also seeks to consistently integrate the adaptation to climate change and variability in the agricultural development policies and adaptation plans nationwide. The formulation stage of the NAP-Ag is planned to be completed in 2018. However, the plan is conceived as a continuous and iterative process that serves as a roadmap to guide public policies in the medium and long term. Moreover the NAP-Ag will contribute to achieve the goals proposed by Uruguay in its INDC towards the Paris Agreement of the UNFCCC of December 2015.

Expected outcomes

1. The NAP-Ag process objectives, methodology, and expected results are known.
2. Knowledge about climate change and variability in Uruguay and climate negotiation and adaptation strategies in the international context is increased.
3. Climate risks, impacts and vulnerabilities in production (by sector or by region, or by type of producer) have been identified according to the opinion of relevant actors (producer organizations, academia, and public sector).
4. Adaptation needs and options to reduce climate impacts have been identified, including a preliminary identification of knowledge gaps of vulnerabilities, opportunities, barriers and technological tools.
5. A basis for a joint interinstitutional work for the NAP-Ag process has been set.

Report of the workshop results

The NAP process was launched with the attendance of the Ministry of Agriculture Mr. Tabaré Aguerre, the Vice Minister of Environment Mr. Jorge Rucks and Denise Cook UNDP Representative, and FAO Representative a.i. Kai Bethke. The NAP -Ag Global program was presented by the Global Program Coordinator Julia Wolf. Cecilia Jones, the National Coordinator, presented expected results at the national level and future steps.

To trigger the discussions of the second part of the day a panel of experts presented the two topics of discussion for the workshop. The talks introduced the concepts of climate variability and climate change in Uruguay and Adaptation in the context of the international negotiations and its practical implications for Uruguay.

The workshop was organized as a world café. The participants moved around the room to respond three questions designed to investigate the impact of climate in agriculture, the adaptation measures being used and the technical, structural and political gaps for adaptation.

The three questions were:

1. According with what you just heard and in your experience what are the vulnerabilities to climate and climate change of agriculture production systems in Uruguay? Which are more important?
2. How do you reduce the impacts of climate in your production sector? What adaptation options do you identify? What opportunities do you identify?
3. Which gaps of knowledge of vulnerabilities, opportunities and technical tools do you identify?

Extract of responses:

The participation during the three rounds of discussion was fruitful. The complete transcript of the responses is included as an attachment.

1. **According with what you just heard and in your experience what are the vulnerabilities to climate and climate change of agriculture production systems in Uruguay? Which ones are more important?**

Participants identified the risks associated with excess and deficit of rainfall, frost, excess of temperature and storms (hail and wind). Later they analyzed the impact of those events in different production systems. There was a general agreement of the differential effect of climate and the different degree of vulnerability associated with each production.

For example in animal husbandry **drought** and **high temperatures** during summer were associated with increased mortality. The vulnerability identified is the result of decreased forage production due to plant stress combined with lack of water for drinking and the direct effect over the cattle. Moreover, different regions of the country were identified as being more or less sensitive to the effects of lack or deficit of rainfall. The regions of Basalto and Sierras del Este, where more superficial soils are found, are more likely to have reduced forage production and decreased animal productivity during dry spells. Another factor considered to analyze the impact of drought and high temperatures in livestock production is the type of farm. Small family farms are more vulnerable to the effects of climate with increased risk of having to sell their animals, having to seek employment outside of the farm and risk of liquidating the farm due to financial difficulties.

Excess of rainfall has identified as having a wide range of effects over most agricultural sectors. The direct effect of rain on soil erosion and difficulties for planting and farm operations combined with animal and plant health issues and with direct crop losses make excess of rainfall one the climate impacts more prioritized. The economic impact stems from the reduced income and the increased costs of production.

The occurrence of **extreme events,** of rain combined with strong winds and hail was analyzed as particular cases were impacts affect all agricultural productions. For example in horticulture extreme storms result in loss of infrastructure (greenhouses, damage to irrigation systems) with implications that go beyond one production cycle and affect the economic situation of the farm for many seasons. Fruticulture is vulnerable to local and short hail events that have devastating effects on fruit quality and commercial value of the harvested fruit. Once again the size, type and diversification of the farm were identified as factors that affect the impact of the climatic event. Family farms with low diversification are more exposed to risk and more vulnerable.

2. Which adaptation options do you identify in order to reduce climate impacts?

Various points of view were developed when discussing adaptation options.

One approach was to list tools and techniques for specific production systems. For example adaptation of crop and soil management, planting disease resistant varieties, crop rotation, insurance and diversification of crops were listed for agriculture. Different approaches of managing natural grasslands, shade and shelter were mentioned for increasing resilience and reducing vulnerabilities in livestock production. The development of systems that guarantee the availability of water for irrigation of crops, and livestock was identified as key to adaptation in agriculture.

Another point of view for the discussion focused on structural and cultural changes necessary to increase resilience. The advantage of collective organization of production and marketing was identified as opportunity. There is a vision that some of the technical knowledge on farming practices that would contribute to reduce vulnerabilities is available but is not being applied. An extension system that provides technical assistance and technology transfer and capacity building to farmers is a tool to contribute to manage risks and promote innovation.

The development of incentives for planning and natural resources conservation was also pointed as a way to mainstream adaptation at the farm level.

The development of more robust production systems with access to index insurance was mentioned also as a tool to manage climate risks and reduce the vulnerability of farmers.

For production sectors with high level of investment and high production costs such as rice production and dairy farms the importance of finding ways to achieve intensification in a resilient manner was highlighted.

3. What are the gaps of knowledge about vulnerabilities, opportunities and tools?

It was pointed out that there is a gap between the technical knowledge and tools available and the practical implementation and application at the farmer level. Part of that gap could be filled by an extension system and capacity building program.

At the research level it was indicated that there should be more research with participation of farmers. Some specific aspects of research mentioned in the discussion were - tools for recording and analysis of soil moisture and water availability, plant breeding for varieties more adaptable to climate change. Emphasis was placed on the need of reduce the gap between the agricultural research community and the farmers. Water and irrigation, early warning systems and weather and forecasts and data to develop index insurance systems were mentioned in the discussion of gaps and opportunities to manage climate risks.

There is a need to have a better understanding of the economic impact of climate events and have better tools for measuring and assess such impact. The need to integrate these measures at the macroeconomic level was highlighted.

The workshop successfully achieved the outcomes expected by the National team. Moreover, the workshop was evaluated positively by the participants. The presence of high authorities of the Ministries was valued as it showed a strong support to the National Adaptation Plan for Agriculture.

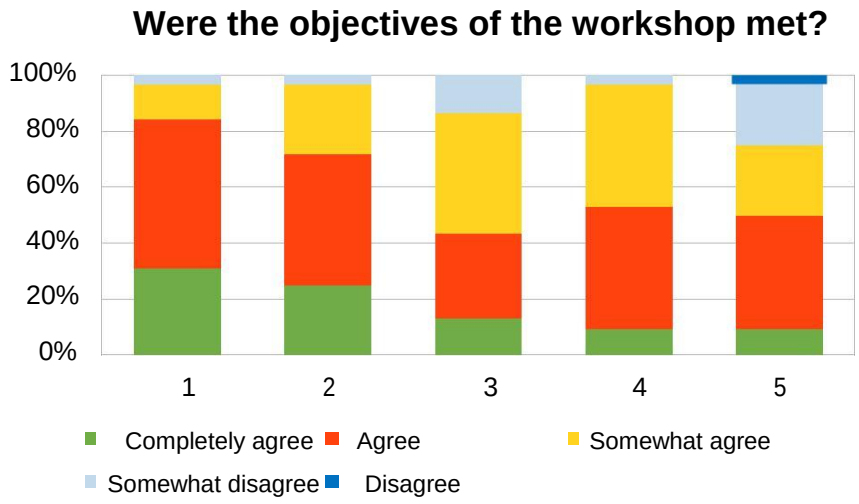
Participants valued the opportunity to discuss the issues and suggested to limit the time for speakers and allow more time for active involvement. The wide representation of agricultural sectors was valued and it was pointed out that more representations of farmers could strengthen the process. The incorporation of gender representatives was also valued and it was noted that the integration of gender issues would also strengthen the NAP- Ag process in Uruguay.

The convocation resulted in the active participation of 79 persons form 32 different organizations/institutions. There was underrepresentation of researchers and academia due to calendar conflicts, however this is not perceived as a weakness because the national team has a good collaborative relation with them. Further events in relation with the national adaptation plan for agriculture could be held at a central location in Uruguay to promote the participation of farmers and farmer organizations.

The following table summarizes the attendance of the workshop.

Assistance	**Gender**		
Category/Organization/Person	**F**	**M**	**Total**
Academia	1	2	3
Civil Society and farmer organizations	5	4	9
International organizations	6	1	7
Private / Public Institutes	1	11	12
Public sector	18	30	48
Total	**31**	**48**	**79**

When asked about how the objectives of the workshop were accomplished most participants agreed that the objectives were met to some level. There were limitations in the time allotted for each objective. That limitation is reflected in the number of responses that agree completely on having met the objectives.



Objectives:

1. To introduce the National Adaptation Plan for the Agricultural Sector, the global programme and its objectives, and establish a collaborative work scheme for its development.
2. To develop the knowledge of climate change and variability in Uruguay, as well as adaptation strategies in the international negotiation framework.
3. To analyse the climate risks and their impacts on production (by sector, region, or type of producer) and to identify the main vulnerabilities in the Uruguayan production systems.
4. To review the impacts of climate change and variability in the agricultural sector and perform a preliminarily identification of potential adaptation options to reduce climate impacts and to exploit the opportunities.
5. To identify knowledge gaps about vulnerabilities, opportunities, and technological tools.

The event was mentioned in the official websites of the Ministry of Agriculture and Presidency

- www.mgap.gub.uy/portal/afiledownload.aspx?2,1,12,O,S,0,15864%3bS%3b1%3b20
- http://presidencia.gub.uy/comunicacion/comunicacionnoticias/plan-nacional-adaptacion-cambio-variabilidad-climatica-sector-agropecuario

During the day it was streamed live in the Channel of the Ministry of Agriculture with at least 20 viewers. The recording is on the You Tube Channel of MGAP:

- www.youtube.com/watch?v=rdlkreFZfuk

Some of the pictures of the event are shared at:

- https://1drv.ms/f/s!Ajt-WozbMVZzhPFGzb1QYVxc2KyRnQ

Program

Schedule	**Inception Workshop-Integrating Agriculture in National Adaptation Plans**
9:00 A.M	• Welcome. **Walter Oyhantçabal, Director of the Sustainability and Climate Change, of the Office of Agricultural Policies and Planning of the Ministry of Livestock Agriculture and Fisheries.** • **Tabaré Aguerre, Minister of Livestock, Agriculture and Fisheries.** • **Jorge Rucks Vice Minister of Housing, Land Planning and Environment.** • **Denise Cook UNDP Resident Representative.** • **Kai Bethke FAO Representative a.i.**
10:20 A.M	Coffee break
10:40 A.M	NAP-Ag Presentation. **Julia Wolf, Global Programme Coordinator, and Cecilia Jones, National Coordinator.**
11:00 A.M	Panel of Experts: • **Madelanie Renom -** Climate change and variability in Uruguay. • **Ignacio Lorenzo -** Climate negotiations and adaptation.
11.30 A.M	Participatory work to identify vulnerabilities, gaps in the adaptation actions and barriers to the design and implementation of adaptation activities. Identification of adaptation options and paths.
13:00 P.M	Lunch
14:00 P.M	Continuation of the participatory work.
16:00 P.M	Plenary session
16:30 P.M	Evaluation of the day and conclusions.

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