

SPECIAL DECLARATION ON THE CONTRIBUTIONS AND CHALLENGES OF THE AGRICULTURAL SECTOR FROM THE SICA REGION IN THE FRAMEWORK OF THE XXVI SESSION OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES TO THE UNITED NATIONS FRAMEWORK CONVENTION ON CLIMATE CHANGE (COP26)



CAC

Ordinary Meeting 05-2021 of Ministers of Agriculture from SICA
Thursday, October 7th 2021



The Ministers and Secretaries responsible for the offices of agriculture, in the framework of the Central American Agricultural Council to the Central American Integration System (SICA) met virtually on October 7th 2021.

WHEREAS:

- I.** The agricultural sector faces the challenge of efficiently and sustainably supplying a growing demand for food in the context of greater impacts caused by climate change, that undoubtedly threatens food security in developing countries.
- II.** That, findings in the sixth report from the Inter Government Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) projects that in the coming decades climate change with a 1.5 °C global warming will see increasing heat waves, longer warm seasons and shorter cold seasons; while a 2 °C global warming, heat extremes would more often reach critical tolerance thresholds for agriculture and health (IPCCC), directly affecting food production.
- III.** That, the agricultural sector has the potential of contributing to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG), as well as playing a critical role in attaining the ultimate goal of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and the Paris Accords.
- IV.** That, the SICA region is not a significant Greenhouse Gas Emitter, nor is its agricultural sector; however the different climate testing and scenarios place the region as one of the hardest hit, and one that is quickly being impacted by climate change. The agricultural sector and rural environment is facing a crucially vulnerable situation.
- V.** That, food systems –defined as a constellation of activities related to the production, processing, transportation and consumption of foods are fragile and face the weight of multiple systemic crises that threaten the economic stability, and the respect of human rights of impoverished and vulnerable populations.

On the occasion of the 26th Session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, the Agricultural Sector from the SICA region,



DECLARE:

1. That, it reaffirms its commitment to continue promoting a competitive, inclusive, sustainable, low-carbon agriculture adapted to the effects of climate change and climate variability; supporting and encouraging the implementation of a Climate Adapted Sustainable Agricultural Strategy, a Regional Agricultural Policy and other regional instruments that propose carrying out climate actions under the principle of gender equality and equity, a inter generational focus and social inclusion.
2. It reiterates its willingness to support and foster the review and implementation processes of the Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC) by highlighting the need of facilitating access to the agricultural sector by any means that enable a greater engagement and active participation in the climate agenda, including capacity-building and climate technology transfer, and the definition of national and regional investment portfolios.
3. That, progress will be made by implementing actions proposed by the initiative "Synergy-based resilience building between Mitigation and Adaptation in the SICA Region", which will be focused on agriculture, forestry and other land uses (AFOLU2040). This will allow the rehabilitation and conservation of forest areas, the establishment of biological corridors through the adoption of resilient agroforestral and silvopastoral systems, transforming agricultural areas through sustainable low-carbon practices, increasing productivity and promoting neutrality in land degradation.
4. Its continuing interest in supporting a green recovery that allows aligning post-pandemic economic reactivation measures in order to attain the mid- and long-term goals of climate change adaptation and mitigation, and sustainability, by prioritizing low-carbon technological innovation and climate resiliency investment opportunities in the agricultural sector in order to attain the sustainable development goals.
5. That, participation from organized civil society and technical and financial cooperation agencies will be promoted regionally, as well as from other agencies and institutions pertinent to SICA, that can assure the sustainability of the implementation of national, regional and international actions and agreements on this matter.



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