

Blog Day 3 - Copenhagen 9 December 2009

These observations of the NFF delegation to COP 15 are intended to provide a preliminary update for NFF, CCA, MLA and do not represent a policy position of any of the members of the delegation.

David Crombie, Beverly Henry, Charlie McElhone, Justin MacDonnell and Jed Matz

Every day it is become more evident that the developing countries are resolute that the developed nations should be held accountable for the position the globe finds itself in regarding climate change. It is clearly their view that climate change is the result of the activities undertaken by developed nations and that they are not very willing to support any changes to the rules which allow developing nations to benefit from this agreement.

This resistance is proving detrimental to progressing our position on natural disturbances amongst other issues. It would seem that the developing nations are not inclined to allow anthropogenic and non-anthropogenic greenhouse gasses to be treated separately under the Article 3.4. Without being able to exclude changes due to natural disturbance such as bushfire it would be very difficult for Australia to voluntarily include soil carbon in national accounts.

We are having discussions with DCC to try and understand the position that our Australian negotiators are taking on forest management. This relates to accounting carbon sequestered in managing forest, particularly commercial forests. There is potential for this activity to have impacts on Australian grazed woodlands and we are trying to ensure that producers would be credited with carbon sequestered in regrowth and other trees on-farm.

It is rumoured that there is a non-paper (a paper that has not been accepted as draft text) regarding Agriculture, which we have not yet been able to obtain. The early version of the non-paper said that efforts to enhance mitigation in the agricultural sector should keep in mind the need to improve efficiency and productivity in a sustainable manner and take into account the link between agricultural productivity and food security. It also supports promoting R&D including transfer of technologies and knowledge. Thirdly, it supports a cooperative sectoral approach for agriculture that does not distort or create barriers to trade. We are concerned about the 4th provision of the earlier version of the non-paper that enhanced mitigation for Agriculture shall not lead to carbon offsets that adversely impact forest land.

On a lighter note, it has been announced that the next COP, COP 16 will be held in Mexico and then followed by COP 17 in South Africa. COP 18 is to be held in Asia.

Attached is the speech presented by IFAP on behalf of international farmers at the Subsidiary Body for Technical & Scientific Advice.



APPENDIX

International Federation of Agricultural Producers



COP 15

SBSTA opening session,

December 7th 2009

By Robert Carlson,

IFAP

Distinguished delegates

Ladies and gentlemen,

My name is Robert Carlson, I am a farmer from the USA as well as the President of the North Dakota Farmers Union and the Vice President of the National Farmers Union (NFU). I have today the privilege and honor to bring to this meeting the voice of the world farmers on behalf of the International Federation of Agricultural Producers (IFAP). IFAP is the world farmers' organization, representing 115 national organizations of family farmers in 82 countries. In total, we reach some 600 million family farmers throughout the world, or about a third of the world's total.

IFAP is pleased to see the increasing amount of attention to agriculture within the Convention since 2009. This is due recognition and many of us feel very optimistic about it. It is a good sign that recognizes the link between agriculture, food security and climate change adaptation and mitigation.

- IFAP supports all the countries including those which have formed the informal group on agriculture to introduce the request to SBSTA to establish a programme of work to facilitate mitigation and enhance the links to adaptation.
- While the final negotiation text would lay the foundation of a broad recognition of the role and needs of the agricultural sector in terms of mitigation and adaptation to climate change, the SBSTA will have to come forward with proposals on what a work program on agriculture under the new agreement should look like. This would provide parties and other agricultural stakeholders, including farmers' organizations, with clear options on how agriculture should be tackled in the future agreement.

- This integration of agriculture in SBSTA as a permanent agenda item would create a space to discuss the real issues related to agriculture while highlighting the linkages between mitigation and adaptation.
- **What are the main issues for farmers that should be discussed in a SBSTA on agriculture?**

1. on mitigation:

There is a need:

- For additional research to Tap the huge mitigation potential of agriculture, which is quick and cost-effective (5.5-6 Gt of CO₂eq. per year by 2030, 89% soil carbon sequestration,
- For harmonised methodologies on the MRV issue (SLM amongst others)
- Improvements in efficiency of agricultural productivity: (better technology is needed)
- To establish incentive schemes to reward farmers for carbon sequestration, enhancing carbon storage potential including voluntary carbon credit systems
- A global GHG evaluation system, with harmonized methodologies, including savings from Bioenergy.

2. On Adaptation and financing

Adaptation of the agricultural sector is crucial for future food and energy security. However, adaptation cannot be borne by farmers alone.

Financing mechanisms should provide positive incentives for farmers to adapt and to mitigate climate change , thereby promoting sustainable agricultural practices. Farmers' organisations should play a key role as aggregating agencies and providers of extension services, especially for small-holders.

3. On Financing framework to support adaptation and mitigation

Two types of financing mechanisms should be put in place:

- providing positive incentives in the form of rewards (sustainable agricultural practices and ecosystem services), finance delivery mechanisms for small holders in developing countries -voluntary, financial mechanisms for technology transfer
- Financing mechanisms to help farmers adapt, especially in developing countries
Farmers' organisation should be supported in order to be able to fulfil their role as aggregating agencies
Besides, it is critical that climate change adaptation programs be mainstreamed in development projects.

4. Technology transfer is the basis for a more resilient, productive and sustainable agriculture.

Enabling measures in this regard would include:

- international technology transfer programs
- farmers-researchers partnerships
- pro-poor farming research
- strengthening synergies between adaptation and mitigation
- research on methane and nitrous oxide emissions (savings, monitoring etc)

For this Work Program to be efficient and implemented, all stakeholders, including farmers, should be part of it to share their needs and experience. We very much hope that this program sees the light and we, as farmers, look forward to actively taking part in it.

I thank you for your attention