SIDE-EVENT at COP23
The AAA Initiative one year later: From Concepts to Action
November 9th, 2017 - 1:00 PM
Moroccan Pavilion, E.07 - Bonn Zone

www.aaainitiative.org
1. OBJECTIVES of the CONSULTATION:

Co-hosted by the Government of Morocco, the Initiative for the Adaptation of African Agriculture to Climate Change (AAA Initiative), the World Bank and the Agence Francaise pour le Developpement (AFD), this Side-Event will present a “progress report” on the AAA Initiative, a year after its launching at COP22 in Marrakech. In particular the side-event will present an approach for the acceleration of implementation of Agricultural NDCs in Africa, as viewed from the perspective of key stakeholders. Key objectives of the Side-Event include:

a. To take stock of the first 15 months of existence of the AAA Initiative on a regional level from presentation of its principles to the confirmation of its mandate;

b. To present its key, early, concrete achievements towards the implementation of Agriculture NDCs and its plan of action for the near future;

c. To share the preliminary set of lessons learned by AAA, and identify pending issues and potential partnerships to address these issues;

d. To call for a deepening and widening of the AAA Initiative through a truly operational and participatory partnership that brings climate action to the most vulnerable.

2. CO-ORGANIZERS and PARTICIPANTS:

a. AAA Initiative (http://www.aaainitiative.org/initiative): "Launched upstream of COP22 organized in Morocco, the initiative for the Adaptation of African Agriculture (AAA) aims to reduce the vulnerability of Africa and its agriculture to climate change".

It promotes and fosters the implementation of specific projects to improve soil management, agricultural water control, climate risk management and capacity building & funding solutions. The initiative is an important response not only to climate change, but also to food insecurity. Its objective is to place the Adaptation of African Agriculture at the heart of climate debates and negotiations, and to attract a substantial share of climate funds. As for the solutions, it also aims to contribute to the roll-out of specific agricultural projects. The Adaptation of African Agriculture was identified as one of the priorities of the Moroccan presidency for COP22. The AAA has more than 25 African member countries and has already engaged in 11 of them with on-the-ground activities for the implementation of country NDC priorities in Agriculture, Forestry and Other Land Use (AFOLU). The AAA initiative is itself part of the regional effort for overall adaptation: the African Adaptation Initiative that was established under the leadership of the African Union.

b. Government of Morocco: The Government of Morocco presided over the organization of COP22 and introduced a number of initiatives, including the AAA Initiative. It continues to play the key convening role for the AAA. With respect to the technical underpinnings of the AAA Initiative, the Government of Morocco (GoM) convened in 2016 an International Scientific Symposium with the participation of FAO and other international and regional institutions. Since then, a number of AAA-
related projects were adopted in 11 countries. Also, GoM organized a well-attended side-event at the Bonn climate change meetings (SBI46) in May 2017 that proposed options for the governance of AAA as well as principles for moving ahead—toward COP23 and beyond. More recently, GoM convened a Technical Consultation with special emphasis on the principles and methodologies for prioritization and operationalization of the agricultural NDCs. At that same Consultation, GoM coordinated the preparation of inputs into the COP23 deliberations in Bonn.

c. Country Representatives [to be updated/finalized: Ivory Coast, Mali, Morocco, Rwanda, Zambia]: Whether with AAA assistance or on their own, countries of the Region are investing financial and human resources in the implementation of their NDCs, including with respect to Agriculture, Forestry and Other Land Uses (AFOLU). A number of African countries will update the audience on the results—on the ground—obtained thus far, lessons learned, and the way ahead. Of particular importance will be the recommendations on the nature and format of assistance that can be provided by AAA in the context of the Region.

d. The World Bank: GoM has invited the World Bank to be among its global partners and assist in moving ahead with the implementation of the AAA initiative. AAA is accessing resources from the donor-funded World Bank NDC Support Facility to assist the respective governments in the operationalization of NDCs in three countries initially (Ivory Coast, Mali and Morocco). The World Bank is also assisting two African countries (Rwanda and Zambia) in the implementation of the IDA18 recommendation on the preparation of Climate Smart Investment Plans in the agriculture sector (CSIP). At the COP23 Side-Event, the participants will be updated on the conceptual and methodological details that are being considered to assist countries in the prioritization and implementation of climate change-related activities in agriculture. This will include a summary of partnerships with institutions that are contributing to the same objective (FAO, NDCP, others).

e. Agence Francaise de Developpement: The AFD has been an early member and supporter of the AAA Initiative. More recently, the AFD has confirmed its engagement to work jointly with GoM and the World Bank in supporting the development of the AAA Initiative and the scaling-up of its activities with member countries. The AFD will present its perspective on the AAA Initiative and the role that it can play in the broader ecosystem of initiatives to accelerate the implementation of the NDCs and the adoption of climate-smart agriculture at regional level.

3. FORMAT and SUGGESTED THEMES TO BE COVERED BY SIDE-EVENT PARTICIPANTS:

a. A “TED-like” format is suggested for the presentations of this Side-Event, leaving optimum time for audience participation. A Moderator will keep the flow of presentations going and will engage debates among presenters and with members of the audience;

b. Themes Suggested for each Presenter: To help ensure the success of the Side-Event, in generating a debate that may lead to a level of convergence of views with respect to agricultural NDC implementation in the African Continent, each key participant will be invited to address a specific set of questions and themes as summarized below:
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Speech of Professor Mohamed Ait Kadi - 5 minutes:
› AAA, a pragmatic tool in the climate ecosystem

I. Introduction by Moderator (Ambassador Seyni Nafo) - 3 minutes:
› Welcome; key objectives above; link with COP21, COP22 and upcoming COP24; AU and AAI mandates;
› How the Side-Event will be executed 50/50 time allocation etc.

II. GoMorocco Representatives and AAA Coordination (Ms. Abir Lemseffer and Dr. Riad Balaghi) - 15 minutes:
› Achievements of AAA since COP22;
› Governance of AAA;
› Key lessons to date and instruments in implementation of agricultural NDCs;
› Short- and Medium-term objectives and opportunities for partnership.

III. Representatives of Governments of Current AAA African Partner - 10 minutes each (Mali, Cote d’Ivoire, Zambia):
› Status of agriculture NDC implementation - emerging role/lessons from AAA assistance;
› Priorities for NDC implementation with special emphasis on agriculture NDCs;
› How can AAA assist Government and its local partners in preparation of CSA investment Plans and speeding up/scaling up of agriculture NDC implementation.

IV. World Bank Representative (Mr. James Close, Director, Climate Change Group) - 5 minutes:
› Strategic significance of support to AAA with respect to overall climate action;
› Lessons learned globally on CSA, CSIPs and the mainstreaming of climate action into agricultural development;
› Moving ahead on AAA: priority on incremental financing - ODA and innovative financing.

V. AFD Representative (Dr. Jean-Luc François, Director of the Department “Ecological Transition and Natural resources”) - 5 minutes:
› AAA within the French support to global climate action;
› Specific priorities/initial steps of French support to AAA and partner countries;
› Expected lessons from AAA support.

VI. Moderated Debate - 30 minutes

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