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Consultation on the 2015 International Climate Change Agreement: Shaping international climate policy beyond 2020

Furthering sustainable intensification of agricultural production globally, and rapidly agreeing on the adaption of a SBSTA work program for agriculture are two important means by which the agriculture sector may contribute to efforts to tackle climate challenge.

Please find below the responses from the Danish Agriculture and Food Council (DAFC) to each of the nine questions asked for this consultation on the 2015 International Climate Agreement.

1. *How can the 2015 Agreement be designed to ensure that countries can pursue sustainable economic development while encouraging them to do their equitable and fair share in reducing global GHG emissions so that global emissions are put on a pathway that allows us to meet the below 2°C objective? How can we avoid a repeat of the current situation where there is a gap between voluntary pledges and the reductions that are required to keep global temperature increase below 2° C?*

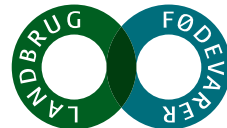
A legally binding agreement should commit countries to reducing emissions according to their individual capabilities. The concept of Common But Differentiated Responsibilities (CBDR) should be further developed and modernized to reflect current circumstances, and the annex 1/annex 2 country divide erased. JI and CDM should be continued. Also, countries or regions (for example the EU) should both multilaterally and bilaterally ensure a higher degree of reciprocity of goals and commitments, in order to advance CO2 reductions globally and close the 'ambition gap' between existing pledges and required reductions.

2. *How can the 2015 Agreement best ensure the contribution of all major economies and sectors and minimize the potential risk of carbon leakage between highly competitive economies?*

Additional science and knowledge is needed before the agriculture sector can be fully included into an international comprehensive agreement, and a SBSTA work program on agriculture is a prerequisite before any additional step should be made. Once it is adopted, its implementation should ensure a sound support to individual sectors. We recognize the UNFCCC SBSTA agreement on agriculture of 14 June as a step towards adopting a work program.

The Danish Agriculture & Food Council is a trade association representing agriculture, the food and agro industries. With annual exports in excess of DKK 120 billion and with 141.000 employees, we represent one of Denmark's most important business sectors.

Through innovation and promotion of the industry's contribution to society, we work to ensure a strong position for our members in Denmark as well as in international markets.



3. *How can the 2015 Agreement most effectively encourage the mainstreaming of climate change in all relevant policy areas? How can it encourage complementary processes and initiatives, including those carried out by non-state actors?*

The UNFCCC process and the work towards 2015 must include relevant stakeholders from all sectors. Knowledge and experience from relevant sectors should be included in the negotiations to a larger degree than is currently the case. It is commendable that the EU wishes to recognize and reinforce a broader sustainable development agenda, but it should be avoided that the focus on climate change is lost in the broader issue. If the EU wishes to include follow up to Rio +20, MDG's, SDG's and the CBD, it should also look to other relevant conventions such as UNCCD, UNWomen, etc. Complementary initiatives are crucial to mitigation actions but it is important not to lose focus on achieving a legally binding agreement by 2015. Also the UNFCCC should avoid duplicating efforts taking place elsewhere, such as the CCAC, GRA, GMI etc., and at the same time ensure and support the continuation of these initiatives.

Moreover, the 2015 Agreement should include a focus on climate change adaptation, including a focus on adaptation needs in global agriculture towards 2050. The impact of estimated population growth during this period, and consequently the need to secure increased food supply should be examined, and the FAO concept of sustainable intensive production promoted as a means to undertake both mitigation and adaptation efforts in the agricultural sector. In this respect, the development of key resource efficiency indicators might be anticipated.

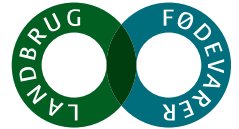
4. *What criteria and principles should guide the determination of an equitable distribution of mitigation commitments of Parties to the 2015 Agreement along a spectrum of commitments that reflect national circumstances, are widely perceived as equitable and fair and that are collectively sufficient avoiding any shortfall in ambition? How can the 2015 Agreement capture particular opportunities with respect to specific sectors?*

CBDR should be updated to reflect current circumstances, especially the development of some emerging economies. Additional science and knowledge is needed before agriculture is included in a new framework, and countries should therefore adopt a SBSTA work program on agriculture as soon as possible.

5. *What should be the role of the 2015 Agreement in addressing the adaptation challenge and how should this build on ongoing work under the Convention? How can the 2015 Agreement further incentivize the mainstreaming of adaptation into all relevant policy areas?*

The 2015 agreement should ideally be a comprehensive framework that avoids working in silos/tracks. A new way of work is increasingly needed, and for example agriculture could benefit from being treated as a sector where adaptation, mitigation and food security issues can be treated in a comprehensive manner.

Hence the 2015 Agreement should include a focus on adaptation needs in global agriculture towards 2050 that takes into account the impact of estimated population growth during this period. Consequently the need to secure increased food supply should be examined, and the FAO concept of sustainable intensive production should be promoted as a means to undertake both mitigation and adaptation efforts. Thus, the focus of mainstreaming should cover both mitigation and adaptation.



6. *What should be the future role of the Convention and specifically the 2015 Agreement in the decade up to 2030 with respect to finance, market-based mechanisms and technology? How can existing experience be built upon and frameworks further improved?*

Financing, market mechanisms and technology transfer are crucial elements in an upcoming agreement, and the Convention is well placed to address and mainstream these issues. Experience from the Kyoto Protocol should be utilized, including experience from other countries. Ideally, market mechanisms should be global, to reflect the global challenge of climate change.

7. *How could the 2015 Agreement further improve transparency and accountability of countries internationally? To what extent will an accounting system have to be standardised globally? How should countries be held accountable when they fail to meet their commitments?*

In order to reliably measure greenhouse gas reductions and compare efforts between Convention parties, a globally standardized system would be useful.

8. *How could the UN climate negotiating process be improved to better support reaching an inclusive, ambitious, effective and fair 2015 Agreement and ensuring its implementation?*

Revisiting the form of the annual technical meetings and the COP to make work more efficient and thereby progress more likely, could be one way of ensuring that agreement is reached by 2015. Also, decision making by consensus is not necessarily efficient. By strengthening the inclusion of stakeholders in the process a successful implementation could be increased.

9. *How can the EU best invest in and support processes and initiatives outside the Convention to pave the way for an ambitious and effective 2015 agreement?*

The EU and a few other countries with a miniscule contribution to global greenhouse gas emissions are alone in committing to a second period under the Kyoto Protocol. In general, leading by example is not necessarily successful. Especially if this leadership by example is at the expense of the European industry and businesses, it can potentially add to climate change. Therefore, a way of adding pressure is by making sure that a 2015 agreement includes all parties to the Convention.

Sincerely,

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