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NOTE

From: Dutch delegation
To: Council

Subject: Second Global Conference on Agriculture, Food Security and Climate Change:
"Hunger for Action" (Hanoi)
- Information from the Dutch delegation

Delegations will find, in Annex, a note from the Dutch delegation to be dealt with under "Any other business" at the Council (Agriculture and Fisheries) on 24/25 September 2012.

SECOND GLOBAL CONFERENCE ON AGRICULTURE, FOOD SECURITY AND CLIMATE CHANGE: “HUNGER FOR ACTION” (HANOI)

The Netherlands would like to inform the Council on the outcomes of the Second Global Conference on Agriculture, Food Security and Climate Change: “Hunger for Action” in Hanoi, Vietnam which was held from 3 until 7 September 2012. There is a clear link between the outcomes of this conference and the themes discussed during the very recent informal meeting of the Council of Ministers of Agriculture at Lefkosia, Cyprus, on September 11th, 2012.

The conference was organized by Vietnam, The Netherlands, the World Bank and the Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and was attended by more than 500 participants from governments, international and regional organizations and institutions, the private sector, non-governmental organizations, civil society, farmers and the scientific community. More than 50 Ministers and Vice-Ministers participated in the High Level Ministerial Round Table meeting on 6 and 7 September 2012. The conference was co-chaired by Vietnam and The Netherlands. It was a follow-up conference to the First Global Conference on Agriculture, Food Security and Climate Change which was held in The Hague from 31 October until 5 November 2010. The Netherlands informed the Council about the results of this conference on November 29th, 2010 (doc 16777/10 AGRI 494).

The Second Global Conference built on the paradigm shift which has taken place since 2009 (from the 17th session of the Commission on Sustainable Development in New York onwards) and through which agriculture is now considered to be at the heart of sustainable development, food security, poverty eradication and climate smart growth. It has been recognized widely by now that climate-smart agriculture (CSA) is an important approach to tackle the combined challenges of food security and nutrition, climate change and sustainable development. It means a triple win for farmers, because it increases productivity and farmer’s income; strengthens the resilience (adaptation) of ecosystems and livelihoods and reduces greenhouse gas emissions.

The contributions of the keynote speakers, business and country case presenters and the debate of the participants of the conference have focused on:

- determination of effective strategies and practices to scale-up the implementation of CSA as a driver of sustainable development and green growth and share information, experiences and good practices to this end among public, private and civil society stakeholders;
- mainstreaming of CSA within broader development goals;
- addressing of drivers and constraints of CSA development, with a particular focus on priorities for improving the enabling environment and for increasing private investment in agriculture and rural development at all levels and scales through the value chain;
- promoting a landscape approach, including enhancing linkages between agriculture and forestry;
- taking stock of implementation of CSA since November 2010.

The conference has resulted in the *Co-Chairs Summary* which includes *The Hanoi Communiqué. Key Messages*. The document *The Hanoi Communiqué. Key Messages* is annexed to this information note. It reflects the outcomes of the conference and the High Level Ministerial Round Table Meeting. It focuses on the way how to take forward CSA-policies with a farmer- and context-oriented approach; the use of the landscape-approach in implementing CSA-policies; risk-management and how to deal with market- and price-volatility; the key role of science, innovation and applied research and giving the farmer a central position; putting farmers and the private sector first in CSA-policies; creating innovative partnerships with the private sector in the driver's seat and the need for more investment in sustainable agriculture and in all aspects of CSA as well as strengthening access to finance for farmers. The need for urgent action was underlined: the Plan of Action from the The Hague Conference has been updated with the action provided at this conference. The Climate Smart Agriculture Knowledge Platform will operate as an interactive forum for exchange of best practices and lessons learned with a view of keeping action in this area going on and ensuring broad stakeholder involvement. The outcomes of the conference will contribute to and link with a variety of national, regional and international processes, such as the Rio +20 follow-up process, the work of the Committee on World Food Security (CFS), as well as the ongoing climate change negotiations under the UNFCCC. South-Africa has offered to host a third conference. Tonga has offered to host a fourth conference.

The Hanoi Communiqué

Key Messages

The Ministers, representatives of countries, practitioners, scientists, civil society, private sector, and all other participants present at the 2nd Global Conference on Agriculture, Food Security and Climate Change: “Hunger for Action” held in Hanoi, Vietnam from September 3rd to 7th, 2012 elaborated on key messages which are reflected in this Communiqué.

This Communiqué is a Co-Chairs’ Summary. It builds upon the Roadmap of Action of the 1st Global Conference on Agriculture, Food Security and Climate Change held in The Hague, The Netherlands from October 31st to November 5th, 2010;

It underscores that food security is and will remain a critical issue for the international community, given that global food production must rise by at least 60 to 70 percent in 2050 in order to feed 9 billion people. It underlines that there are also a diversity of options throughout the agricultural value chain to address these challenges.

It recognizes that food security, poverty, climate change, and sustainable development are closely linked, and can no longer be considered separately and underscoring that agricultural policies have an important role to play with regard to these challenges.

1. Climate-Smart Agriculture – A Forward-Looking Perspective

Important commitments and actions are being undertaken to tackle the challenges of food security and nutrition, poverty, climate change, and sustainable development, and climate-smart agriculture (CSA) is an important approach in this regard, as it aims to:

- Increase agricultural¹ productivity and farmers’ income; strengthen the resilience (adaptation) of ecosystems and livelihoods to climate change; and reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions;
- Take into consideration context-specific and locally-adapted actions and interventions, along the whole agricultural value chain;
- Strengthen the knowledge base on sustainable practices, as well as on financial and policy options that would enable countries and communities to meet their food, water and nutritional security and development goals;

¹ Agriculture includes crops, livestock, forestry, fisheries and aquaculture.

- Take a people-centered approach, keeping farmers and those most vulnerable, including women, at the heart of dialogue, decision-making and action, and empowering them as critical agents of change;
- Improve farmers' access to and awareness of available knowledge services, finance, agricultural inputs (such as seeds, fertilizers), rights (for example, land tenure rights) as well as increase the availability of these resources.

2. Future-Oriented Policies & Governance – New and Integrated Approaches

Relevant policies that are climate-resilient, water-smart, energy-efficient, reliant on diverse renewable energy sources, and that also promote inclusive green growth outcomes should be integrated into countries' overall development strategies, particularly those that:

- Encourage investments in a range of integrated approaches at various scales - such as landscape, watershed, and ecosystem approaches, sustainable oceans management approaches - that build synergies and manage trade-offs in an equitable way;
- Are harmonized and coordinated, and that remove obstacles that impede the implementation of existing and innovative CSA systems, technologies, and practices that are tailored to a country's or community's specific needs;
- Implement and scale-up innovative successful programs and best practices that combine sustainable agriculture, including land-use, forestry, and sustainable fisheries and aquaculture, and livestock, through local, regional, sub-regional, and national programs and institutions, as a matter of priority;
- Enhance integrated, systems-based approaches, strategies and institutional arrangements that span across different sectors, ministries and intergovernmental organizations;
- Significantly reduce losses in the food production and supply chain, including post-harvest losses and food waste by promoting sustainable food consumption and production patterns, including consumption choices;
- Promote and upscale sustainable food production practices, including those based on local and indigenous knowledge;
- Create incentives and engage youth, our future farmers, in the agricultural sector;

- Enhance the economic, social and ecological performance of the ocean’s ecosystems and living resources, with improved benefits captured by coastal and island developing countries; supporting healthier oceans that can contribute much more to global, economic growth and food security, more resilient to climate change.
- Address the sustainable management and protection of marine ecosystems (including coral reefs, mangroves, swamps) for food security and livelihoods, including addressing illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing;
- Implement and scale up actions towards restoring degraded land and addressing drought issues.

3. Managing Risks and Price Volatility – In a Changing Climate

Managing a wide variety of risks, especially in the current global situation of price volatility and increased climatic variability, calls for responsible and cooperative action by all actors to address the rise in food prices, through improved international coordination and information sharing, and the implementation of safety net programs and social protection networks to build resilience. Furthermore, steps need to be taken to:

- Promote policies and measures which contribute to well-functioning and stable markets, and the means to mitigate and manage the risks of price volatility of agricultural commodities;
- Improve market transparency and engage in frequent reporting of reliable statistics through successful models such as the Agriculture Market Information System (AMIS), which has been able to provide timely information and thereby improved the ability to coordinate responses to market uncertainties;
- Promote international cooperation and avoid unilateral measures, such as export bans;
- Elaborate the role of biofuel mandates and their relationship to food price volatility;
- Strengthen law enforcement and promote good governance at all levels to support sustainable agriculture, promote good governance, create an enabling environment, promote trade and combat and eradicate illegal practices and trade according to national and international legislation;
- Ensure that agricultural subsidies do not distort agricultural commodity prices/trade;

- Improve risk management for vulnerable communities, through instruments such as insurance schemes and safety net programs, as well as through improved access to weather information adapted to farmers' needs;
- Support low-income food-importing countries, with particular attention for vulnerable families and children;

4. Science, Innovation & Applied Research – Putting Farmers First

Both private and public involvement and investment is necessary to enhance (farm- and integrated landscape-level) agricultural research, extension services, training and education to enhance sustainable agriculture and to respond to climate change. Science-based policy needs to be further bolstered by:

- Stock-taking of existing sustainable practices, including local and indigenous knowledge, and farmers' innovation particularly where these might become relevant under future climate patterns;
- Getting existing technologies off the shelf and into the hands of (small-holder)farmers, thereby improving their access to information, technical knowledge – for example through ICT options;
- Compiling, developing, adapting and making available, approaches, practices and innovations that will allow producers (especially small holders) to sustainably increase productivity, reduce the need for external inputs, use and protect ecosystem services, and build resilience to the impacts of climate change;
- Creating platforms/learning hubs (such as the CSA Knowledge Platform²), and bringing together farmer groups/associations at the grassroots level to facilitate dialogue and knowledge-sharing, and to building capacity to innovate and adopt CSA practices (such as plant clinics);
- Investing in the research and development of non-proprietary plant varieties and breeds with the required nutritional, productivity, and disease and climate resistance traits needed by different producers;
- Assessing the potential trade-offs and synergies between adaptation and mitigation actions, taking into consideration the local circumstances and needs;

²<http://www.climatesmartagriculture.org>

- Developing and trialing techniques, policies, and practices to increase health and nutrition outcomes, reduce over-consumption, reduce consumption of products with a high environmental footprint, and reduce waste throughout the value chain
- Address the scientific, technical and socio-economic aspects of adaptation and mitigation in agriculture and their synergies, within international food security and climate change processes, for example, through further work under UNFCCC SBSTA.

5. Private Sector – Entrepreneurs as Drivers of Change

There is a need for a paradigm shift in the role of the private sector, and private-public partnerships in CSA, addressing production, nutrition, sustainable consumption, and waste efforts, through:

- Putting farmers (including small-scale farmers) in the drivers' seat by strengthening their position in the agricultural value chain, through capacity-building efforts and increasing their access to technologies;
- The institutionalization and scaling-up of private sector involvement in the agricultural value chain, keeping in mind smallholder farmer needs;
- Partnerships between the private sector and farmers/farmer groups and cooperatives to promote the production of high quality products.

6. Innovative Partnerships – Engaging all Stakeholders

Existing as well as new and innovative partnerships among farmers, governments, businesses, academia, civil society, and other stakeholders can play an important role in enhancing capacity and technology. In a bid to further encourage and strengthen such collaborative approaches, it is necessary to:

- Enable different stakeholders to resolve their diverse interests and goals, while working within a common (global) framework;
- Form interactive partnerships that can enhance knowledge-sharing between stakeholders, including scientists, farmers, private sector, civil society and governments, with participatory agenda-setting, for example, through initiatives such as the Global Research Alliance³;

³<http://www.globalresearchalliance.org/>

- Engage in inclusive processes, that consistently engage a variety of stakeholders across various levels, from community to global;
- Enable communities to be key players in generating and sharing solutions by developing knowledge platforms, in particular to promote South-South cooperation;
- Move from public-private to private-public partnerships;
- Develop reliable systems, with public-private partnership, to ensure inputs are cost effective, used efficiently and are environmentally friendly.

7. Investing in CSA – Towards Accessible Financing

There is a need to respond to the compelling and urgent need to invest more and better in sustainable agriculture, in order to enable the sector to achieve food security and nutrition for all as well as broader sustainable development goals in the face of climate change and degrading agro-ecosystems, through:

- Investing in all aspects of CSA including production, nutrition, sustainable consumption, and waste throughout the value chain
- Providing financial mechanisms and incentives which overcome short-term adoption barriers, provide payment for ecosystem services, and create positive drivers for sustainable agricultural production;
- Strengthen public and private co- investments for national and community efforts to implement context-appropriate sustainable agriculture practices, policies, as well as institutional and infrastructure strengthening;
- Shifting investment mechanisms away from sectoral approaches and towards integrated ones;
- Ensuring that financing for CSA adds value to broader sustainable development efforts and prioritizes adaptation concerns of small-scale farmers and vulnerable groups;
- Exploring various financing options and transaction costs (public, private, development, climate) for implementation of nationally and locally owned best-practice approaches and activities;

- Ensuring financing mechanisms such as REDD+ take into consideration, and appropriately address the fact that agriculture is a major driver of deforestation;
- The promotion of innovative ways to direct finance to all farmers, but especially small-scale farmers;
- Enabling small-holder access to financing from commercial banks and insurance companies (for example, by addressing the issue of stringent collateral requirements);
- Encouraging private sector investment by reducing or insuring against risk (for example, through funding transitional programs that enable eventual private sector investment).

8. The Way Forward – Linking with Ongoing Processes

The outcomes of the Second Global Conference on Agriculture, Food Security and Climate Change, in Hanoi will contribute to and link with a variety of national, regional and international processes, such as the Rio +20 follow-up process, the work of the Committee on World Food Security (CFS), as well as the ongoing climate change negotiations under the UNFCCC.

The outcomes will encourage and strengthen collaborative and innovative approaches. The outcomes will feed into existing, and stimulate new partnerships.

The outcomes, which consist of practical solutions as well as a rolling plan of action, will add to the momentum that has been building in the international community, to foster resilient and productive global food systems, and to promote food security and sustainable agricultural production.

Actions are urgently needed. The Plan of Action coming from The Hague, updated with action provided during the second Conference in Hanoi, provides a rolling agenda for action. The Climate Smart Agriculture Knowledge Platform will function as an interactive forum for exchange of ‘best practices and lessons learned’, which will ensure broad stakeholder involvement.

In line with this, participants welcomed the kind offer of the Government of South Africa to host the 3rd Agriculture, Food Security and Climate Change Conference in 2013, as a follow-up to the 1st and 2nd Conferences. Participants also welcomed the kind offer of the Government of the Kingdom of Tonga to host the 4th Conference, in the Pacific, covering the fourth region, after the Europe, Asia and Africa.
