



“Après Marrakech: Hope for climate-smart agricultural landscapes?”

On December 8th, 2016, EcoAgriculture Partners and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) hosted the first roundtable in our 2016-2017 series of Washington, DC roundtables on policy for integrated agricultural landscape management at the FAO North America Headquarters Office in Washington DC.

Introductions: **Barbara Ekwall**, Senior Liaison Officer at the FAO Liaison Office for North America, welcomed participants to the roundtable and introduced the new Director of the FAO Liaison Office for North America, **Vimlendra Sharan**. **Seth Shames**, Director of Policy and Markets at EcoAgriculture Partners, reviewed the agenda.

Panelist Presentations:

Mark Manis, Senior Policy Advisor at the United States Department of Agriculture, opened the discussion by giving an overview of the negotiations in Marrakech. He highlighted important areas of common interest among the parties, including the desire for a COP decision, promoting implementation, knowledge sharing and exchanging information, coordinating and working with other mechanisms within the UNFCCC, an emphasis on the importance of food security, and establishing a knowledge sharing hub. He also discussed how differences lead to the emergence of two competing texts that slowed negotiations, one led by G77 countries, and one led by the European Union. The areas of diversion included references to the principles and provisions of the conventions, differing prioritization on adaptation versus mitigation, and particular references to finance and trade. The texts were combined into one, but opinions diverge on whether it will facilitate a way forward at the next COP in Bonn. He concluded that COP 22 witnessed robust discussion and a frank exchange of ideas, but the parties could not get beyond some fundamental differences.

Martin Frick, Director of the Climate, Energy, and Tenure Division at FAO, discussed his perceptions of COP 22. Although the results of the U.S. election sent a shockwave through the negotiations, it was followed by a nearly unanimous statement that what was achieved in Paris is irreversible, and that the Paris agreement remains the roadmap forward. An observation he felt was particularly interesting is that the COP are increasingly becoming a space to promote climate action, by both state and non-state actors, as they can provide a platform to present successful implementation, creating positive energy that in turn

After COP22: Meeting Notes

influences negotiations and political support. He highlighted that Marrakech succeeded in bringing the agriculture sector to climate talks, and that although there is still a divide between mitigation and adaptation, the parties are slowly coming to an understanding that agricultural policies can address both. Finally, he noted that COP 23 organized by Fiji will bring agriculture to the center of attention on a global scale, and that the COP being run by a small island state represents an important shift.

Ernie Shea, President of Solutions from the Land, emphasized that he sees a path forward for the U.S. and North America. He highlighted the importance of communication around climate change in the U.S., and that climate smart agriculture must be framed around issues that are important to farmers and benefit their interests. He emphasized that we do not need to talk directly about climate change to advance climate action, as we can focus on adaptive management, sustainable intensification, resiliency, adaptability, risk reduction, and other issues that the agriculture community is ready to have conversations about and that are less polarizing in the current U.S. political climate. He discussed examples of progress that have been made in North Carolina, Ohio, and Iowa, and suggested that the path forward with the incoming Trump administration will be to emphasize how adaptation will enhance the economic viability of agriculture.

Group Discussion: Several topics were addressed during the group discussion, including:

- Potential opportunities to improve the draft text before COP 23 through focused discussion prior to Bonn
- Divergent opinions in Marrakech over how finance should be addressed
- Lack of discussion of the specifics of the Intended Nationally Determined Contributions (INDCs), despite many countries including an agriculture component
- Lack of discussion of how agriculture would fit into national greenhouse gas accounting systems
- Mechanisms by which those who are not directly involved in the negotiations can interact with and influence the process in a useful way, including:
 - Action Days at COP 23 where leading initiatives will have the opportunity to gain visibility
 - Emphasizing success stories
 - Achieving action outside of the political sphere; for example, tying in private sector companies with a commitment to reduce food waste
 - Harnessing public support to drive the agenda
 - Communicating and engaging in a way that is directly relevant for people and addresses issues they are facing
- Importance of knowledge sharing across the world; for example, the Global Alliance for Climate Smart Agriculture (GACSA); farmer-to farmer connectivity can change people's mindset
- Environmental impact assessment as a potential tool to help shift towards climate-smart agriculture
- Oceans becoming increasingly important in the negotiations
- Ways to raise the profile of cross-cutting, peripheral issues that aren't priorities for individual countries, including:
 - Technical presentations and workshops
 - Finding ways to advance progress outside the negotiations; for example, connecting with communities that face these issues, and advancing work through other platforms
- Importance and dynamic of interplay between action and negotiations:
 - Important to advance progress both within and outside the negotiations
 - Move strategies into common practice and form coalitions to bring ideas into SBSTA
 - Can only make advances in negotiations with success stories on the ground, as well as positive pressure
 - Actions on the ground may move faster than negotiations

Updates: A number of participants notified the group of recent and upcoming activities, events, publications, etc.

After COP22: Meeting Notes

- A new knowledge management program of GEF is bringing partners together to share knowledge and experience (contact: Yasemin Biro, ybiro@thegef.org)
- The Mountain Institute is looking to hire a [Program Director](#) for their Mountain Ecosystem-based Adaptation program. For more information, contact Andrew Taber, ataber@mountain.org
- [The North American Climate Smart Agriculture Alliance \(NACSAA\)](#) is a producer-led platform focused on utilizing climate-smart agriculture strategies to enhance the adaptive capacity of North American Agriculture.
- The Association for International Agriculture and Rural Development (AIARD) will hold their [53rd annual conference](#) in Washington, D.C., in June 2017.
- The Anchor Coalition is a new non-profit that uses technological solutions to link climate change, water-energy-food security, global health, and women's empowerment through an integrated place-based and community-driven approach. More information can be found at anchorcoalition.org
- The Mullion Group just completed a [program](#) providing support to the Clinton Foundation as it has worked with the Government of Kenya to develop and implement the System for Land Based Emissions Estimation in Kenya ([SLEEK](#))
- The [Living Landscape Observer](#) provides observations and information on the emerging fields of landscape scale conservation, heritage preservation, and sustainable community development, and offers a newsletter.
- [Daemeter](#) is currently working to implement jurisdictional approaches for sustainable palm oil.
- The Landscapes for People, Food and Nature Initiative is organizing the [African Landscapes Dialogue: Integrated Landscape Management in Practice](#), March 6-9, 2017. Registration is now open, and additional partner organizations are welcome to [contact Melissa Thaxton](#) with the LPFN secretariat at EcoAgriculture Partners.
- The [International Association for Impact Assessment \(IAIA\) seventeenth conference](#), in Montréal, Canada, April 4-7, will focus on impact assessment's contribution to the global efforts in addressing climate change. Registration is now open and early bird rates run through January 13th.

Notes prepared by Michelle Sims of EcoAgriculture Partners.

Participants

Brenda Barrett, Living Landscape Observer
Salome Begeladze, IUCN
Mark Bershatsky, Climate Advisors
Yasemin Biro, GEF
Gabriela Burian, Monsanto
Barbara Ekwall, FAO
Martin Frick, FAO (remotely)
Salah Hakim, Independent Consultant
Cate Jackson, Nexus Media
JoAnn Jones, Prince George's County Public Schools
Melinda Kimble, UN Foundation
Paul Koch
Claudia Koerbler, FAO
Florence Landsberg, WRI
John Lewis, Terra Global Capital, LLC
Breanna Lujan, Environmental Defense Fund
Rachel Lupberger, CNFA
Mark Manis, USDA (remotely)

Kay Quam, EcoAgriculture Partners Board Member
Hyon Rah, Anchor Coalition
Debbie Reed, DRD Associates
Geoff Roberts, The Mullion Group
Richard Rortvedt, CATIE
Vimlendra Sharan, FAO
Nikki Schulman, Rare
Seth Shames, EcoAgriculture Partners
Ernie Shea, Solutions from the Land
Michelle Sims, EcoAgriculture Partners
Emily Spiegel, Duke Environmental Law and Policy Clinic
Andrew Taber, The Mountain Institute
Gabriel Thoumi, Climate Advisors
Jeanette Tramhel, OAS/IAIA
Robert Zuehlke, Daemeter