



# Advancing on monitoring and evaluation for adaptation in the agriculture sectors

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## The global policy context

At global level, there is increasing recognition of the importance of adaptation, related monitoring and evaluation (M&E), and the linkages to agriculture. The Paris Agreement (UNFCCC COP21) put forward a global goal on adaptation for the first time. The Agreement makes specific reference to M&E for adaptation: *Each Party shall, as appropriate, engage in adaptation planning processes and the implementation of actions [...], which may include: (d) Monitoring and evaluating and learning from adaptation plans, policies, programmes and actions* (Decision 1/CP.21. Art.7.9.).

Two years later, the COP23 reached a decision on next steps for agriculture within the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) – the Koronivia Joint Work on Agriculture. The Koronivia decision identifies ‘*Methods and approaches for assessing adaptation, adaptation co-benefits and resilience*’ as a key topic.

## National level M&E of adaptation

Whilst only a few countries have developed national adaptation M&E frameworks to date, several countries have stated intentions to develop such frameworks in their Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) to the UNFCCC.<sup>1</sup> National-level M&E of adaptation can eventually contribute to reporting national contributions to the UNFCCC, including towards the global goal on adaptation defined under the Paris Agreement. It can also help countries report on their achievement of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), in particular SDG-13 “Climate Action”, and the Sendai Framework’s seven specific targets and indicators.

As a growing number of governments are starting to develop and implement adaptation plans and policies, including through their National Adaptation Plans (NAPs) formulation and implementation processes, as agreed by the parties to the UNFCCC, the M&E of adaptation at the national level is gaining importance. Therefore, M&E can be carried out not only to comply with national and international reporting requirements, but also to enhance learning on adaptation; identify the most effective policy and programme

interventions; apply flexible management of adaptation under climate uncertainty; and to increase accountability to national decision-makers and donors.

To date, there is very limited experience in building M&E systems for adaptation planning at the sectoral level, including for the agriculture sectors. The exceptions are a number of examples of this being done in the context of an overall national M&E system for adaptation, where a few prioritized sectors have been included with sector-specific data and indicators.

**“ Not everything that can be counted counts, and not everything that counts can be counted „**

Albert Einstein

## NAP-Ag contribution to advance on tracking adaptation in the agriculture sectors

The *Integrating Agriculture in National Adaptation Plans Programme* (NAP-Ag) is providing technical support to countries wishing to improve on gender-sensitive M&E of adaptation in the agriculture sectors. NAP-Ag will also launch a Technical Guidance Note on “*Strengthening M&E for adaptation in the agriculture sectors*” that focuses on how adaptation can be integrated into existing agriculture sectors M&E frameworks, whilst recognizing the importance of considering how agriculture sectors themselves can be integrated into national adaptation M&E frameworks, where these exist. M&E of adaptation at the sector level can include: i) M&E of a key sectoral policy or strategy related to climate change adaptation, or ii) M&E of adaptation in a portfolio of sector-wide programmes and projects.

<sup>1</sup> Vallejo, L. (OECD), 2017. *Insights from national adaptation monitoring and evaluation systems*, Climate Change Expert Group, Paper No.2017 (3), OECD, 2017.



The document provides an overview of the potential steps (see **Table 1**) needed in designing an adaptation M&E framework and plan for the agriculture sectors. It interprets how the initial steps or building blocks proposed by the GIZ<sup>2</sup> with regards to developing national adaptation M&E systems could be applied for developing an adaptation M&E system specifically for the agriculture sectors. For each step, a set of guiding questions are provided; key

stakeholders to engage and actions to undertake are proposed; and resources for further reading are suggested. All steps are targeted for M&E units and technical staff working on adaptation in Ministries of Agriculture. Early and final steps should engage a broader range of key stakeholders working on adaptation planning at the national level. Steps can be done in sequence, in parallel, or in a different order.

**Table 1**

**Steps for developing an M&E system for adaptation in the agriculture sectors**

Step 1	Understanding the policy context
Step 2	Developing a shared understanding of the adaptation challenge, goals and the theory of change behind integrating adaptation in the agriculture sectors
Step 3	Defining the purpose and focus of the M&E framework
Step 4	Developing an M&E framework for adaptation in the agriculture sectors
Step 5	Identifying indicators to track adaptation in the agriculture sectors
Step 6	Identifying the sources and type of data and information required for each indicator
Step 7	Operationalising M&E for decision-making on adaptation in the agriculture sectors

**Step 1** identifies the entry points for developing an M&E system for adaptation in the agriculture sectors. This includes assessing what the main climate change impacts the country is expected to face are, in particular for the agriculture sectors. **Step 2** aims for a shared understanding between key stakeholders of what they are hoping to achieve in terms of a long-term adaptation goal or change for the agriculture sectors, and how they hope to achieve it. The adaptation goal may be informed by current policies, for example an Agriculture Development Strategy, Climate Smart Agriculture Strategy, National Climate Change Strategy or NAP.

**Step 3** aims to understand the purpose of the adaptation M&E framework for the agriculture sectors, tailoring it to the context with regards to what aspects of adaptation are to be measured (process, outcomes or impacts) and who will make use of the M&E results. Under **Step 4**, an M&E framework is developed to provide a logical picture of how any project, programme or policy on adaptation in the agriculture sectors will work to achieve its goal(s). This includes consideration of appropriate M&E tools to use, such as use of impact evaluation or adaptation specific M&E tools. **Step 5** is the next step in completing the monitoring and evaluation framework is selecting gender-sensitive indicators for each level of the M&E framework, whilst in **Step 6** the data and information needs are defined, building on information already available in the agriculture sectors.

Finally, in **Step 7**, an M&E Plan is developed to operationalise the M&E framework. This includes the scale to be used, the points at which to make observations, the frequency with which to record observations and who is responsible for collecting the data. It

also considers how M&E data is analysed and used to inform ongoing and future sectoral and national adaptation planning and decision-making at both operational and policy levels. In terms of decision-making, ideally, M&E results feed back into an iterative planning process on adaptation at both sectoral (in agriculture ministry) and national (into national adaptation planning processes, such as NAPs) level and, where relevant, into national development processes, which in turn might feed into reporting on SDGs.

The Guidance Note is accompanied by a Training Package composed of several modules, presentations, exercises and case studies to be delivered during a three- to four-day workshop. The intended output is a draft adaptation M&E framework/system and work plan for the agriculture sectors to be validated through a consultative process.

**Ongoing country work on M&E for adaptation**

The NAP-Ag programme is supporting selected countries in developing M&E frameworks for adaptation in the agriculture sectors. In Colombia, Uruguay and Viet Nam, the programme is in the process of reviewing and developing sex-disaggregated indicators to track adaptation in the agriculture sectors based on key data collection processes within the relevant Ministries; in Kenya efforts are ongoing to develop an M&E System to monitor implementation of the Kenya Climate Smart Agriculture Framework Programme (CSAFP); while in Uganda a Performance Monitoring Framework for the NAP for the Agriculture sectors has been developed.

<sup>2</sup> See Price-Kelly, H., Hammill, A., Dekens, J. (IISD) and Leiter, T. and Olivier, J. (GIZ), 2015. *Developing national adaptation monitoring and evaluation systems: A guidebook*, Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ), Bonn and Eschborn.

**For more information, please visit:**

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