

INFORMATION ON THE PREPARATION OF THE CLIMATE CHANGE FRAMEWORK LAW IN HUNGARY

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DETAILS FROM THE COPENHAGEN ACCORD

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We underline that climate change is one of the greatest challenges of our time. We emphasise our strong political will to urgently combat climate change in accordance with the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities.

We agree that deep cuts in global emissions are required according to science, and as documented by the IPCC Fourth Assessment Report with a view to reduce global emissions so as to hold the increase in global temperature below 2 degrees Celsius.

Adaptation to the adverse effects of climate change and the potential impacts of response measures is a challenge faced by all countries. Enhanced action and international cooperation on adaptation is urgently required.

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The Hungarian Parliament established the National Council for Sustainable Development in 2008. The Council has 32 members including policy makers of the governing and opposition parties, as well as the representatives of employers, trade unions, the chambers of industry and agriculture, NGOs, the Council of Rectors, the churches, and the scientific community.

The President of the Council is the speaker of Parliament. The Council has four co-presidents, of whom I am happy to represent the scientific community.

Parliament requested the Council to complete the following tasks:

- Prepare a report on the state of sustainability in Hungary by 31 Dec 2009. The report has been completed, and its title is: In Search for the Future.
- Develop the draft of the Climate Change Framework Law by 28 February 2010. The Council has prepared the draft and submitted it to Parliament.
- Develop the National Sustainable Development Strategy by 30 June 2011.

The Council prepared the draft of the Climate Change Framework Law by the end of January 2010. The bill was jointly submitted to Parliament by Council members who are governmental and opposition members of Parliament.

Parliament was only sitting for 3 days in February. On a plenary session the representatives of the four parties proposed to approve the framework law.

Due to time constraints, the draft was let for final discussion and voting to the new Parliament after the upcoming general elections.

The new Parliament will be established in mid-May 2010.

Of the many tasks of the Climate Change Framework Law and the National Strategy for Sustainable Development, there are several ones that can be addressed by agriculture research.

The most important themes of the Climate Change Framework Law are the following:

- The rate of GHG emission reduction by 2020 and 2050 (output control)
- An overall reduction of fossil energy use (input control)
- Efficiency improvement, economic (sparing) use of energy
- Increasing the capacity of renewable energy sources
- Review and harmonization of regulatory systems
- Set up a new Climate Protection Fund

Recent emission level

Base year: 1990	total emissions: 99,1 million metric tonne CO2 equivalents
Base year: 2005	total emissions: 80,3 million metric tonne CO2 equivalents

Planned emission level for 2020:

60 million tonne CO2 equivalents by 2020, which is equivalent to planned rate of reduction of

40% relative to 1990
25,5% relative to 2005

Planned emission level for 2050:

20 million tonne CO2 equivalents by 2050, which is equivalent to planned rate of reduction of

80% relative to 1990
75% relative to 2005

From this planned rate of reduction of 40% already performed 30%.

The most important linkages for agriculture are:

- Reduction of abiotic stresses
- Monitoring of the amount of carbon that is permanently sequestered by forests
- Contributing to the increase of renewable energy sources
- Protection of soil and water resources
- Protection of biodiversity

The implementation of the Climate Change Framework Law requires exceptional economic and social efforts.

New economic and energy systems must be established in about 40 years.

Agriculture can play an important role in this process.