

## At the Warsaw Poland Climate Change Talks

# Agriculture not part of agenda at Climate change *Indaba*

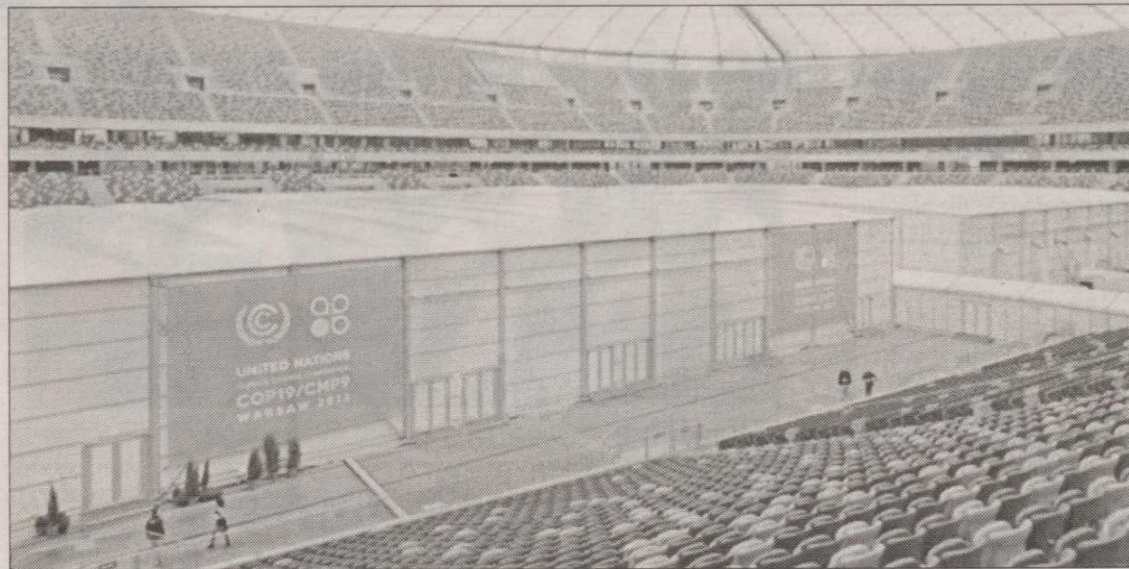
Observer Reporter  
Warsaw, Poland

**THE sidelining of agriculture in the climate change negotiations, which started almost two decades ago is a huge disservice to African countries whose two thirds of the population depend on farming.**

As the 19<sup>th</sup> Conference of the Parties (COP19) of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) concluded its first part of its fortnight-long conference last weekend, it was clear that agriculture was not part of the agenda.

The talks at the Polish capital of Warsaw already suggest that “farmers continue to be sidelined for yet another year,” said Annette Englund Friis, the manager of Climate Change Policy Danish Agriculture and Food Council.

She wondered why the negotiators from 194 countries meeting at the Warsaw National Stadium are failing to take responsibility to help farmers adapt while missing an



**GREEN WORLD: People walk past special halls set on the pitch of the National Stadium, the venue of the UN Climate Change Conference, in Warsaw, Poland, yesterday. Climate envoys from rich countries, emerging economies and low-lying nations that are at risk of being swamped by rising seas will meet in Poland today for the next two weeks to lay the groundwork for a new global warming pact. (AP)**

force, does not help them find jobs.

In fact, even the government is now diversifying the economy by focusing more on other sectors such as mining and tourism owing to the reduced yield from the agri-

planet continues to shoot up.

The African Group of Negotiators (AGN) Chairperson, Emmanuel Dlamini, admitted that discussions on agriculture had been postponed yet again to COP20 next year in

pollution while increasing the yield from the fields.

Time is running out because in 2015, in Paris, France, countries are supposed to reach a global agreement on climate change that will

continue producing food,” Sibanda told a press conference at the Warsaw University.

There was a glimmer of hope in June when the United Nations Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice (SBSTA) invited countries to submit their views on the current state of scientific knowledge on enhancing the adaptation to climate change impacts.

### Solutions

While the agriculture community received the news with excitement, Friis said contact groups that would discuss possible solutions and determine next steps had been blocked, “for reasons that remain unclear to even those of us in attendance at the negotiations.”

And what makes these negotiations very difficult is that while technocrats might have the understanding and willingness to embrace the voices of those calling for action, decisions are taken at a very high political level.

According to the director of Centre for International Forestry Research, Peter Holmgren, a lot of patience was needed in these negotiations because political will at a high level was needed to facilitate progress.

“We cannot expect miracles from the negotiation floor,” said Holmgren.

Another challenge is that negotiators go to the discussions carrying a clear mandate from their govern-