



June 2018

POLICY ADVISORY NOTE

Climate Smart Agriculture Policy Advocacy - Zambia

Climate change is not a future reality; its impacts are already felt by the current generation. In view of the climate change challenges – both adaptation and mitigation – faced by the agricultural sector, bold actions are needed within the next decade. We therefore need urgent and transformative actions, embraced by all stakeholders.

On the 29th of May 2018, the Agricultural Consultative Forum (ACF), as the Zambian node hosting institution of the Food Agriculture and Natural Resources Policy Analysis Network (FANRPAN), with funding from CARE International, held a Climate Smart Agriculture National Policy Dialogue.

The aim of the National Policy Dialogue was to bring together state and non-state stakeholders to review elements included in the work of the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice and the Subsidiary Body for Implementation to jointly address issues related to agriculture. The dialogue thus builds on the United Nations Conference on

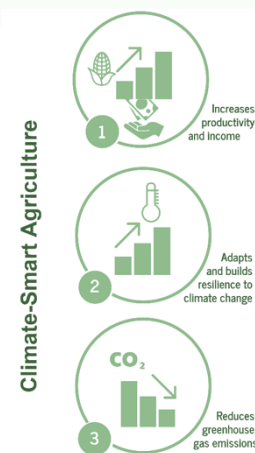
Climate Change held between 30th April and 10th May 2018 in Bonn Germany.

The Fifth Assessment of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) has shown that global climate change is already damaging crops and undermining food production capacity in much of the world, particularly in poorer countries (IPCC 2014). Research has also shown that climate change will continue to negatively affect food security, nutrition and well-being in several ways: changing rainfall patterns, changing weather patterns, increasing spread of disease and decreased availability of arable land.

Zambia has identified sustainable agriculture as one of its three core pillars for mitigating climate change and one of 13 priority actions identified for adapting to climate change.

Zambia has several policies whose goal is to improve food security at both household and national levels, and also to conserve scarce agricultural and land

resources for the future – this includes the Second National Agricultural Policy (2016-2020). There is currently no single formalized climate-smart agriculture policy or strategy in place; however, Zambia's Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) to the Paris Agreement on Climate Change clearly illustrates that Climate-Smart Agriculture (CSA) is recognized as an important priority in both mitigation and adaptation.



Priorities for the Agricultural Development

In this context, climate-smart agriculture (CSA) becomes vital from a food security and developmental perspective.

Methods and approaches for assessing adaptation, adaptation co-benefits and resilience

For adaptation to be successful, it should ideally be undertaken within a comprehensive and iterative process of social, institutional and organizational learning and change. Assessing the costs and benefits of adaptation options is an

important part of this process, assisting adaptation planners and practitioners to identify the most appropriate interventions for reducing vulnerability, enhancing adaptive capacity and building resilience.

Soil health, improved soil carbon, and soil fertility under grassland and

cropland as well as integrated systems, including water management

Soil carbon – the “carbon beneath our feet” – could help mitigate significant greenhouse gas emissions, while also supporting food production and adaptation to climate change. There is need to incentivise African farmers to

manage soil carbon. In addition, there is need for increased investment in soil rehabilitation in line with the Malabo Declaration on Accelerated Agricultural Growth and Transformation for Shared Prosperity and Improved Livelihoods, acknowledging that smallholders are already investing significantly in agricultural development and the sustainable management of soils. In this context, agribusiness can play a facilitating role for increased incomes and job creation.

Improved nutrient use and manure management towards sustainable and resilient agricultural systems

Farmers require increased access to inorganic fertilizers and improved seeds as well as support to increase organic inputs from numerous sources, including nitrogen-fixing trees and compost

manure. An opportunity exists to meet the future food security needs while using Nitrogen (N) fertilizers efficiently. Efficient use of N fertilizers requires combining balanced and appropriate nutrient inputs with good agronomic practices, such as the use of improved, high-yielding crop varieties that are adapted to local conditions and needs, application and recycling of available organic matter, water harvesting and irrigation under drought stress conditions, and lime application on soils with acidity-related problems.

Improved livestock management systems

The interactions between crops and livestock can be managed to contribute to environmentally sustainable intensification, diversification and risk management. There is relatively little

information on how these interactions may be affected by changes in climate and climate variability. This is a serious gap, because these interactions may offer some buffering capacity to help smallholders adapt to climate change.

Socioeconomic and food security dimensions of climate change in the agricultural sector

It is the poor who first bear the brunt of climate change impacts and at the same time have little or no capacity to withstand or adapt to climate change. Therefore, adaptation must be development-oriented to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), in particular, SDG number one (SDG 1), i.e. to “*End poverty in all its forms everywhere*” for all people.

Key Messages and Recommendations

The Climate Smart Agriculture National Policy Dialogue came up with the following key recommendations:

Low adoption of CSA technologies among small scale farmers

- i). There is need to consult the available technology needs assessment documents for adaptation and mitigation for Zambia, with a view of testing the CSA technologies.
- ii). There is need to harmonize key messages from different players, harmonizing and developing a standard minimum package of “non-negotiable” technologies that must be used by all service providers of CSA.
- iii). There is need to provide evidence-based research on technologies being adopted or not and why, in order to minimize or dispel the cultural and traditional norms and perceptions.
- iv). Government should provide incentives for effective implementation of CSA technologies, such as payment for ecosystem services, carbon trading, and insurance.

Inadequate resources and prolonged process for resource mobilization and access

- i). Government should facilitate the establishment of more local accreditation entities, e.g. Zambia National Commercial Bank (ZANACO), Development Bank of Zambia (DBZ), Atlasmara (formerly Finance Bank), etc. besides the only current one National Designated Authority (NDA), i.e. Ministry of National Development Planning.
- ii). The NDA should create country-wide awareness on the funding sources for climate change, making information

available up to district level. There is also need to decentralize the NDA offices to the provincial level.

- iii). Build capacity of farmers and CSOs in proposal development for resource mobilisation. There is need to enhance proposal writing capacities backed by evidence that can be scaled-up to other areas

Limitations in the Institutional arrangements or frameworks for CSA

- i). There is need to address the gaps that exist among the players, e.g. poor coordination of policies to address CSA among key line ministries/departments (crops, livestock, forest, fisheries), in order to holistically implement CSA. It is therefore proposed that the created CSA Alliance be formalised/recognised as a platform that could bring all players together to address CSA issues. All players should affiliate to the CSA Alliance.
- ii). There is need to provide space to accommodate Non-State Actors in the existing formal institutional framework of the Council of Ministers, Committee of Permanent Secretaries, and Technical Committee.
- iii). Decentralize the current structure of the Climate Change Institutional Framework to include district and ward representation.