



Formulate equitable climate-smart agricultural policies

Summary

- »» A robust, resilient, and enabling policy environment is critical to take agriculture innovations to scale at national or regional level.
- »» Policy formulation processes that consider climate variability, socioeconomic and environmental shocks require participatory, inclusive, and explorative scenarios to guide decision making.
- »» Learning alliances, or multi-stakeholder platforms, foster policy dialogue at community, district and high-level planning stages and lead to integrated, coordinated, and gender-responsive policy recommendations.
- »» Decision makers at legislative and top-policy level can consider these recommendations in creating equitable, climate-resilient policy.



Outcome

Learning alliances are effective in improving skills for adaptation planning, promoting climate change policies that are more resilient and gender-responsive and helping provide a coordinated climate change engagement.

What?

Policy makers can formulate more integrated, gender-responsive policies if they have accurate information about the challenges men and women in rural communities face and the barriers to their adoption of climate-resilient solutions. They can also earmark adequate resources when they have identified a set of possible options that can be implemented. Processes that engage experts from diverse sectors at every level of the policy-making process increase the technical capacity of policy makers. This process is usually facilitated through learning alliances and requires that policy formulation is participatory, scenario-guided, and engages stakeholders at every level – from grass roots to top management – through dialogue about climate and gender related issues.

Why?

The last decade has seen considerable progress in building governance and policy-making systems to enable effective climate change adaptation and mitigation in Eastern Africa. Yet there are still four key constraints to this process:



»» 1. *Lack of a coordinated policy mix and response to climate change*

Often, there is lack of clarity about how agencies, ministries, and other government actors will together achieve specific goals with allocated funds. While agriculture, natural resource, and climate change policies usually map out key actors and their roles within a specific sector, overall coordination across sectoral institutions is low. Links between central and local governance are often weak. For example, district level policy actors and NGOs are rarely meaningfully involved in national-level policy formulation.

»» 2. *Limited technical capacity*

Insufficient skills among NGO workers and government officials – and limited knowledge about best CSA practices and how they impact men and women differently – can make long-term planning in gender and climate-responsive policy difficult to get right. Limited technical capacity and a lack of evidence can lead to poor strategic planning and ineffective policies.

»» 3. *No clear gender and climate change implementation strategies*

Most policies include gender considerations to some extent but they are often superficially dealt with and policies don't usually include clear implementation strategies. There is also insufficient knowledge of gender and climate issues at all levels of the policy planning process.

»» 4. *Allocation of funds*

In general, funds allocated for local adaptation to climate change are limited. District-level officials report that they receive insufficient funds from central governments, which limits them from targeting and articulating adaptation needs. Budgets allocated for gender at sub-county and district level are also often low, with annual fluctuations and differences between estimated and actual budgets. Lack of sufficient funds for climate and gender related issues often hinders the identification and scaling up of climate-smart technologies.

How?

The CCAFS-IFAD [Increasing food security and farming system resilience in East Africa through wide-scale adoption of climate-smart agricultural practices](#) and the [Policy Action for Climate Change Adaptation \(PACCA\)](#) projects in Uganda and Tanzania linked and informed actors at different levels of the policy planning process about effective, evidence-based, climate-smart agricultural practices. This resulted in improved formulation processes of gender-responsive climate change policies and provided local farmers with a tailored set of realistic, climate-smart adaptation measures they could adopt.



CREATING AN ENABLING POLICY ENVIRONMENT TO SCALE UP CSA

- More resilient gender responsive policy
- Improved skills for adaptation planning
- Improved climate change policy formulation and implementation
- Coordinated action
- Multiple voices heard and inclusive policy



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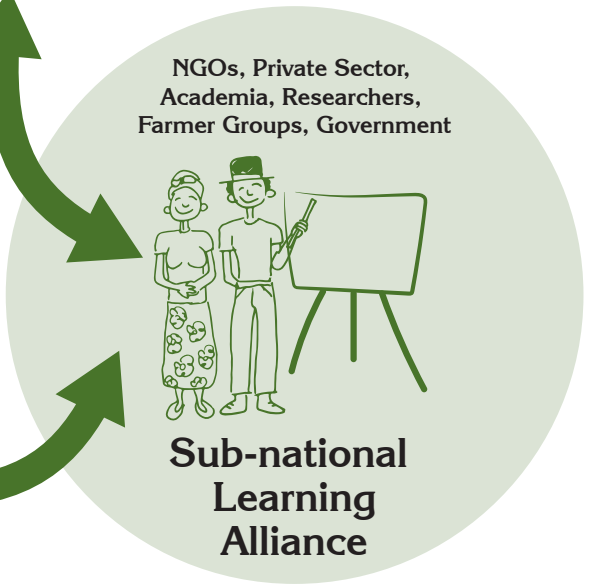
**HIGH LEVEL
POLICY
ENGAGEMENT**

- Integrating CSA priorities in development plans
- Raising awareness of climate impacts at community level
 - Raising awareness of gender constraints to CSA adoption
 - Incorporating action points to address CSA at national level

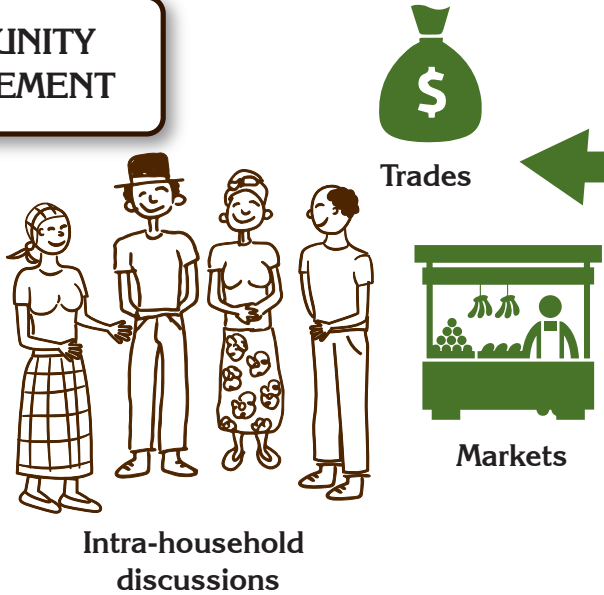


**SUB-COUNTY,
WARD, DISTRICT,
PLANNING
PROCESS**

- Integrating CSA priorities in development plans
- Implementing climate activities in policy
- Incorporating social constraints to CSA adoption in policy
- Including gender considerations in CSA policy



**COMMUNITY
ENGAGEMENT**



- UNDERSTANDING:**
- How climate change affects communities
 - How climate change affects natural resource use in communities
 - What crops, animals and assets are affected by climate change
 - Key constraints and priorities for adapting to climate change

1

The climate change learning alliance model

- Often, there is lack of clarity about how agencies, ministries, and other government actors will together achieve specific goals with allocated funds. While agriculture, natural resource, and climate change policies usually map out key actors and their roles within a specific sector, overall coordination across sectoral institutions is low. Links between central and local governance are often weak. For example, district level policy actors and NGOs are rarely meaningfully involved in national-level policy formulation.
- LAs function as engagement and coordination channels, linking national, district and local-level members. District members have been increasingly invited to attend national policy events to share their experiences.
- Some LAs have successfully attracted climate funding from district budgets, because adaptation and CSA priorities were integrated in district development plans. They also attracted other development stakeholders to join them.
- LA members can identify adaptation priorities and integrate them in district development plans, directly influencing climate policy at district level.

2

Participatory scenario-guided policy formulation

- Scenario-guided policy formulation builds capacity among local government officials who must down scale climate and socioeconomic scenarios to their own context to develop climate resilient policy at local level.
- Officials can replicate the knowledge and skills acquired when developing or reviewing other policies.

3

Participatory & inclusive policy formulation

- The LA process bridges coordination gaps, making policy formulation more “bottom up”, by involving grassroots, district and local-level dialogue. Resulting policy guidelines significantly integrate the needs of farming communities and other local actors.
- The process has also been adopted in other sectors, leading to more inclusive policy making.

4

Engaging & influencing high-level policy

- The LA process has led to recognition of gender responsive policy and budget implementation at parliamentary level in Tanzania and Uganda, influencing high-level policy strategies to mainstream gender responsiveness.
- Evidence has been used at national and subnational level in Tanzania and Uganda to develop strategies to improve gender integration in climate adaptation.

More information

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Supporting Materials



Video

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=er1j9R_DKxQ



Blog

Policy engagement blog:
<https://ccafs.cgiar.org/blogs/related/policy-action-for-climate-change-adaptation-in-east-africa>

E. Ampaire, Acosta, M., Mwongera, C., Läderach, P., Eitzinger, A., Lamanna, C., Mwangi, C., Shikuku, K., Twyman, J., Winowiecki, L. 2017.

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Investing in rural people




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