

Enhancing the resilience of smallholder farmers to climate change: The Scaling-Up Project in Southern Africa

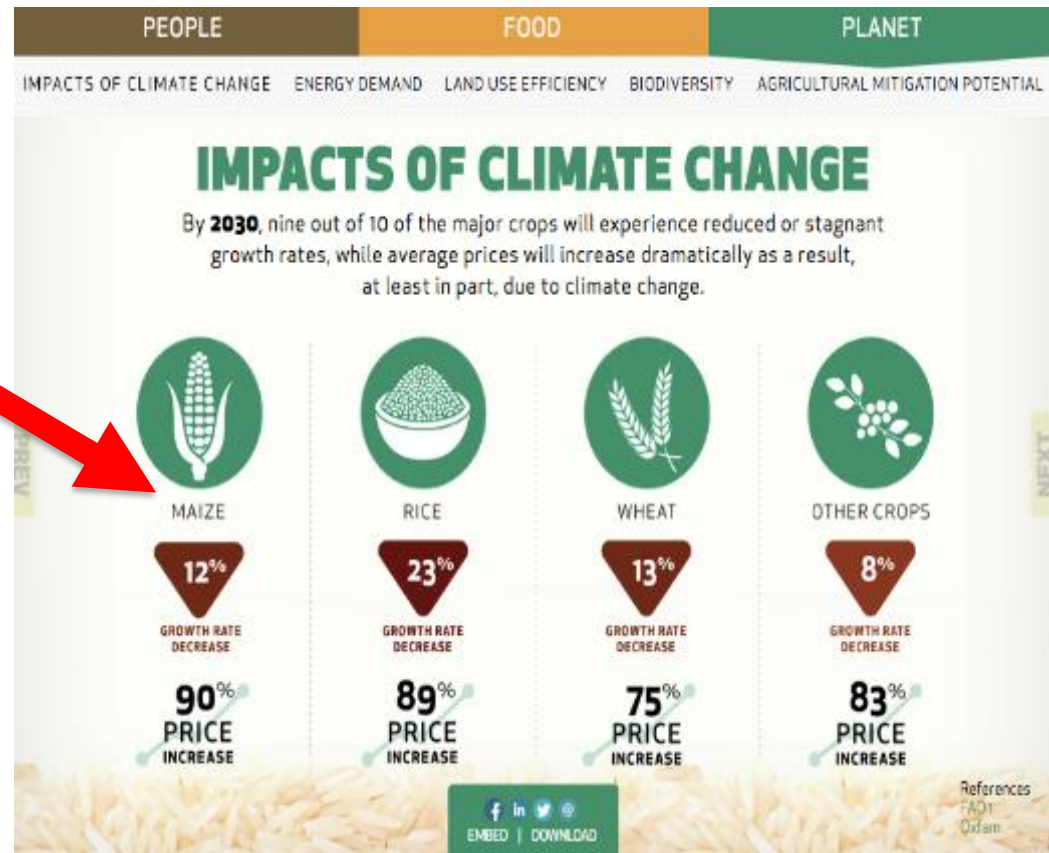
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Catalysing actionable knowledge to implement
climate-smart solutions for next-generation ACP
agriculture , Wageningen, Netherlands
22-25 January 2019



Why the project?

- Agricultural sector expected to produce 60% more food by 2050 (FAO, 2012)
- Climate change exerts extra stress on food production
- Critical in rainfed agriculture with single rain season e.g. SA
- **Question:** Are drought and weather extremes becoming the “*new normal*”?



From Challenges to Solutions

- Climate Smart Agriculture (CSA) with its three pillars is potentially to the rescue, but
-gap between science of discovery vs science of delivery of CSA to farmers
- Harness the power of ICT and digitalization to complement traditional (face-to-face) extension
- Link to national policies? private sector partnership?
- Bridging the gap: *Scaling-Up Climate-Smart Agricultural Solutions for Cereal and Livestock Farmers in SA region*

Project Approach

Problem confronting farmers	Solution being promoted
Erratic rainfall and drier weather	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>Drought-tolerant seeds</i>
Degraded capacity of traditional, face-to-face agric extension	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>ICT-enabled dissemination of information to farmer</i>
Absence of safety net against weather-induced events	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>Weather-based index insurance</i>• <i>Diversification of livelihood through crop-livestock integration practices</i>
Lack of enabling policy conditions critical for adoption of CSA	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>Facilitate multi-stakeholder policy engagement processes</i>

- **Objective:** Deliver bundle of CSA solutions to 140,000 smallholder farmers in three countries using ICT-enabled extension mechanism, innovative partnership and facilitated support environment

Project framework



Food security and resilience of smallholder farmers in Southern Africa region

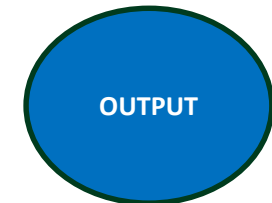
Improved agricultural productivity and adaptive capacity to climate uncertainties for 140,000 smallholder farmers in SA region



Outcome 1
Farmers adopt bundle of CSA solutions

Outcome 2
Key actors engage in policy process that support upscaling and investment opportunities for CSA

Assumptions:
Stable political & policy terrain
Stable market- avoids tradeoff between productivity & price



Outputs

CSA solutions are accessible

- a. ICT-enabled weather & advisory information
- b. Access to drought-tolerant seeds
- c. Crop-livestock integration
- d. Crop insurance

Institutional capacity

- a. Digital profile
- b. Farmers +agro-dealers competent on CSA
- c. Skill on use of ICT for agriculture

Policy

- a. Opportunities for climate investment (e.g. NDCs)
- b. Policy dialogue to support CSA

Assumptions:
Private sector & intermediaries capitalize on opportunities in current and new policies to invest in CSA.
Farmers share knowledge on CSA and other training with other farmers in their village

Partnership to Scale-up the Solutions



Farmer groups- e.g.
ZFU, NASFAM, SACAU



Public sector- *policy and enabling conditions*



Knowledge generators-
universities, meteorology depts, weather data company, research



Private sector-
Insurance companies, telecom, seed companies

Bottom line:*should make business sense to all partners*

Project partners



In partnership with:

Zambia:



Malawi:



Zimbabwe:



Regional:



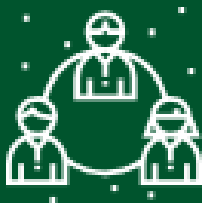


Project Review after year 1 of operation

Objectives of the review & planning meeting

1. **Review** projects results for year 1
2. **Plans** for year 2 e.g. modifications for better impact?
3. **Cross-country learning** for entire region

KEY Figures: Achieved Results after year 1



1- regional policy forum organized on weather insurance

25- key policy stakeholders in the insurance industry agreed on a regional regulatory proposal

About **400**- agro-dealers trained on CSA and drought tolerance

2- national telecom companies engage in agribiz on CSA

3- major insurance companies have formed partnership to scale up CSA

74,422 farmers digitally registered

48,500 farmers receive weather & advisory services electronically

700,000 messages on weather and advisory

Over 8,000 farmers have information on drought tolerant seeds

First Outcomes

- **40%**- the increase in orders of improved/drought-tolerant seeds
- **25%**- increase in farm income using information on SMS advisory services
- Up to **10%**- negotiated price discounts on seed for project farmers with seed houses

Some emerging lessons

- Promising opportunities for **ICT-enabled** agricultural information & advisory to farmers
- **Bundle of CSA** solutions rather than a single solution
- **Mutually reinforcing prongs:** Work with farmers in the fields, also keep an eye on policy issues
- Evaluate different **mix of partnership:** Govt depts, farmers' organizations, knowledge generator, private sector (telecom, insurance companies, seed)
- Listen, learn and be ready to change- if/where necessary!

Thank you

Merci beaucoup



CTA operates under the framework of the Cotonou Agreement and is funded by the EU.