



**GHANA CCAFS SCIENCE POLICY PLATFORM**

**INFO NOTE**

**SYSTEMS AND OPERATIONS OF THE GHANA  
SCIENCE-POLICY DIALOGUE PLATFORM ON CLIMATE  
CHANGE, AGRICULTURE AND FOOD SECURITY**

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## Key Messages

- Climate change as a development issue affects all sectors of economy. Developing nations like Ghana are more vulnerable especially with respect to agriculture. In addressing climate change impacts, information is very vital. However, valuable climate change related information are generated but scattered all over.
- Policies are often made to guide the way climate change issues should be addressed and managed. Policies are formulated for implementation to get desired impacts, but such is not always the case; due largely to formulation and implementation lapses.
- The Ghana CCAFS Science-Policy Dialogue Platform was set up for information sharing and learning on climate change and related policy issues.
- The platform initiative (at national and sub-national levels) has proven effective gap-closing tool and linkage mechanism between research-policy-community. It is worthwhile up scaling for education and information sharing on climate change matters to influence policy
- Effective and efficient partnership with Ghana CCAFS Science-Policy Dialogue is therefore suggested for Government, public and private organizations for programmes and projects implementation for evidence-based results and ensure value for money and development.

## **Introduction**

The threat posed by climate change and its variability within sub-Saharan Africa especially West Africa is compounded by its weak economies and high dependence on Agriculture as a major driver of economic growth. Ghana has since 2010 undertaken several initiatives towards development of comprehensive programmes (strategies) to enhance national adaptation to climate change. Diverse governmental and academic/research institutions, private sector and individuals have initiated programmes and projects aimed at delivering on CSA to enhance livelihoods, increased agricultural production and sustainable socio-economic development. However, the activities of these stakeholders in the climate change arena appeared isolated, disjointed and uncoordinated to reap desired benefits.

In response, the CCAFS programme in West Africa coordinated by ICRISAT, Bamako involving Ghana, Mali and Senegal was able to set up national multi-stakeholder platforms for information sharing and learning on climate change and related policy issues. The Ghana CCAFS Science-Policy Dialogue Platform having been operational since November 2012 has wealth of experiences to share. This note is therefore designed to highlight the profile of Ghana's platform, its structure and composition and the key achievements over the past 4-5 years of existence.

## **2. Profile of the Ghana CCAFS Science-Policy Dialogue Platform**

### ***i. Establishment of Ghana CCAFS Science-Policy Dialogue Platform***

The Ghana Climate Change, Agriculture and Food Security Science-Policy Dialogue Platform is an initiative of CCAFS West Africa whose goal is to *promote a food-secure world through the provision of science-based efforts that support sustainable agriculture and enhance livelihoods while adapting to climate change and conserving natural resources and environmental services*. CCAFS was launched in West Africa in 2010 during which partnership was extended to CSIR-Ghana. A two-day national workshop was held from 28<sup>th</sup> – 29<sup>th</sup> November 2012 on the theme “National stakeholders mobilization and involvement in the CORAF Regional platform for information exchange between researchers and policy makers in West Africa”. A decision was taken during the workshop by over 30 multi-stakeholders participating to establish a national platform for information/experience sharing and learning on climate change adaptation, mitigation and related policy issues.

The Ghana CCAFS Science-Policy Dialogue Platform was officially launched on the 30th July 2013 in the presence of three Ministers of State with strong ministerial support from Ministry of Environment, Science, Technology and Innovation (MESTI), Ministry of Food and Agriculture (MoFA) and the Ministry of Trade and Industry (MoTI). Hon. Nii Lantey Vanderpuije, Deputy Minister of Trade and Industry (MOTI) and Hon. Dr. Bernice Heloo, Deputy Minister, (MESTI) at the time of launching expressed their ministries' commitment to support the platform, charging it to undertake nationwide sensitization and awareness creation of the citizenry in relation to climate change and its effect.

The Platform has registered with Register Generals Department of Ghana as a not-for-profit organization with certificate to commence business since 16<sup>th</sup> March 2015. The

Ghana CCAFS Science-Policy Platform is also a member of *Global Alliance for Climate Smart Agriculture (GACSA)*, which seeks to improve people's food security and nutrition in the face of climate change globally.

#### ***ii. The Vision***

A food and nutrition-secured world driven by climate-smart agriculture

#### ***iii. The Mission Statement***

Enhance knowledge sharing and awareness creation on climate change, agriculture and food security matters that will raise the understanding and appreciation of climate-smart agriculture and contribute to building enabling environment for informed and timely policy decision-making.

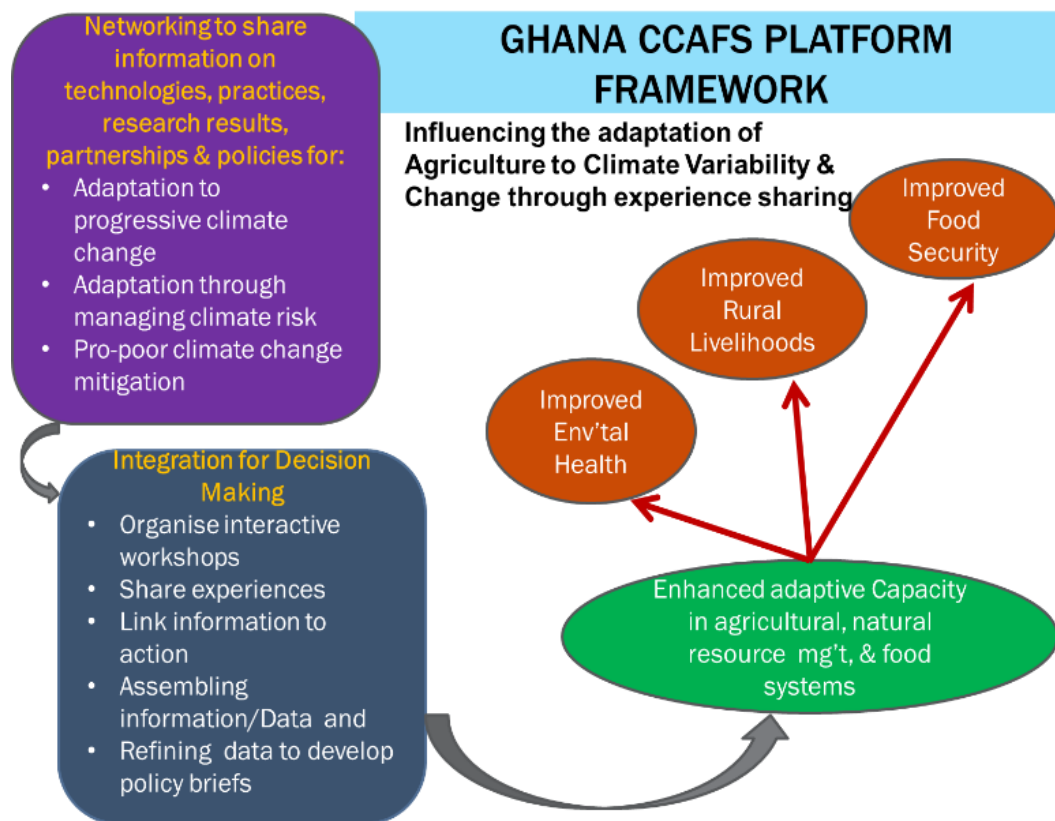
#### ***iv. Platform Objectives***

The platform has the prime objective to enhance climate change adaptation in the agricultural sector in rural communities in Ghana through exchange of information and experience sharing and learning to influence policy. The platforms also provide a linkage mechanism between research, policy decision makers and community level actors in order to positively influence climate change investments and project trajectory in agriculture with effective adaptive, resilient and mitigation outcomes at the farmer level. Specifically, the platform seeks to:

- Forge strategic alliances for optimization of environmental resources through inter institutional networking, knowledge sharing and learning.
- Network and interact regularly to develop Ghana's priorities and needs for adaptation to climate change.
- Contribute to policy decision-making processes on climate change adaptation and mitigation in agriculture through sharing of policy status and options as well as provision of research and scientific information.
- Ensure widespread dissemination of outputs (e.g. policy briefs, reports, releases etc.) through CCAFS, CORAF and CGIAR websites and portals.
- Identify related research needs and priorities and conduct impact and vulnerability assessment
- Build capacities enhancing change and adaptation to climate change effects at the local, national and sub-regional levels

#### ***v. The Platform's Framework***

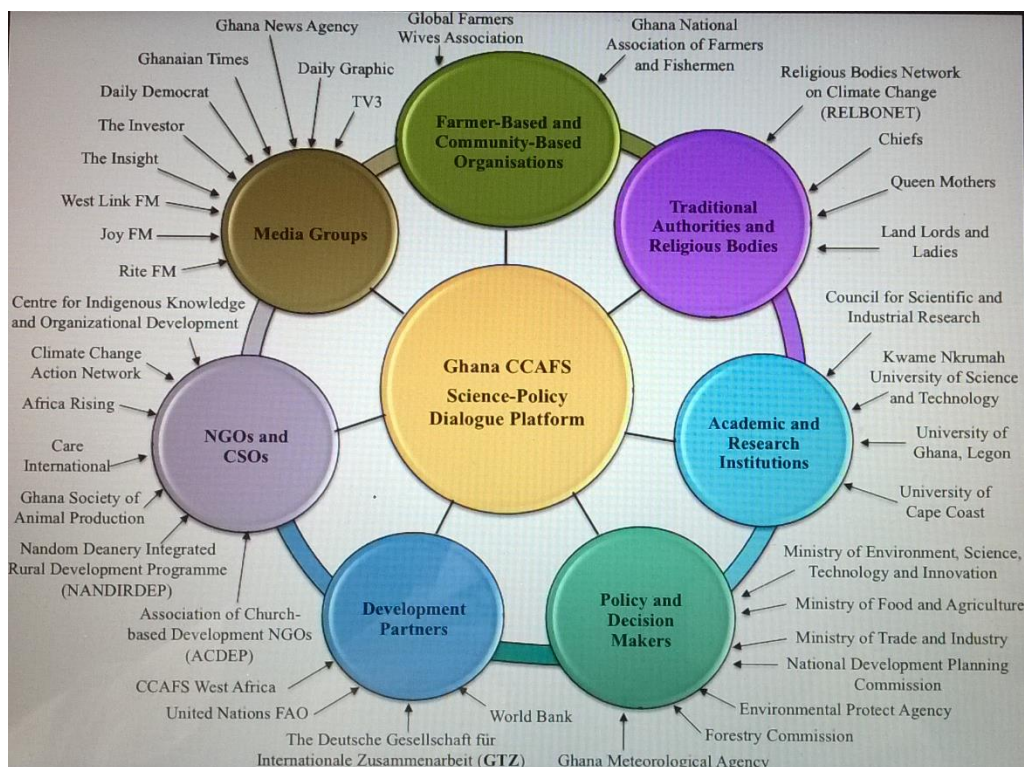
The framework within which activities of the platform are undertaken to achieve three main pillars of improved environmental health, improved rural livelihoods and improved food and nutrition security is indicated Fig. 1.



Source: Ghana CCAFS Review 2014  
**Fig. 1.** Framework of the platform

**vi. Diversity of Actors of the Platform**

The platform is made up of actors from various organizations, which has been categorized and segmented into the Fig. 2 to ensure the achievement of platform core objectives.



**Fig. 2.** Diversity of actors of the platform

### 3. Structure & Composition of Ghana CCAFS Science-Policy Dialogue Platform

The Ghana CCAFS Science-Policy Dialogue Platform has a three-tier organizational structure; namely the *secretariat* hosted at CSIR-Animal Research Institute, *core team* of experts from 10 strategic key organizations and the *entire platform* of over 100 members. The Ghana platform operates within the existing public and non-public institutional frameworks with a Chairman, Vice Chairman, Secretary, Accountant, Monitoring and Evaluation Officer and Communication Officer. The Ghana national platform is used to facilitate processes at the sub-national, local and community levels as well as the District Platforms, which mimic the structure of the national platform. Table 1 below illustrates the structure and composition of the Ghana's Platform.

**Table 1: Structure and Composition of the Ghana Platform**

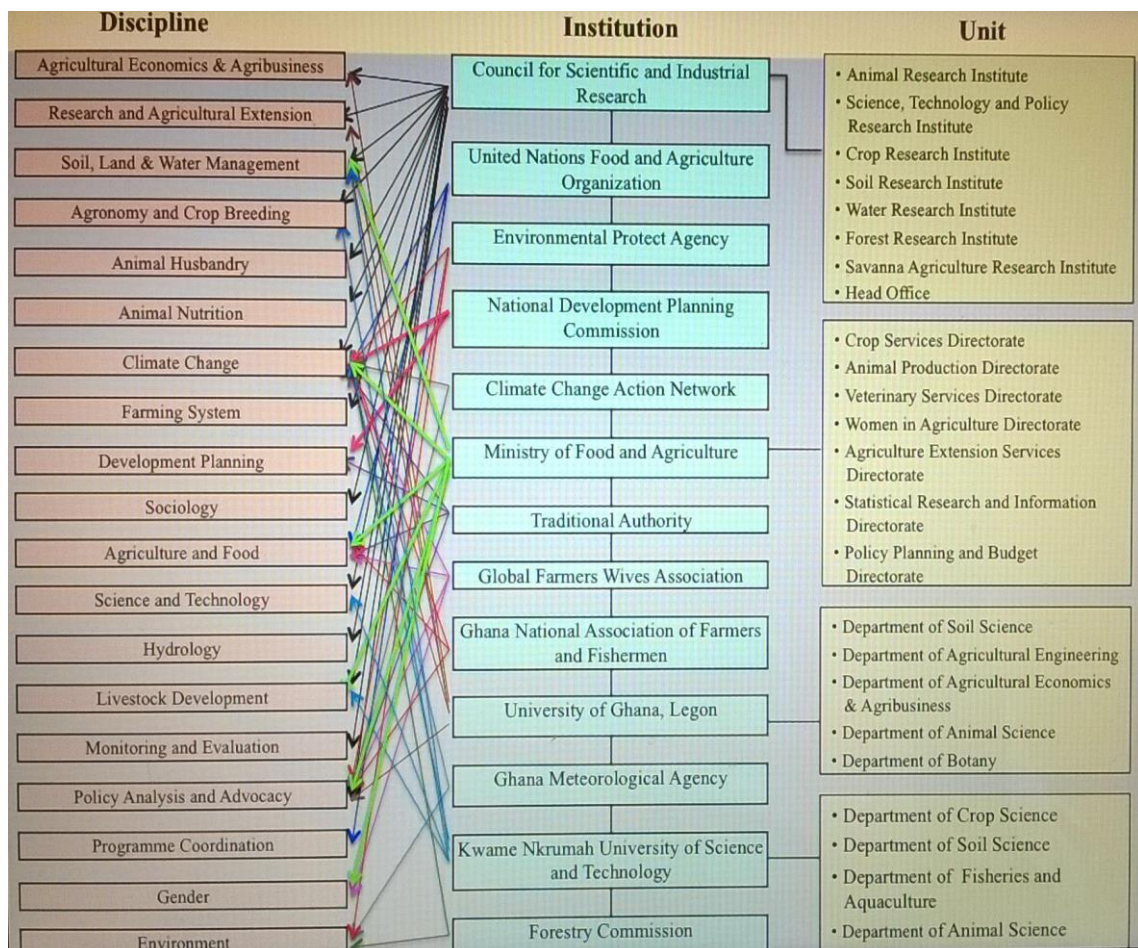
Structure	Composition	Numerical Strength	Functions
Platform Secretariat	<p>Constitutes the administrative unit and comprise:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Chairman,</li> <li>• Vice Chairman</li> <li>• Secretary</li> <li>• M&amp;E Focal Person</li> <li>• Accountant</li> </ul>	5 (all officers except the Vice Chairman are based in the host institute)	Ensures the routine operations of the platform
Platform Core Team	<p>Representatives from strategic organizations and comprised:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR)</li> <li>• University of Ghana (UG), Legon</li> <li>• National Development Planning Commission (NDPC)</li> <li>• Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)</li> <li>• Ministry of Food and Agriculture (MoFA)</li> <li>• Ghana Meteorological Agency (GMet)</li> <li>• United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)</li> <li>• Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs)</li> <li>• Farmer-Based Organizations (FBOs)</li> </ul>	15	Forms the planning and implementation team. The team directs the implementation of programmes and projects
National Platform	<p>Overall platform membership comprise:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Platform Secretariat</li> <li>• Platform Core Team</li> <li>• Institutions/organizations (public &amp; private)</li> <li>• The Media Group</li> <li>• District/Sub-national level Platforms (District Assemblies, Policy and Decision Makers, Traditional Authorities, Ghana Education Services, Security Agencies,</li> </ul>	More than 100	Stakeholders and boundary partners who support the implementation of platform activities



Structure	Composition	Numerical Strength	Functions
	Farmers, Associations, NGOs, FBOs)		

### The Multi-Disciplinary Teamwork & Institutional Collaboration Capacities

As a hallmark, the platform enjoys multi-disciplinary teamwork and inter- and intra-institutional collaboration in its operations. The Fig. 3 shows the multi-disciplinary teamwork and institutional collaboration capacities of the platform. The strength in the networks and linkages has been beneficial in execution of platform programmes.



**Fig.3.**Multi-disciplinary teamwork and institutional collaboration

## 4. Experiences and Performance of the Ghana CCAFS Science-Policy Dialogue Platform

The Ghana Science-Policy Dialogue Platform on climate change, agriculture and food security has engaged in a number of programmes, projects and activities since its inception in 2012. The ensuing sections give summary of the platform's key experiences and achievements.

### I. Platform Mobilization, Launch and Scaling Up

Ghana indeed started with one national platform but nine additional sub-national platforms have been established within the 4-5 years of operation. These are located in 9 administrative districts of Ghana; namely, Lawra, Jirapa, Nandom, Nadowli, Tain, Ho West, Birim South, Ada West and Abura Asebu Kwamang. In the process the platform has interacted with a total of 1,312 (26% females) mostly on climate matters. These people are from research and academic institutions, policy makers, traditional authorities, community groups and associations, NGOs, security agencies, media, farmers, development workers and other government institutions. Fig. 4 shows participants photograph.



**Fig. 4.** Ministers of state and Dignitaries at the platform launch [Middle is Dr. Bernice Heloo, Dep. Minister (MESTI) and middle right is Dr. A. B. Salifu, Director- General (CSIR)]

### II. Organize Workshops for Learning and Sharing

The platform has organized series of workshops over the years on various thematic areas to share climate change information and experiences to promote learning. Key ones among these sharing and learning events are summarized below.

1. Scenario-guided multi-level review of the Ghana Livestock Policy workshop was organized on the 13<sup>th</sup>-15<sup>th</sup> July 2016 to generate policy recommendations to improve the current version of Ghana's Livestock Policy. Over 40 participants (females-22%) involving stakeholders from the government institutions (MoFA and others), research and academia, civil society and NGOs and the private sector acquired knowledge on

the scenarios approach of planning. The workshop outputs are expected to inform the current livestock policy development processes.

2. Climate Change and Livestock Development conference was organized by the platform in collaboration with Ghana Society of Animal Production (GSAP) on 5<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> August 2015. The goal was to create CSA awareness among eminent livestock scientists and high-level national stakeholders to influence behaviour change towards CSA policy decisions. Pro Vice Chancellor of University of Cape Coast welcomed participants. Speech was read on behalf of His Excellency Ex-President Kufuor who is UN Special Envoy on climate change. Deputy Minister of Food and Agriculture, Hon. Dr. Hannah Bissiw, delivered the keynote address. Dr. Robert Zougmore of CCAFS West African and Dr. N. Karbo of CCAFS Ghana delivered supportive statements. Over 100 renowned scientists and other stakeholders from Ghana and Nigeria were sensitized on the National Climate Change Policy (NCCP), the National CSA and Food Security Action Plan and the CCAFS programmes in Ghana and West Africa at large. Communiqué was developed and has been presented to the President of the Republic of Ghana through the Deputy Minister of Food and Agriculture in charge of Livestock (Fig.5a and 5b).



**Fig. 5a.** Some delegates in a pose with the Deputy Minister, Dr. Hannah Bissiw (Middle)



**Fig. 5b.** Regional coordinator, CCAFS, ICRISAT, MALI

3. Workshop on the utilization of knowledge products from CCAFS studies in Ghana was organized on 19<sup>th</sup> February 2015. It was to share information and validate field reports on the CCAFS team studies conducted on the “Systems Integrated Adaptation to Climate Change: Multi-level Integrated Adaptation Governance (MIAG)”. The 35 participants (females-23%) acquired first hand information on the CCAFS studies’ findings. The various action points generated from the workshop were incorporated into the development of the National CSA and Food Security action plan.
4. Two CSA sensitization and technologies profiling workshops were organized in the Guinea Savanna (Wa) and Forest (Kumasi) agro-ecological zones of Ghana on the 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2014 and 26<sup>th</sup> November 2014 respectively. The goal was to create awareness on CSA and identify and rank agricultural technologies and practices for CSA in the two zones. A total of 148 multi-stakeholders participated in the two workshops; Wa (males-78, females-11) and Kumasi (males-38, females-21). Participants (females-22%) were sensitized on CSA, the NCCP and agricultural technologies and practices relating to crops, livestock, aquaculture/fisheries, forestry, and soil and water management.
5. A workshop dubbed “Ghana Learning event: Information Sharing on Community-Based Adaptation and Research” was also organized on December 03, 2013. The purpose was to share information on the effects of climate change and variability in specific locations of Ghana and to generate knowledge on community-based adaptation and adaptation strategies for resilience. Over 40 participants (males and females) acquired knowledge on climate change effects and community-based adaptation and adaptation strategies.

### **III. Policy Studies and Co-Creating of Evidence-Based Information**

Another important area that the platform has been active is the area of policy studies and co-creating of evidence-based information. The platform has conducted policy situational analysis to generate baseline information on climate change policies and institutions available. The study on the subject “An assessment of climate change policy and institutional context: the case of Ghana” was conducted to assess the policy context and institutional framework for CSA in Ghana to inform strategies, climate change adaptation for food security and agriculture. Over 30 key informants (females-10%) were interviewed to solicit for relevant information and opinion. A book on the baseline policy analysis and gaps in the policy formulation process identified at all levels has been published and shared prompting the need for policy literacy.

In partnership with MoFA, the platform has developed a *National Climate-Smart Agriculture and Food Security Action Plan of Ghana (2016-2020)* to operationalize agriculture section of the National Climate Change Policy of Ghana. The action plan is a policy document that provides implementation framework for an effective development of CSA on the ground. A desk research and data collection via interviews, small group meetings and participatory workshops were conducted. Also, review of relevant agricultural policy documents was done to analyze the current national agricultural policy environment. Participatory workshops were organized where about 50 (females-28%) representatives of stakeholder organizations discussed various components of the action plans and prepare inputs. These included farmers, small-scale agro-entrepreneurs, women groups and local government authorities. The action plan had been validated and

launched by Deputy Minister of Food and Agriculture in-charge of Crops hoping for resources allocation and implementation.

The platform conducted CSA profiling in the Guinea Savanna and Forest agro-ecological zones of Ghana to identify and rank agricultural technologies and practices for CSA and rank them for ease of reference and to guide policy decision makers in agricultural planning and investment decisions at local and national levels. Consultative and reconnaissance field works formed the basis. Separate multi-stakeholders workshops were held in each agro-ecological zone for the actual profiling exercise involving over 140 participants (females-22%). For the Savannah zone, more than 50 technologies and practices were identified; focusing on **Soil fertility > Crops > Water > Livestock > Aquaculture** in that order. The ranked preference for the CSA was **farmer-managed natural regeneration of trees > Agro-forestry > Mixed farming > Mulching = Bee keeping**, among others. For the forest zone, 22 technologies and practices were identified; focusing on **Soil fertility > Crops > Water = Livestock** in that order. The ranked preference of CSA was **Cover cropping = Slash without burning > Trees on farmers > Conservation agriculture**. In both zones, CSA usage were gender neutral and largely by smallholder farmers. Participants generally called for scaling up of CSA use in the zones. A working paper has been developed on the profiling of CSA technologies and practices in two agro-ecological zones of Ghana.

The platform had gone further to conduct case studies on the most prevalent technologies and practices in each of the two zones to look at the associated costs and benefits and their contributions to livelihood and poverty reduction for national agricultural planning and investment decision-making. Fieldwork involving interviews of over 70 CSA users were completed. Data have been analyzed with useful results and the report is being processed.

#### **IV. High-Level Policy Engagements and Influence**

The platform has contributed to high-level policy engagements and influence. For instance, on the 13<sup>th</sup> - 15<sup>th</sup> July 2016, the platform in collaboration with International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics (ICRISAT), Bamako, Mali employed scenario approaches to review the Ghana National Livestock Policy being developed. More than 40 multi-stakeholders (females-22%) from national, regions and districts levels were assembled in a workshop and four different scenario instruments were used for the policy review exercise. Aside the acquisition of knowledge and behaviour change; the recommendations, suggestions and other outputs generated are expected to demonstrate reflective effects and improvement in the pending Ghana livestock policy document.

In addendum, high-level policy and decision makers comprising Ministers of State, Parliamentarian, Chief Directors and Sector Directors have been sensitized on climate change issues and the need for integrating adaptation actions into sectoral plans and budgets. Workshop was organized on the 29<sup>th</sup> January 2014 during which over 65 high-level policy and decision makers (females-23%) were sensitized. As a result, a political buy-in support for CSA was received from the parliamentarians in the form of communiqué endorsing CSA in the country's planning and investment. Fig. 6a and Fig. 6b are event photographs.



**Fig. 6a.** Picture of high-level policy and decision makers during Climate Change Awareness workshop with policy makers



**Fig. 6b.** CCAFS West and East Africa Regional Coordinator (Dr. Robert Zougmore, left) giving publications to Dr. Abu Sakara and Hon. Alhassan Yakubu (Right)

## **V. Building Partnerships for Networking Locally and Internationally**

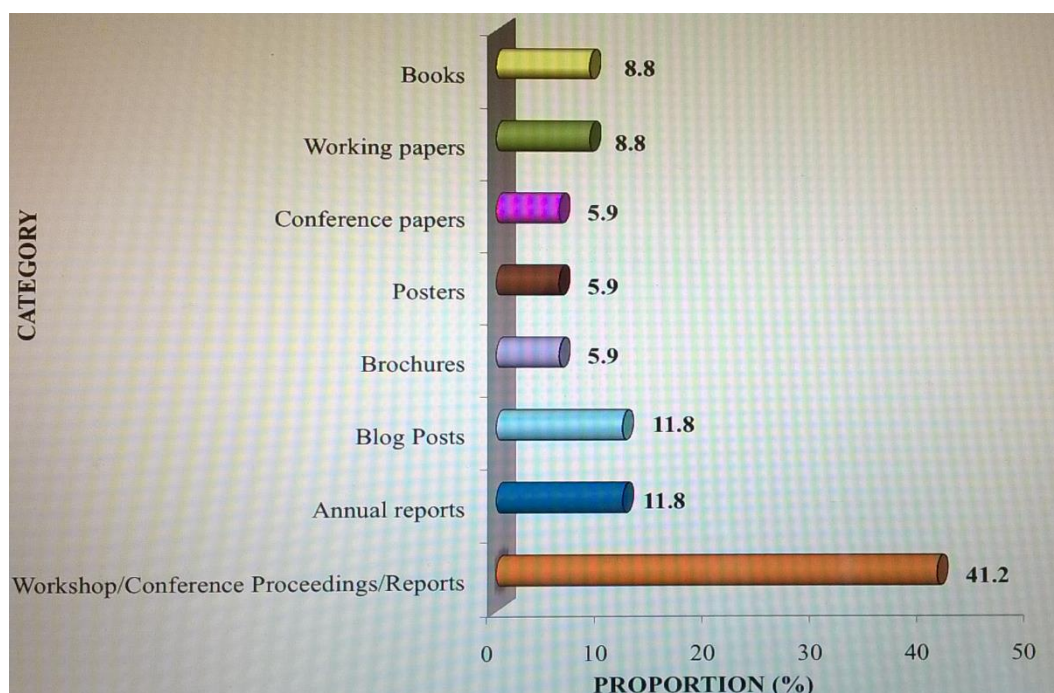
The platform has engaged in strong networking and strategic partnerships building with other organizations and projects. At the international level, the platform has signed 6 sub-grant agreements with ICRISAT and has successfully implemented all approved contracts; emphasizing on exchange climate change information and sharing experiences for learning and synergy. A sub-grant agreement was signed with the International Center for Tropical Agriculture (CIAT) in November 2015. This is underway and the focus is on country profiling of CSA and developing CSA prioritization framework for Ghana. Our efforts at building partnerships are also reflected in our participation in international meetings such as the Africa CSA Alliance Workshop, 31<sup>st</sup> March – 2<sup>nd</sup> April 2014 and 3<sup>rd</sup> Global Conference on Climate Smart Agriculture, March 16-17, 2015 in Montpellier. At the local front, the platform has signed one sub-agreement with Care International Ghana office to setup sub-national level climate change platform in the Nadowli district.

There is collaboration with MoFA under the WAAPP 2 to scale-up the establishment of sub-national level platforms and mainstream climate change issues into WAAPP 2. Currently, 5 sub-national level platforms have been established in the Tain, Ho West, Birim South, Ada West and Abura Asebu Kwamang districts. The platform supported MoFA to develop and review environment, climate change and natural resource management action plan (ECCNRMAP). The platform is also collaborating with other organizations and/or programmes at various levels on climate change related projects. These include the United Nations FAO, Care International, Adaptation at Scale in Semi-Arid Regions (ASSAR), Agricultural Model Inter-comparison and Improvement Project (AgMIP), GTZ, IUCN, Water and Land Ecosystems (WLE), Religious Bodies Network on Climate Change (RELBONET), Africa Rising, NANDIRDEP, ACDEP, CIKOD, OXFAM, Ghana Society of Animal Production (GSAP) and World Business Council on Sustainable Biodiversity.

The platform has been in partnership with Lawra Traditional Council in the Lawra district since September 2014. At the festival, opportunity is given to the platform to sensitize the traditional authorities and the people on climate change and the need for CSA. Now, climate change and CSA education has been mainstreamed into the celebration of the annual ‘Kobine’ festival in the Lawra traditional area.

## **VI. Wealth of Information and Knowledge Products Generated**

The Ghana National Science-Policy Dialogue Platform on Climate Change, Agriculture and Food Security with its partners has generated various knowledge products within the 4-5 years of operation. The Fig. 7 indicates the categories of the knowledge products generated so far. These include the following:



**Fig. 7.** Categories of Knowledge Products

### ***Books***

1. Technologies and practices for climate-smart agriculture (CSA) in Ghana: a participatory profiling manual. December 2015.
2. National climate-smart agriculture and food security action plan of (2016-2020). November, 2015.
3. Assessment of climate change policy and institutional context: the case of Ghana. November, 2014.

### ***Conference papers***

1. Profile of climate smart agricultural technologies in the guinea savannah and forest agro ecological zones in Ghana. August, 2015
2. Formation of sub-national level climate change science-policy platforms in northern Ghana: process issues, inclusiveness and diversity in leadership institutions. August, 2015.

### ***Working papers***

1. Climate-smart agricultural practices in Ghana. October, 2016
2. Assessment of climate change policy and institutional context: the case of Ghana. March 2016.
3. National climate-smart agriculture and food security action plan of (2016-2020). November, 2015.



### ***Blog Posts***

1. Towards evidence-based policy decisions for Ghana's livestock sector. August, 2016.
2. Climate-Smart Agriculture (CSA) action plan launched by Ministry of Food and Agriculture in Accra, Ghana. January 2016.
3. Ghana CCAFS platform in collaboration with Ghana society of animal production organized a biennial conference for eminent scientists from Ghana and Nigeria to discuss climate change and livestock development. August, 2015.
4. Why Ghana should be a member of the Global Alliance for Climate-Smart Agriculture. August, 2015
5. Members of parliament commit themselves to improving the resilience of the agriculture and food security sectors in Ghana through Research and Development for climate-smart agriculture. December, 2014.

### ***Posters***

1. Learning and sharing science-policy for action building resilience to climate change: experiences of climate change, agriculture and food security platform, Ghana. March, 2015.
2. Profile of climate smart agricultural technologies in the dry guinea savannah and forest agro ecological zones in Ghana. March 2015.

### ***Brochures***

1. Ghana CCAFS Platform Review. Volume 1, Issue 1. July-September, 2014
2. Ghana CCAFS Platform Review. Volume 1, Issue 2. October-December, 2014.

### ***Workshop/Conference Proceedings/Reports***

1. Scenario-guided multi-level policy revision of the Ghana Livestock Policy Workshop. July, 2016
2. Climate change and livestock development in Ghana. CCAFS-GSAP Collaboration. August, 2015.
3. Stakeholders' validation of the national climate-smart agriculture and food security action plan. June, 2015.
4. Participatory scenarios development. June, 2015
5. Development of the national climate-smart agriculture and food security action plan. March, 2015.
6. Utilization of knowledge products from CCAFS studies in Ghana. February, 2015.
7. Strengthening platform capacities to monitor and evaluate policy influence in Ghana. December, 2014.
8. Mobilization, establishment and launching of sub-national platforms in the Lawra, Jirapa and Nandom districts in the Upper West region of Ghana. December, 2014.
9. Climate-smart agriculture and technology profiling workshop for stakeholders the Forest Agro-Ecological zone of Ghana. Kumasi in the Ashanti region. November, 2014.
10. Climate-smart agriculture and technology profiling workshop for stakeholders the Guinea Savanna Agro-Ecological zone of Ghana. Wa in the upper west region. October, 2014.
11. Sensitization of high-level policy and decision makers (ministers, parliamentarian, chief directors & directors) on "Climate Change and Variability – The need for integrating adaptation actions into sectoral plans and budgets". January, 2014.

12. Ghana learning event: information sharing on community based adaptation and research. December, 2013.
13. Launching of the Ghana science-policy dialogue platform on climate change, agriculture and food security platform (CCAFS). July 2013.
14. National stakeholders mobilization and involvement in the CORAF regional platform for exchange between researchers and policy makers in West Africa. November 2012.

All these information and knowledge products have been shared and mainly through various meetings, workshops, seminars, on the Internet largely on the CCAFS and CGIAR websites.

## VII. Capacity Building and Strengthening

Capacity building and/or strengthening is another key area that the platform has greatly been involved in. In general the platform members have built capacities along the project implementation through the sharing and learning events, meetings, trainings and travels.

A participatory scenario development and training programme was carried out on the 10<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> June 2015 to build the capacities of 34 key members from Lawra (14), Jirapa (10) and Nandom (10) sub-national platforms. In the process, each sub-national platform developed district-specific scenarios to forecast the future of agriculture in the midst of climate change for planning and investment. The district-specific scenarios documents provide effective tools to support collaborative sustainable development efforts of the districts-level platforms. We intend therefore to support these sub-national platforms to package their scenario-visioning document for mainstreaming into respective district development plans, where the platforms can be of influence.

The platform collaborated with IUCN under the CCAFS Flagship 4 project to organize M&E capacity building and/or strengthening for 20 members (females-20%) on the 16<sup>th</sup> – 17<sup>th</sup> December 2014. It was to capacitate core members with policy influence M&E approaches and methods. Participants improved knowledge on the policy influence framework and the associated monitoring and evaluation requirements. Members were adequately informed that the policy influence framework comprises five domains of influence; namely: **attitudinal change, discursive commitments, procedural change, policy content and behaviour change.**

In the end the platform members were guided to develop M&E Plan for the project implementation. Fig. 8 is a group photograph.



**Fig. 8.** Platform member at M & E training in Accra

Training was then organized on the final M&E plan for 5 purposively selected platform members (2 from national and 3 from sub-national levels – 1 per district). The proposed M&E tools were field-tested for the platform’s policy influence into climate change, agriculture and food security. The field test took place in the Lawra, Jirapa and Nandom platforms from 26<sup>th</sup> – 28<sup>th</sup> May 2014 during which first monitoring data were collected. A total of 30 sub-national platform members (10 per platform), were interviewed for most significant change stories. The respondents were from the district assembly (16.6%), farming groups (30%), GES (3.3), MOFA (13.3%), NGO/FBO (13.3%), security agencies (10%) and traditional council (13.3%). The preliminary results indicated changes in knowledge (31%), attitude (32%), discourse (6%) and behaviour (31%).

Currently, the platform is developing climate change entrepreneurship schemes to support youth and women development in Ghana. The purpose is to build the capacity of young professionals in CSA entrepreneurship schemes to improve their social and ecological resilience in and promote environment friendly intensification of farming systems. So far the platform has profiled the various youth entrepreneurship schemes in the country and marched them with existing policies. The next step is to develop comprehensive entrepreneurship training module to build the capacities of the youth entrepreneurs in CSA. It is expected that the local levels and community young professionals will become fully aware and understand the existing schemes and investment opportunities in Ghana policies framework.

## **5. Lessons Learnt**

- Stakeholders have shown commitment to the platform through participation in platform programmes and activities. This confirm their assertion that before the platform, several of them undertake activities and not able to share extensively with others but the advent of the platform has close the gap. The national platform for exchange of information is laudable initiative.

- The political buy-in support available to the platform as key governmental ministries (MoFA, MESTI and MoTI), parliamentarians and district assemblies have fully embraced the operations of the platform is a success factor for platform sustainability.
- The sub-national platforms have essentially become development tools and hubs for effective networking and linkages with research, projects and development partners at that level.
- Establishment of sub-national platforms at community levels has potential to close gap between community people – researchers – policy decision makers. There are more calls to upscale the sub-national platforms to cover other districts that are more vulnerable to climate change impacts. MoFA and Care International have responded to these calls in various degrees.
- Stakeholders including community people are becoming more informed on climate change issues and the benefits of CSA through sensitization and aware creation programmes of the platform. This has presented huge capacity building and/or strengthening opportunities for all, including platform members at both national and sub-national levels.

## 6. Conclusion

The above content points out that the platform is fulfilling its mission and goals and largely contributing to the Regional CCAFS drive to influence policy and bridging the research-policy-community gap to promote CSA and climate change investments. Evidently, the platform is performing creditably through the mobilization, sensitization and awareness creation; partnerships; capacity building and advocacy resulting in degrees of behaviours changes at all levels (high, middle and low). The area of research needs to be pepped up to generate evidence-based findings worthy of sharing. For the story to be complete, the platform needs to explore and tell how much is the climate changing; thus measurements of the amount of climate change. Though we have multi-disciplinary team, building adequate capacities in climate science is essential for the confidence to measure the amounts of climate change associated with say crops, livestock, fishery, forestry among others.

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This note summarizes the setup and operations of the Ghana Science-Policy Dialogue Platform on climate change, agriculture and food security (CCAFS). It captures the profile, structure and composition and the experiences and major achievements of the platform.

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