



GHANA CCAFS SCIENCE POLICY PLATFORM

INFO NOTE

**SCALING UP OF CSA PLATFORMS AT THE SUBNATIONAL
(DISTRICT) LEVELS IN GHANA; A PROGRESSIVE
ACHIEVEMENT OF THE GHANA CCAFS
SCIENCE-POLICY PLATFORM**

**V. A. Botchway, K. O. Sam, N. Karbo, G. O. Essegbey, D. Nutsukpo,
K. Agyemang, R. Zougmore & S. Partey**

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Key messages

- The Ghana climate change science policy platform is a multi-stakeholder institutional innovation which came into being in 2013 with the support of CCAFS West Africa. It was set out to bridge science-policy literacy gap at the national and sub-national levels.
- This info note communicates as an outcome how the national platform facilitated the Upscaling of sub-national platforms in seven regions of Ghana covering only 11 districts out of 245.
- Lawra, Jirapa, Nandom, Nadowli, Ada West, Ho West, Abura-Asebu-Kwamankese, Tain, and Birim South districts cutting across Upper West, Greater Accra, Eastern, Volta, Ashanti and Brong Ahafo Regions of Ghana are key areas of coverage.
- Reconnaissance visits, consultative meetings and interactive workshops were employed in the process. Mobilization of stakeholder was high and representative.
- The leadership to host the platforms in the districts was not homogenous as Traditional council; state institutions, NGOs etc. were selected by participants to host science-policy dialogue platforms.
- Generally all the stakeholders at the mobilization discussions expressed a positive perception of the platforms coming into being with the advantages of networking with others on climate change,
- Administrative leaderships at the district and regional levels to the mobilisation and formation of the platforms cannot be discounted in the success of the process.

Introduction

Globally the picture on climate change and its effects on humanity appear quite disturbing as food systems and consumption patterns are sliding towards low against prediction values. In Ghana population expansion as a driver has quadrupled now and calls for more food and fibre needs than ten decades ago (Karbo *et al*, 2015).

The awareness of climate change on socio-economic development among development workers, scientists and policy decision makers appears high though more attention has been given to the search for biophysical solutions than the policy institutional environment enabling their uptake.

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 sharing information on climate change and related policy issues. 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. The Ghana CCAFS Science –Policy Platform formation preceded with a meeting held in Burkina Faso in 2013 where a three member team from Ghana was involved with subsequent drafting and submission of proposal in request for funding leading to its establishment. The Ghana national climate change science policy platform as a multi-stakeholder institutional innovation came into being in 2013 with the support of CCAFS West Africa, set out to bridge science-policy literacy gap at the national and sub-national levels.

In 2014, Ghana through the collaborative efforts of the national Platform implemented CCAFS Flagship4 activities which sought to deepen interaction at all levels. This culminated into the establishment of platforms at Lawra, Jirapa and Nandom districts with the view to strengthen climate change discourse, attitudinal change and actions at that level while maintaining a vibrant functional linkage mechanism with the national platforms for policy influence.

An assessment of climate change policy and institutional context by Essegbey 2014, in these three districts, revealed that large gap exists between the national and subnational levels in terms of policy development and dissemination. The report identified weaknesses in harnessing societal grassroots inputs for policy formulation process and lack of awareness and knowledge about the policy especially in the decentralized levels of society in these three districts (Essegbey 2014). This suggests that policy literacy is very low and could pose challenge to effective implementation of the NCCP.

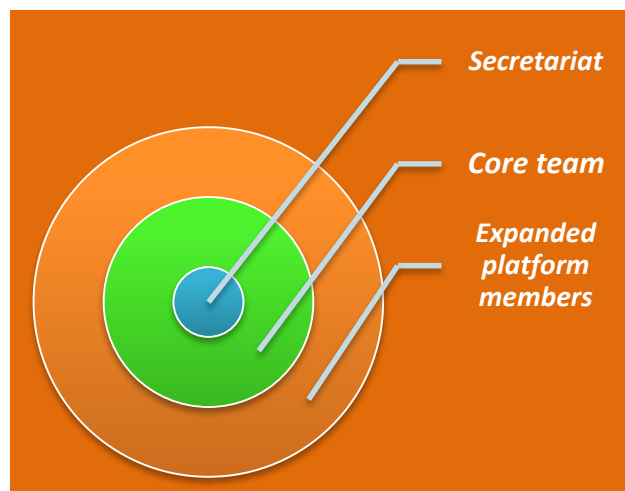
The establishment of these platforms were necessary to help bridge the policy literacy gap. Today, these platforms provide soft landing for research activities and projects such ASSAR project, Water and Land Ecosystem project etc. The platforms also provide inputs into the districts level development annual plans. Effective networking with other local and international bodies have also been recognised.

This *info note* seeks to give a process description of the scaling up of district science-policy platforms in Ghana, the structures, the perceptions of the actors with particular reference to the platform, perceived functions, fears and organizational leadership diversities.

The structure of Subnational Platforms

Structurally, the national platform has a three-tier organizational structure namely: the secretariat of four staff from the host institute (CSIR-Animal Research Institute), core team of 12 strategic key organizations and a platform of over sixty members. The national platform has a chairman, vice chairman, secretary, accountant, communication and M&E focal persons operating within institutional framework. The national Platform is a member of the Global Alliance since 2015. The subnational platform also has similar three-tier structure, Secretariat, Core Team of key organisation and a platform of over 20 members (Figure 1). Memberships however are opened to every institutions and groups since the platform is multi-institutional and require concerted efforts by all (multidiscipline). They form part of the expanded members and there is no barrier of entry.

Figure 1: A three-tier structure of Subnational Platform.



What are the drivers for scaling up of Subnational Platforms in Ghana?

The Ghana Climate Smart Agriculture Action Plan of the Ministry of Food and Agriculture (MoFA), was developed to operationalise the Ghana Climate Change Policy. The Action Plan recognises the need for the establishment of district level governance structure to effectively address climate change issues at the district level. It is in light of this that the Directorate of Crop Services, Ministry of Food and Agriculture through West Africa Agriculture Productivity Programme (WAAPP 2) in collaboration with the National CCAFS Platform signed a memorandum of understanding to facilitate the establishment of sub-national (i.e. District Level CSA) platforms beginning with five districts namely Ada West, Ho West, Birim South, Tain and Abura-Asebu-Kwamankese districts. Also MOFA in its policy drive is currently being decentralized and that also calls for the mainstreaming of climate change activities into the district assemblies plan which make the establishment of the platform very relevant.

Donor pressure to mainstream climate change issues into project formulation and implementation is also a drive factor culminating into the scaling up of subnational platforms. World Bank requires research projects implemented under the WAAP II for instance to ensure that the projects have relevant components addressing climate change issues. As a result most of the projects under implementation in Ghana have components relating to climate smart practices and innovations.

Food and Agricultural Organisation (FAO) which is one of the partners of the Ghana science-policy interactive Platform on CSA is supporting MOFA to transition CSA to the district levels. The National Platform is a member of the Global Alliance for Climate-Smart Agriculture for learning and sharing thus contributing to the work of the CSA Knowledge Action Group hosted by a Unit under the UN Food and Agriculture Organization. The Global Alliance is also looking for models that will ensure that CSA activities are mainstreamed into subnational level activity pathways in an attempt to address food and nutrition insecurities.

Also the Ghana Climate Smart Agriculture Action Plan (2015), recommended for the need to address climate change in the context of location (agro-ecological zone) specific. This was against the background that climate change affects people at different locations differently, hence the usual one-size-fits all approach of doing things cannot be relied upon to improve agriculture and food systems in the face of climate change and variability. As such ecological drivers also have the potency to trigger the establishment of CSA Platforms in districts within Ghana as propounded by the Ghana Action Plan Document.

Scaling up of CSA Platforms at district levels; tools and approaches

The scaling up of the platforms apart from the Flagship4, was initiated through collaboration. In the case of CARE International Ghana, a request for facilitation support led to the signing of MOU towards the assignment. The collaboration with WAAPII project was as a result of interaction and it also witnessed the signing of MOU after a detailed presentation which highlighted the need for the platform was made.

The national platform collaborates with institutions and organisations such as CARE International Ghana, MOFA-WAAPII project, FAO, NGOs, Religious bodies, EPA, traditional authorities, district assemblies, farmer-based organisation, academic and research institutions and other relevant organisations such as the Ghana Police Service, Ghana Fire Service, Forestry Commission and the media among others (GCCAFS Platform Review Vol, Issue 1, 2014).

As part of the consultative process and institutional profiling (*'membership scouting'*) agenda for the platform formation during reconnaissance field visits, these relevant organisations and institutions were contacted.

Undertaking a reconnaissance field study

Reconnaissance field studies were made with the objective to identify relevant actors and conduct individual awareness creation on the platform formation prior to its formation and launching. The initial field visits into the districts ranged from a day to four depending upon distance and availability of key persons. Specific objectives of the field visit are to facilitate:

- set dates for the mobilisation and sensitisation workshop in the districts.
- identify potential participants for the mobilisation and sensitisation workshop in the districts.

- select appropriate organisation in the districts that will support in the organisation of the mobilisation, sensitisation and launching workshop in the districts.

The key stakeholders were contacted for face-face discussions while other persons were contacted by telephone. The reconnaissance visit report informed the national core team in designing appropriate pathways activities for the identification and mobilization of multi-stakeholder at the district level for the purpose. Always a consultative team of two-three persons from the national core team entered the districts with a designed checklist ensuring participatory engagement of district key stakeholder organizations and thereby conferring ownership of the process.

Care is always taken to ensure fair representation of women during the identification of the potential participants for the district platform mobilisation workshop and about at least 36% of the participants are expected to be females.

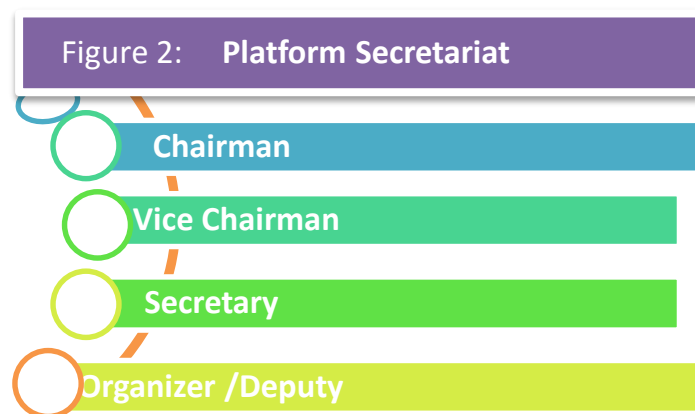
Mobilization, Sensitization and Launching Workshops

In most cases, the departments of agriculture of the various district assemblies were unanimously selected to assist with the organization of the sensitization and launching workshops.

At each workshop video documentaries on CCAFS 2^o up and also documentary on the effect of Climate were shown. Resource persons were also engaged to further sensitise participants on climate change during the plenary sessions.

Group breakout working sessions were also held to deliberate on platform formation, structure and actions.

All the district science-policy platforms that emerged from the mobilization workshops were formally launched and their executives sworn into office by a political head. Each district platform democratically elected a Chairman, Vice Chairman, a secretary, an Organizer and a deputy organizer (where no female is elected) (Figure 2). Key people present during such occasion included Regional Ministers (with or without their Deputies), Members of Parliaments, Municipal/District Chief Executives, Directors, Chiefs and Queen mothers.



During the various sessions for each district, the national core team representatives took down notes and collected data on participants' environmental scan and their perceptions

on issues discussed in the workshops pertaining to climate change, the platform formation, and the host institution selection for leadership.

These were necessary to arrive at the process outcomes and lessons drawn through consensus building and feed-back validation input mechanisms from the district actors.

Regional and District Spread of CSA Platforms

Ghana has ten (10) administrative regions consisting of 245 districts. So far out of the ten regions, CSA platforms have been scaled up into seven (7) regions. In all, there are 245 districts in Ghana but only eleven (11) districts have been covered out of 245 representing only 4.5% of coverage. In this case over the last three years platform establishment in Ghana has grown from 1.2% to 4.5%.

This suggests that more platforms are required if mainstreaming CSA into subnational level and bridging policy literacy gap are required. Figure 3 shows the regional distribution of Science-policy platforms in Ghana.

The establishment of three CSA Science-Policy Platforms at Lawra, Jirapa and Nandom was made possible with support by Flagship4 project by CCAFS. CARE International, Ghana in collaboration with the Ghana CCAFS Platform supported and facilitated the Platform establishment at Kaleo-Nadowli District. Additional five Platforms were established in collaboration with Ministry of Food and Agriculture (MoFA) under WAAPII project. Table 1 shows the number of platforms established with technical support from the national Platform.

Table 1: Collaborators and number of Platforms set-up.

Collaborators	Number	District	Year
Flagship4	3	Lawra, Jirapa & Nandom	2014
CARE International, Ghana	1	Kaleo-Nadowli	2015
MOFA-WAAPII	5	-Ada West -Ho West -Birim South -Tain -Abura-Asebu-Kwamankese	2016
Total	9		

In the Upper East region, two platforms have been established in Namdam and Talensi Districts an NGO (ACDEP) which is in partnership with platforms in Lawra and Jirapa. CARE International in collaboration with the national Platform is planning to add to the numbers in Garu-Tempene district, in the Northern region.



The Nadowli DCE, leading the high table to congratulate the CSA Platform Executive and Core Team

Figure 3: Established and functional CSA Science –Policy Platforms in Ghana by Region



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Group picture after Platform launching at Nadowli District



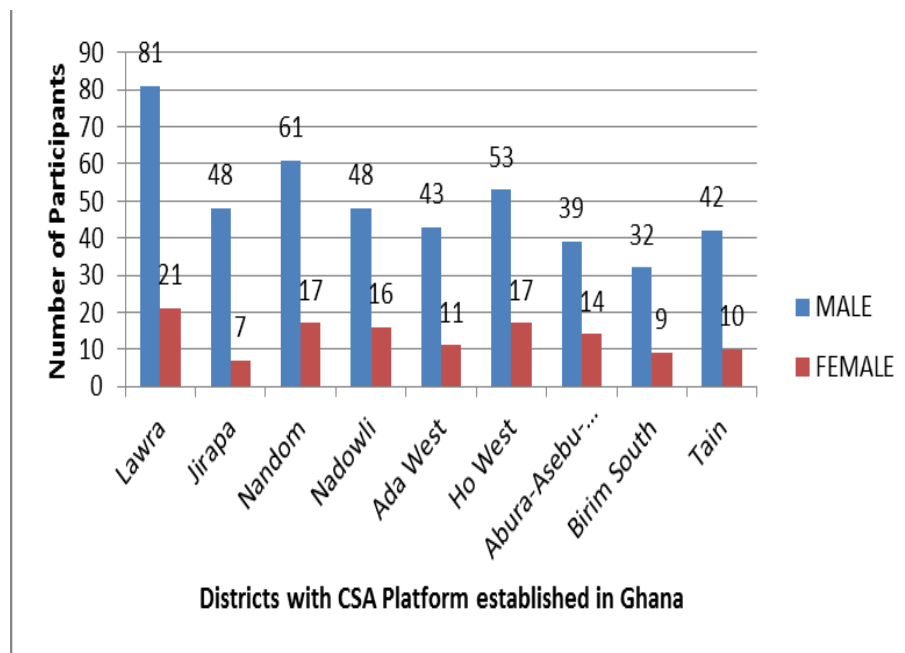
Group of Women participants at district level mobilization workshop at Nandom Platform

The response to the mobilization and launching of the district platforms in terms of numerical participation by gender were great. Though the number of participants was not the same for all the districts, they were generally encouraging in diversity of institutional representation.

In the Lawra District launching, over 100 participants attended, followed by Nandom (78) and for Ho West (70) participants were recorded (Figure 4). The low level of participants recorded at Jirapa was due to conflicting programmes within the district at the time of the workshop but in general the differences were largely due to limited budget since snacks, lunch and fares for local transportation were covered at each programme.

Figure 4 shows district level actors participation by gender during the mobilization and establishment workshops of the nine (9) District CSA Platforms in Ghana.

Figure 4: District level actors participation by gender during the mobilization and Launching of Platforms



Trends in perceptions from sub-national multi-stakeholder platforms

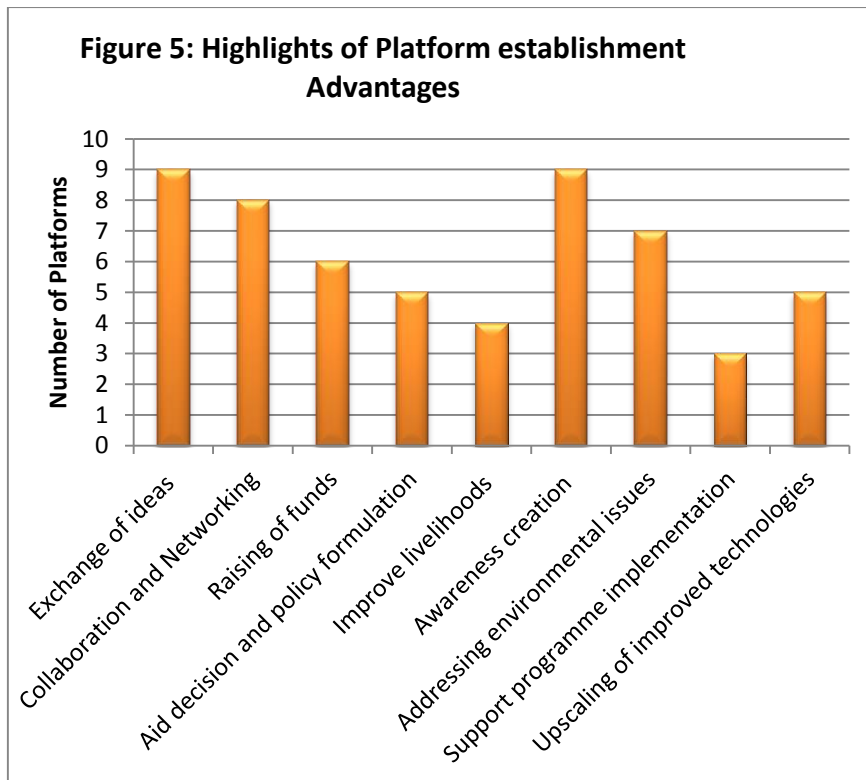
At all the nine district locations, the participants freely expressed their frustrations about climate change and the continuous degradation of the environment. There were accusations and counter accusations from the various stakeholder groupings bordering on poor agricultural practices, indiscriminate bush burning, destructive fuel wood cutting and the lack or absence of coherent and collective action in regulation and law enforcement. Each actor had the opportunity to explain or offer suggestions to the trending issues of climate change discussed.

Karbo *et al* (2015), reported that indiscriminate setting of bush fires was an issue in the Lawra district, where the president of the hunters groups indicated that hunters in the district are in three categories; namely, the small boys, the organized hunters and the professionals. The report revealed that the first two categories of hunters usually cause the bush burning within the district and therefore the professional hunters group called to see the vegetation intact to provide habitat for the game to breed so that they can sustainably practice the hunting livelihood.

Generally all the stakeholders at the mobilization discussions expressed a positive perception of the platforms coming into being with the advantages of networking with others on climate change, a voice for the people on climate change issues at that level, enact local by-laws and sharing information.

Some farmers mentioned that the platform will help them to share experience and best farming practices to increase their productivity. Figure 5 shows highlights of advantages enumerated by the districts with all the participants in each district platforms mentioning

that the platforms will help them to exchanges experiences, ideas, serving as conduit for collaboration and networking and used to create awareness of climate change and its impact and needs for addressing it. Collective raising of funds for these activities through joint proposal development was also seen to be effective with such platform in place. In the Ada West district, the economic cost of climate change to agriculture was emphasized in their discussions. The participants indicated that climate change is impacting negatively on water and health sectors as well. The participants recognised the need for more education on environmental management and climate change, and also mainstreaming of climate change into its medium term development plans. They proposed for the need to incorporate climate change into school curriculum to educate pupils and students on climate change issues.



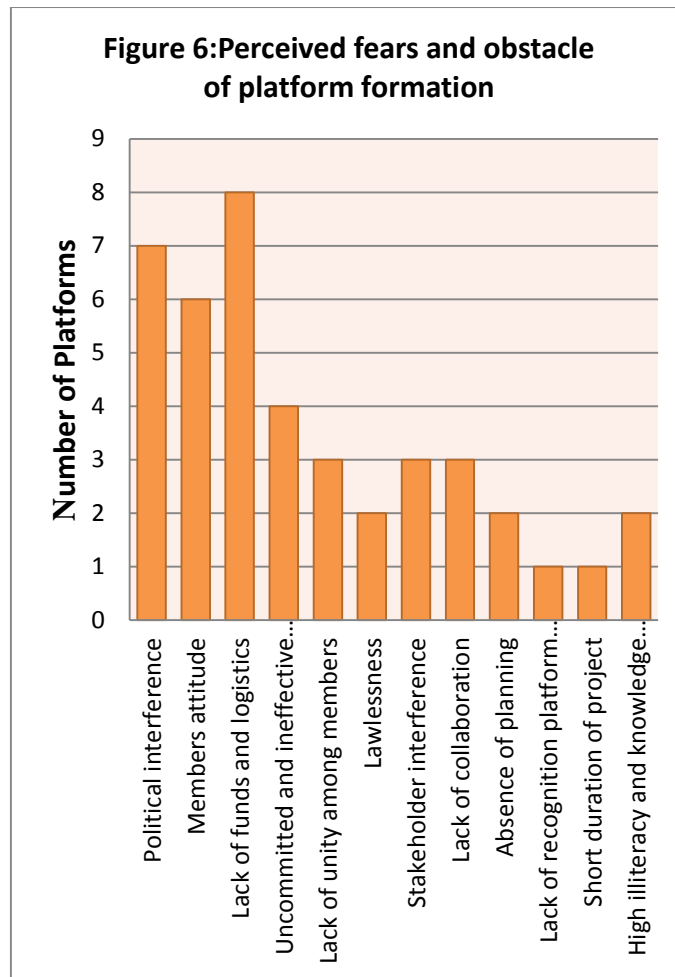
Following from these discussions the participants appreciated the need for the formation of CSA Platforms to address climate change issues.



A farmer taking advantage of the launching workshop to share experience on the adoption of improve variety of cocoyam to stakeholders at Ho West District Platform.

However, some perceived fears or obstacles that may impede the functioning of the platforms were observed to include unnecessary political interference, negative beliefs and customs of the people, the needed resources and logistics for work may not be adequate and high level of illiteracy amongst the people could retard or negate programme progress. Some perceived weaknesses in the sustainability of the platforms due to short project duration not typical for climate issues which take time. The ignorance of many people about government policies on land leases and ownership could hamper platform activities. Figure 6 summarizes the perceived fears and obstacles that could impede the progress and sustainability of the platforms with almost all indicating lack of funds and logistics, political interference and attitudinal changes by members as key fears which require attention by relevant stakeholders.

These perceived fears notwithstanding the formation of the district level platforms were seen as a kind of institutional innovation where all those who matter in the natural resources management affecting climate change can interact for greater understandings for common decision making and implementation for the better.



Platform structures with diversities in leadership choices

In structure all the district platforms adopted model operated at the national level. The host organizations or institutions in the districts were identified, secretariats put in place and the strategic core teams formed. Table 2 below shows the host institutions for the various district level platforms produced from the breakout working group sessions during the mobilization workshops. The three breakout groups in each district debated on the issue host institution and the view collated at plenary. In Jirapa all three working groups came out with the view that the District Department of Agriculture (DoA) to host the platform. In the case of Lawra, the traditional council and Department of agriculture were proposed. A 2 to 1 verdict was returned by the group session discussions in favour of traditional council. Similarly in Nandom where NADRIDEP (NGO) and DoA were considered the 2 to 1 decision by participants was in favour of the NGO being host Institute. Ho West CSA Platform is equally hosted by an NGO called Development Institute. Other institutions hosting the platforms are elaborated in table 3 with majority of the platform hosted by Districts Department of Agriculture.

Main reasons adduced for the host preferences were the ability to mobilise and organize people, transparency and trust, influential and closeness to the communities. A strong point for the NGO and DoA mentioned for the leadership was their work in the communities as extension agents. Indigenous knowledge and custodians of the land and natural resources, enormous local power including contributing to making and

enforcement of community by-laws came strong for the traditional council hosting the platform.

Tables 2 and 3 summarize the composition of stakeholder organizations forming membership of the district level science-policy platform core team for decision making, planning and implementation of activities. The inclusiveness and diversity in the core team composition across the districts appear to reflect the passion with which the platform members will want to tackle the existing environmental degradation in order to reduce the negative climate change variability effects on livelihoods and their conditions of well-being.



Paramount Chief of Lawra giving remarks at multi-stakeholder mobilization workshop for Lawra District Platform.



DCE for Ho West giving his opening remarks during the mobilization and launch workshop.



Executives of Ada West CSA Platform been congratulated after election.



Dr. N. Karbo (Chairman, Ghana CCAFS Platform) interacting with the media after a mobilization and launch workshop.

Table 1: Host institutions of District Science-Policy Platforms and their Analysis

District Platform	Host Institution	Chairman's Institution
Lawra	Traditional Council	Traditional Council
Jirapa	Department of Agriculture	Department of Agriculture
Nandom	Nandom Dinery Rural Integrated Development Project(NANDRIDEP)	NANDRIDEP (NGO)
Nadowli	Planning Department of the District Assembly	Department of Agriculture
Ada West	District Department of Agriculture	Ada West District Assembly (Central Administration)
Ho West	Development Institute (NGO)	Department of Agriculture
Abura-Asebu-Kwamankese	District Department of Agriculture	National Disaster Management Organisation(NADMO)
Birim South	District Department of Agriculture	District Department of Education (GES)
Tain	District Department of Agriculture	Central Administration (District Assembly)

Table 2: Institutional representation on the Core Team of the various District Platforms established.

Institutional Representation	District Platforms Established								
	Lawra	Jirapa	Nandom	Nadowli	Ada West	Ho West	Abura-Asebu-Kwamankese	Birim South	Tain
Traditional council	2	1	2	2	1	1		2	1
Women group	1	1	1			1	1		
Youth group	1	-	-						
Farmer group/Associations	-	-	1	1	1	1	2	1	1
Department of Agriculture	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Central Administration (District Assembly)					1			1	1
Environmental Protection Agency/Environmental health				1			1		
Forestry commission	1	1	1						
Ghana Meteorological Agency				1					
NGOs	2	2	2	1	2	1	1	2	2
Academic/Research Institutions				2					
Planning Department (District Assembly)	1	2	1	1					
District Health Service				1		1	1	1	
Department of Education					1		1	1	1
Ghana Fire Service	1	1	1					1	1

Religious Bodies/Faith based organisation					1	1	1		1
Ghana Police Service	1	-	1			1	1		
Financial Institutions/credit unions					1				
Department of Co-operative								1	
NADMO	1	-	1	1	1	1	1	1	
Department of Social Welfare & Community Development				1		1			
Assembly Members					1	1		1	
Media	1	-	1						
Total	13	9	13	13	11	11	11	13	9

Lessons Learnt

It is clear that the national platform has performed creditably in terms of regional upscaling. However, much more funding is required to upscale into nearly 95% of the the remaining districts in Ghana since climate change change is described as site and ecological specific and hence required district specific intervention. Lesson learnt include the competitive nature of hosting the platform.

The initial target of about 36% women participants for the mobilization activities was below expected. The mobilization workshop analysis revealed that women participation fell short of the expected due to the fact that those women present were selected based on the representation of their interest groups.

Conclusion

The existence of knowledge on CCAFS activities in selected districts in the Upper West Region. and the facilitating role of the National Platform provided soft landing in the mobilization and launch of the nine (9) District (sub-national) CSA science-policy platforms in Ghana. Administrative and political structures at the district level appear well defined and needs to be taken into account during project engagement to avoid possible protocol breaches. The receptiveness of the political and administrative leadership at both the district and regional level to the mobilisation and formation of all the platforms cannot be discounted in the success of the process.

With the mainstreaming of climate change focus into the district assembly systems in Ghana, calls for the establishment of similar platforms across the country. Hence the Ghana Science Policy Platforms calls for partners in mainstreaming climate smart

agriculture (CSA) through the establishment of platforms within the country and also serve as an entry point for CSA investments.

It was acknowledged that the local people see themselves as part of the climate change problem and could therefore be part of the solution working together on the platform. However, similar local groupings at community level collapse due to politicization, non-transparency in the leadership and more so when local by-law and regulations meant to protect the environment are not applied evenly to offenders – selective justice.

The use of interpreters during mobilisation of stakeholders and the launch workshops in order to effectively communicate with all participants was very helpful though time consuming. Scientists, development workers and at times the interpreters appeared short in expressions for local categories that mean for climate change, policy, science, law, environment, climate-smart, etc. Facilitation the process may require a glossary to get started.

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Authors:

- *V.A Botchway is a Senior Scientific Officer with the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (ARI)*
- *N. Karbo is a Chief Research Scientist with Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (ARI)*
- *G.O Essegbey is a Principal Research Scientist with the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (STEPRI)*
- *Delali Nutsukpo is Greater Accra Regional Director with the Ministry of Food and Agriculture*
- *K. Agyemang is a Schedule Officer for climate change and Environment Unit with the Ministry of Food and Agriculture (CSD)*
- *K.O Sam is a Research Scientist with the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (ARI)*
- *R.Zougmore is the Regional CCAFS Programme Coordinator for West Africa, ICRISAT, Mali-Bamako*
- *S. Partey is a Science Officer at ICRISAT-Mali, Bamako*

