



## CSA Platform Annual Meeting

Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

May 30, 2019

Agriculture is the backbone of both Ethiopia's livelihoods and the national economy, shaping the outcomes of all other sectors. Reliant largely on rainfall and subsistence farming, the country's food systems are particularly vulnerable to a changing climate. "Climate change is a risk multiplier in terms of agricultural productivity, food and nutrition security," said Dr. Dawit Solomon, East Africa Regional Program Leader for the CGIAR Research Program on Climate Change, Agriculture and Food Security ([CCAFS](#)). To overcome these challenges, stakeholders have come together in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia to highlight entry points to harness the triple wins of climate-smart agriculture (CSA) in increased agricultural productivity, enhanced adaptive capacity and climate resilience, and reduced emissions where possible, for Ethiopia's food systems and livelihoods.

Dr. Kiflu Segu, Senior Technical Expert for Environmental Sustainability at the Ethiopian Agricultural Transformation Agency ([ATA](#)), first provided an overview and background of the national climate-smart agriculture taskforce (CSA-TF). The task force is composed of a diversity of stakeholders, including members from government bodies, the public sphere, private sector, academia, research centers and programs, as well as non-governmental organizations and civil society. The CSA-TF aims to contribute to sustainable agriculture systems and create sound enabling environments to mainstream initiatives of the Climate Resilient Green Economy ([CRGE](#)) into Ethiopia's investment frameworks, engage diverse stakeholders across disciplines and ensure the implementation of climate-smart interventions. This requires efficient stakeholders across the climate nexus as well as transparent and readily available information and experience sharing to avoid duplication of efforts. The CSA-TF is guided by a series of core responsibilities including: support for strategic development and review processes for climate related topics; capacity building and awareness creation on climate change, identification and prioritization of key challenges at the nexus of CSA; strengthening networks and partnerships across participating entities and fields; representing the task force at bilateral meetings at multiple scales to mobilize investments; disseminating information across members and partners; as well as monitoring and evaluating ongoing progress. The CSA-TF is also tasked to set an annual workplan that identifies transformational agendas and strategic programming so the taskforce can amplify impact.

Mr. Joab Osumba, CSA Policy Specialist CCAFS East Africa, shared Kenya's experience in developing their national [CSA Strategy](#) and [Implementation Framework](#). He highlighted Kenya's policy landscape and strategic bodies at the intersection of climate and agriculture, and how the country has tackled climate response strategies within the agricultural sector. For example, Kenya's National Climate Change Action Plan ([NCCAP](#)) holds nine key themes, among them finance, mitigation, adaptation, capacity building and technology development, with important entry points for the agriculture sphere. In the lead up to the development of Kenya's CSA Strategy, readiness support assessments for CSA in Kenya were conducted at the national level, with evaluation concentrating on institutional frameworks and capacity building, climate-smart investments and monitoring and evaluation systems. Key reports, including CSA country profiles and risk profiles were also



developed by national and international partners to assess the status of CSA and climate risks in Kenya, among other countries.

Such integrated efforts and developments enabled the environment for Kenya's CSA Strategy to be possible. The process involved the setup of a multi-disciplinary expert taskforce (composed of diverse government stakeholders); induction workshops to identify the strategy's outline and roadmap, as well as thematic areas and funding sources; a comprehensive literature review to inform strategy direction; consultative workshops; consultation with senior technical staff across distinct government ministries; stakeholder consultation with the participation of 47 counties; as well as national level multi-stakeholder validation workshop, in order to produce the final version of Kenya's CSA Strategy that was launched for implementation. To develop Kenya's CSA Implementation Framework (KCSAIF), which puts into practice the CSA strategy, multi-stakeholder engagement, expert consultations, technical working sessions and national consultative and validation workshops were all conducted to put the implementation framework into action. Regional consultative sessions were also carried out to ensure bottom-up engagement, which resulted in the development of priority actions for the framework. Both the strategy and framework are now being operationalized, and sectoral experts have identified CSA actions to coincide with the distinct components of Kenya's [Medium Term Plan](#). To ensure dynamic engagement and application of both these policy setups, a Multi-Stakeholder Platform ([MSP](#)) for CSA was established in February 2019. The MSP allows for experience and information sharing on climate-smart actions in the agricultural sector and facilitates the application of the KCSAIF. To complement these structures, capacity building strategies for CSA, technical manuals, farmer handbooks as well as guidelines and standards for CSA extension and advisory services have been developed by national and international partners as key resources to mainstream and operationalize CSA across Kenya.

Ato Asaye Asnake, Coordinator at [Farm Africa](#), presented on his organization's approach to CSA, as well as consolidated experiences, key approaches, major activities, and lessons learned. Farm Africa is an organization working at the nexus of environment-agriculture-business, specifically in environmental stewardship, agriculture expertise and business model development. Farm Africa's approach to CSA provides technologies for farmers and improves awareness at the intersection of climate and food systems; builds the support of government institutions working on CSA; harnesses weather and market information to provide appropriate CSA practices that can adapt to prevailing climate extremes and engage in agricultural market integration; establishes private sector engagement to avail inputs (such as biofertilizer); and disseminates these tools using ICTs such as mobile applications and radio services.

To take these approaches to the field, Farm Africa has completed value chain and market assessments which identify ideal crops for interventions, existing constraints and response strategies, as well as a workplan guiding implementation; conducted capacity development and training of trainers for farmers, agricultural experts and development agents; applied climate and weather information systems as key inputs for CSA practices, early warning systems and risk mitigation; applied ICTs to disseminate both market and weather information (including agro-met advisories); engaged the private sector to promote cost sharing, agricultural product marketing and the establishment of seed multiplier producer cooperatives; created market linkages and financial



access for farmers by building the capacity of cooperatives as well as using tools that facilitate the financial access of smallholder farmers (e.g. village savings and loan associations); ongoing assessment of weather index crop insurance to mitigate the risks of crop failure associated with climate change; installed natural resource management interventions that promote climate adaptation and mitigation using nature-based solutions; and supported policy development, particularly the agricultural focus of Ethiopia's Nationally Determined Contribution ([NDC](#)) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change ([UNFCCC](#)).

Such approaches have been able to influence farmers' understanding of climate change, shape behaviour change and agricultural practices, resulting in increased yields, resilience to pests and disease, market linkages, increased household income, improved food security, embedded advisory services, private sector engagement and rehabilitation of degraded lands.

Dr. Getachew Eshete, Consultant with CCAFS to develop Ethiopia's CSA Strategy, shared progress on his work in the presentation *Towards developing the Ethiopian CSA Strategy*. As agriculture is the backbone and livelihood of Ethiopia, said Dr. Getachew, "if agriculture fails, everything will fail. So, it is quite important to consider climate in every undertaking in Ethiopian agriculture." In this way, he presented CSA as the future for Ethiopian farming, highlighting the vulnerabilities of the country's food systems, such as aridity and drought in pastoral areas, flooding, temperature and rainfall extremes, shifts in growing seasons, changes in atmosphere circulation. Through a scoping of Ethiopia's current policies on agriculture and climate change, Dr. Getachew has found multiple entry points to insert CSA, stressing that the most important aspect will be institutional arrangements and prioritization.

To facilitate the work of mainstreaming CSA across each and every sector, and build a resilient way forward, several ideas were presented from the participants, these are: i) capturing both worst and best practices to inform implementation at farm, policy and implementation levels; ii) tracking the current status of CSA and building scenarios to envision potential results and consequences should particular technologies be introduced, and connect the findings with policy; iii) connecting efforts of the CSA-TF with other taskforces; iv) conducting stakeholder mapping to identify who is doing what and where, to build a comparative advantage and link practices; v) incorporating two key considerations: actions and activities at the landscape level and irrigation activities (intensification and diversification) to increase productivity; vi) establishing models to work with complementary organizations to harness their expertise; vii) ensuring strong leadership; viii) creating channels for information sharing to communicate CSA practices from different institutions; and ix) establishing mechanisms to mobilize resources.