



RESEARCH PROGRAM ON
**Climate Change,
Agriculture and
Food Security**



National stakeholders' workshop of the Ghana national science-policy dialogue platform on climate change, agriculture and food security.
Review of activities and operations

4 July 2019, Tamale

**Dr. Naaminong Karbo
Mr. Vincent Ansah Botchway
Mr. Kingsley Odum Sam**



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Workshop Report

CGIAR Research Program on Climate Change,
Agriculture and Food Security (CCAFS)

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Abstract

A one-day workshop in Tamale, Ghana was organized to discuss opportunities to leverage partnership between the CCAFS West Africa's policy-focused project and the Ghana national science-policy dialogue platform on climate-smart agriculture.

Specifically, the meeting aimed to share experiences and achievements from the national and district levels science-policy dialogue platforms since their establishment and to dialogue about the way forward as well as plan and develop actions in accordance with CCAFS West Africa's policy project that began in 2019.

Keywords

Ghana; Science; Policy; Partnerships

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1. Introduction

1.1. Background information

The Ghana National Climate Smart Agriculture Science-Policy Dialogue Platform, which is a multi-stakeholder group, was privileged in November 2018 to participate in a strategic workshop organized by ICRISAT in Bamako, Mali. In that workshop, the CCAFS West Africa policy project was introduced and discussed. The Ghana platform in partnership with the CCAFS West Africa Program has been functioning for over seven years, collaboratively addressing issues of research-policy linkages aimed at influencing national policies and project implementation trajectories in agriculture. Sub-national platforms were set up to scale up the process and confer a bottom-up approach to policy influence on matters of climate-smart agriculture and sustainable development. Given this background, an opportunity emerged for the Ghana Platform to leverage partnerships and thereby contribute to the CCAFS West Africa Policy Project. In line with this, a one-day workshop was organized in Tamale as a follow up to review the activities and operations of the Ghana Platform and plan how to effectively collaborate on the West Africa Policy Project that runs from 2019 to 2021.

1.2. Objectives

The main objective is to undertake a comprehensive assessment of the Ghana Platform for strategic partnership and collaboration on the CCAFS West Africa Policy Project. The specific objectives include the following:

- To share experiences and achievements about the national and district levels science-policy dialogue Platforms, since their establishment.
- To discuss the way forward as well as plan and develop actions in accordance with the West Africa Policy Project starting in 2019.

2. Approaches and methods

Multipurpose and multifaceted implementation strategies were employed and comprised of the following processes:

Process documentation

Series of meetings were held to plan and implement the workshop processes. During the planning meetings, the workshop location and venue were identified and selected. An estimated budget was also prepared and reviewed. Additionally, the chairman, facilitators, key presenters and participants for the workshop were identified and invitations were sent out. The content of the Terms of Reference (ToR) was discussed and agreed upon. The platform secretariat developed the ToR for the stakeholders' engagement workshop. The content includes a brief introduction, objectives, strategies/approaches, agenda and list of participants.

Participants and workshop procedures

The one-day workshop was organized to showcase the composition of the Platforms.

A total of 30 participants were invited. The targeted participants included:

- Selected Core Team Members of the Platforms
- Policy makers comprising the Regional Minister, Chief Director and Director for Planning and Budgeting at the Regional Coordinating Council (RCC)
- Researchers and Academicians
- Sub-national Platforms representatives
- Climate-Smart Villages Focal Persons
- CCAFS/ICRISAT Leaders/Partners

Gender consideration was paramount and fair representation of both men and women during the workshop was ensured. For instance, some women leaders at influential positions were invited to participate.

The workshop procedures consist of three main sessions: the opening session, technical presentations and discussions session (where there were statements and presentations on specific agreed areas), and lastly the way forward and closing session. Participatory and interactive discussions approach was adopted where participants had opportunities to express their opinions. Also, there was an exhibition of platform knowledge products generated over the years and a group photograph of all participants was taken.

Workshop report development

A team was put in place to record and document the workshop proceedings and provided a draft report for review and final copies produced for dissemination. The report covered an introduction, approaches and methods, key results and findings, and conclusion and recommendations.

3. Key results and findings

3.1. Opening session

The workshop started with an opening prayer from Mr. Kingsley Odum Sam, M&E Focal Person of the Ghana Platform followed by self-introduction of participants. Participants' database was created through registration of all participants. In total 30 people attended the workshop of which 10% were women.

3.1.1. Welcome address by Dr. Naaminong Karbo, Chairman of the Ghana platform

In the welcome address, Dr. N. Karbo indicated that it is always a pleasure when people come together from diverse backgrounds with different ideas but with the hope of sharing, learning and co-generating knowledge around the issue of common interest, particularly climate change.

3.1.2. Setting the context/purpose of the workshop by Dr. Robert Zougmore, CCAFS West Africa Program Leader

Dr. Robert Zougmore expressed that it is always a pleasure to be in Ghana. There is something positive happening in Ghana; which is observed through the CCAFS supporting activities including the platform work and also the work in the Upper West region where CCAFS is developing the Climate-Smart Villages (CSVs). He said he believes that the kinds of achievements we have so far are being used. Based on such achievements, we now have to focus on some kind of policy influence so that the scientific information/knowledge generated over the years can be mainstreamed into national policies. In line with this, CCAFS decided to start a new portfolio of project from the beginning of 2019 until 2021. In November 2018, a regional workshop was then organized in Bamako, Mali where some of the core platform members and coordinators of the CSVs participated to learn more about this new project on

policy and institutions. He said they thought that it was good for the Ghana Platform to now move forward in terms of designing clear activities, objectives and goals in order to implement in a very successful manner under the new project on policy and institutions. Dr. Robert Zougmore stated that, from the Paris agreement on climate change, there are some targets that every country that has committed to the Nationally Determine Contribution (NDC) should be able to deliver starting from 2020. In that commitment, agriculture has a role to play. It is known that at least 14% of greenhouse gas (GHG) emission is from the agriculture sector. There is the need to ensure that agriculture is no longer a problem to but a solution to the mitigation. The focus now is on how to prioritize activities that will mainly capacitate country stakeholders to monitor and define how agriculture is contributing to NDCs. Lastly, Dr. Zougmore thanked the participants having come from different parts of the country adding that it is always a pleasure to see all the stakeholders to try to work together for the benefit of our communities.

3.1.3. Statement by Dr. Philip Thornton, CCAFS Priorities and Policies for CSA Flagship Leader

Dr. Thornton acknowledged the privilege to be in Ghana, his association with CCAFS and the successful field exercise to experience first-hand information on the numerous activities and achievements from the Climate-Smart Villages (CSVs). He then summarized his statement in a presentation covering a broad context of the CCAFS and Flagship 1 on Priorities and Policies for CSA. He emphasized the need to bring science and policy together in addressing climate-smart agriculture. (See Annex for the detailed presentation)

3.1.4. Keynote address by representative of the Hon. Minister for Northern Region

The Chief Director of the RCC first explained that the Hon. Minister for Northern Region has accepted the invitation to be part of the event, but he had to leave for ministerial retreat in Accra just the day before and so has requested a representative joins. He indicated the entire region is glad that important workshop is hosted in Tamale. He commended all those who have worked tirelessly, visibly and behind the scenes, to establish the Ghana Platform; adding that it is important because it gives an indication that we are being proactive in dealing with issues. Mr. Clottey pointed out that many believe so much already destruction has taken place, but there are many more who also believe that the game is not lost and that if we are

proactive we should be able to remedy some of the damages caused and even prevent many more from occurring. Definitely we need to commend all those who ensured the establishment of the platform and are working for it to be more beneficial. The detailed keynote address is placed in Annex 4.

3.2. Technical session with presentations

This session captures synopsis of technical presentations from the Ghana national platform and the sub-national platforms in the Lawra, Jirapa, Nadowli and Lambussie districts. These districts are in the northern part of the country and were selected based on proximity to the workshop location (Tamale).

3.2.1. Structure and function of the platform as way forward for an effective operation and visibility at regional and national levels by Mr. Kingsley Odum Sam

Mr. Odum Sam stated that the entire platform presentation covers some introductions, the structure and functions, major achievements, strategic focus and major activities, and concluding remarks. He pointed out that he will only talk on the first two issues, while other presenters handle the rest. The introductory aspect captured some background information, platform goal and the objectives, and some affiliations of the platform. Central to the presentation was the “platform structure and function as way forward for an effective operation and visibility at regional and national-levels”. Issues including the governance structure, composition and functions, the framework upon which the platform operates, diversity of actors and the boundary partners that the platform seeks to influence were highlighted. The detailed presentation is placed in Annex 5a.

3.2.2. Major achievements of the Ghana Platform in terms of outputs and outcomes by Mr. Vincent Ansah Botchway

The presentation focused on key achievements of the platform over the years. Amongst them is the strategic sensitization seminar organized for government ministers, directors, chief directors and legislators (parliamentarians) on climate change and variability—the need for integrating adaptation actions into sectoral plans and budgets. There was a political buy-in support from the high-level policy makers and parliamentarians in Ghana. Other achievements include the following:

- Development of CSA and Food Security Action Plan to operationalize the national climate change policy (NCCP) document
- Engagement with the academia where eminent scientists and relevant stakeholders sensitized on the CSA and Food Security Action Plan
- Sensitization and profiling of CSA technologies and practices in the Guinea Savannah and Forest agro-ecological zones in Ghana
- Formation of 10 sub-national platforms (CCAFS=3, Care International=2 and MoFA through WAAPP=5)
- Support transition of Ghana's agriculture to CSA
- Strategic partnerships and linkage mechanisms (2012-2019)
- Salient scientific knowledge outputs/results from 2011-2017

Mr. Botchway in ending his presentation enumerated certain key development outcomes and impacts of the programme. The detailed presentation is placed in Annex 5b.

3.2.3. Strategic focus and major activities going forward by Mr. Delali Nutsukpoh

Mr. Delali Nutsukpoh initially presented output on the SWOT analysis telling the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats of the Ghana Platform as a basis for future engagement. He further showed the detailed planned programmes, intervention areas and the corresponding strategic activities to ensure successful implementation going forward. In conclusion Mr. Delali indicated that the Ghana CSA Science-Policy Dialogue Platform is an institutional innovation, multi-stakeholder in nature and is generally about knowledge co-generation, information sharing and learning for policy influence at all levels. He emphasized that the Ghana Platform is well positioned for future local and international programmes and project implementation. The detailed presentation is placed in Annex 5c.

3.2.4. Major activities, achievements and the way forward from sub-national platforms

Four sub-national level platforms in northern Ghana were selected to make presentations during the workshop. Their presentation generally covered some key implemented activities since their inception, major achievements and the way forward in terms of planned activities. These platforms were namely:

- Lawra District Platform
- Jirapa District Platform
- Nadowli District Platform
- Lambussie District Platform

The detailed presentations are placed in Annexes 6a, 6b and 6c.

3.3. Discussions on the technical presentations

The content of the Table 1 below gives the summary of issues that were generated from the discussion of the technical presentations from the national and the sub-national level platforms during the workshop.

Table 1. Summary of issues from the platform’s technical presentations and discussions

NO.	PRESENTATION	MAJOR CONCERNS
1a	Platform structure and functions: the way forward for an effective operation and visibility at regional and national levels	It will be good to include some lessons learnt
1b	Major platform achievements in terms of output and outcomes	Touching on the platform activities in terms of outputs and outcomes, Dr. Robert Zougmore attested to the great achievements of the Ghana platform compared to the other four countries with similar national platform.
1c	Strategic focus and major activities going forward	<p>Include sex-disaggregated data in presentations to inform future actions and plans so no one is left out in receiving information on CSA.</p> <p>The Planned activities should be specific with respect to the cross-cutting issues such as gender and social intervention, migration, environment, etc.</p>
2	<p>Presentation from district-level platform:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Lawra platform b. Jirapa platform c. Nawdoli platform d. Lambussie platform 	<p>For the past 3 years, all districts have adequately been informed to incorporate climate change into their budgeting and plans preparation. So it is surprise to know that the some districts are not climate change compliant in terms of budgeting.</p> <p>Jirapa and Lawra could raise tree seedlings in the CCAFS CSV nursery at Doggoh to cut down the cost of purchasing seedlings for their communities in their respective district.</p> <p>Linking up with the NGOs that focus on food security program to pick up with what they are doing in terms of CSA and climate change activities. Department of Agriculture should up their game in picking up what the NGOs are doing in terms of CSA. CARE International has established a climate information center that could be of use to the platform.</p> <p>Show target that was set out to achieve and whether they were achieved.</p> <p>How were the roles of the various stakeholders on their platform clarified and were resourced appropriately to do so?</p> <p>What was the role of researchers on the platform because I did not see them presented properly?</p> <p>What kinds of innovations were presented to smallholders and how are they making sure that it is maintained and sustained at their levels, what were the challenges there and how do we come up with solutions?</p> <p>The experience on tree planting till maturing and as we plant people come to steal and plant them on their compounds.</p>

3.4. The way forward

The following were considered during the discussion on the way forward and are categorized in the section below.

i. Knowledge enhancement and capacity building

- There is the need for knowledge enhancement especially the sub-national platforms with regards to the resource mobilization. A number of funding opportunities exists. For example, the Green Climate Fund (GCF) but is it a question how the platforms can access these available fundings.
- Building capacity in the area of bankable proposal development, providing them with information about available funding opportunities and actually link the platforms to those existing opportunities. With this, they will try to access them and may not rely solely on the government for financial support.

ii. Resource mobilization and funding opportunities

- Most funding available at the international level tends to favor mitigation over adaptation financing. There is the need for including mitigation as criteria in selecting technologies that are said to be climate-smart. For now, selections are based on productivity alone. There is a need to source out for funding for the selected CSAs to be evaluated based on their emission status.
- Small grant opportunities exist and the sub-national platforms can access them and so adequate information on the processes will be made available.
- Involvement of the private sector in climate change financing by investing into CSA is very critical. The platform already has private sector actors involved. We therefore have to valorize our experiences to attract funding, taking advantage of the differentiated competences that the platforms have.
- We need to conceive and develop technical concept notes and proposals that will help to capture and monitor what we are doing so that it will be convincing at the end of the day to any of the boundary partners/users.
- Sub-national platforms in Upper West region should liaise with EU projects in the region for possible funding opportunities. The two EU projects are the GIZ-Market Oriented Agric Project (GIZ- MOAP) and Resilience of Agriculture to Climate Change (REACH)

iii. Scaling up of sub-national platforms

- The platforms' structure is good and it needs to be replicated in other areas to effectively manage the issue of climate change.
- Ministry of Finance (MoF) should consider getting budget to support the establishment of sub-national level platforms in all the districts to scale up. Thus, if it is possible, the MoF can make a justification at the national level for inclusion of the formation of sub-national level platforms in all the district level budgeting so that funds will be made available for the establishment of such platforms. In response the MoF representative indicated the as a country, we have gone past just climate change mainstreaming and now focus on the SDG where climate change is fully addressed. Since the 2019 national budget is SDG compliant, district should not have difficulties in justifying for the platform to be included in the district budget. MoF will be embarking on a sensitization of climate finance, and the platform will be considered in building their capacity on bankable proposal development.
- To upscale the district platforms the Regional Coordinating Councils (RCCs) need to play a supervisory role and with oversight responsibilities within the respective regions. For instance, the RCCs need to organize sensitizations meetings, bringing some key DCEs/MCEs to share experiences and getting the RCCs to issue policy statements that will compel all the districts within a particular region to at least work towards the establishment of the platforms. The national platform will then provide technical support towards the platforms establishment so it is a collaborative effort between the Ministry of Food and Agriculture (MoFA), MLGRD (RCCs) and the Ghana Science-Policy Dialogue Platform with the district level platforms.
- There is still room to go national, and we have come into an era of evidence-based policy making. It is happening in our country but even more so with the international organizations when they want to roll out their programs, they want evidence to support whatever we are doing. From the presentation, we have sufficient evidence to bring before policy makers that the district level platforms are making very important contributions to addressing climate change challenges on their own rights, and the platforms are already taking actions to address the climate change challenges within their localities.

- After this workshop, the district platforms need to write reports on the presentations that they have made and submit to the national platform. It will then be collated, put together and turned into a documentation to inform the national level policy makers; indicating that we have vehicles (district platforms) for specific interventions in the districts to address climate change challenges. Therefore, we need to have a national plan for the formation of district platforms and begin advocating for a national program that would ensure that we do this kind of up-scaling.
- By way of strategic positioning we should target to influence both national, sub-national (regional and district) level policy makers to mainstream the district level platforms as a main tool in upscaling CSA practices. We can also look at the aspect of financing and some success stories by selecting those that can do better and give them the finances to do more.
- In trying to upscale, we should also be looking at how to strengthen the capacities of the existing platforms to enable them to become functional and visible going forward. Therefore, we have to undertake assessments of the 10 sub-national level platforms to identify areas that we need to intervene in terms of capacity building. If we are able to do that assessment, we will be able to get feedback that will also help us to improve on approaches to use to establish new platforms.

iv. Visibility

- Embark of innovative communication strategies, as communication is very important in what we are doing. We need to develop what to communicate, thus communication products that will give the platforms visibility. These products must be shared from the local level through the regional and to the global level, including donor/development partners. One key point to take on board is documenting every experience from our program implementation knowing that we are doing applied research.
- The evidence is available but we need to improve the communication aspect and we have to think about some different and innovative ways that the successful outcomes the platforms has generated would be communicated at all levels. All these products can be used to advocate for up-scaling

- Ghana platform has produced a lot of outputs and also a lot of communication products. However, in other countries like Senegal where they didn't achieve so many outputs and outcomes, they seem to have been more effective in terms of visibility and resource mobilisation. Probably the platform has not been successful enough in valorising the different outputs and outcomes. This needs to be taken forward and it is important to identify what needs to be done in moving towards the next step.
- One way of enhancing the visibility of the platforms is by ensuring that all activities are carried out, reports are written and shared to stakeholders in the district and beyond. Also core members of the platform should mention the existence of the platform and their functions in any programme they attend and in carrying out their activities in the communities. The platform should advertise and market themselves well as a way of increasing visibility.
- Putting signs of CCAFS and the platform activities at designated locations, especially at the entry points of project districts and areas for easy recognition and contacts.

v. Monitoring and evaluation (M&E) systems

- There is need to have strong M&E systems to monitor and evaluate platform activities at different levels. There is need to document achievements and develop short narratives and synopsis of what has happened and those ongoing experiences.

vi. Southern and northern sector sub-national platforms

- We have 10 platforms, 5 of them in the north are doing well but the 5 in the south are still questionable. To those 5 platforms in the south, it may be that they do not have others close to them within their respective region to compare, they are scattered in various regions (Greater Accra, Volta, Eastern, Central and Brong Ahafo). If we compare the south platforms with those in the north, the south ones are virtually non-existent. How do we get the southern platforms also active? This will help in their visibility and also in the upscaling.
- Regarding the issue of how it seems that the platforms in the north are doing better than those down south, we need to document and learn the processes concerning the platforms on the two sides. It is an important role of the national platform to document the processes

through which the platforms have put in place, have evolved, have experienced different challenges and results achieved. This will provide the evidence of how we should scale up the process of the different platforms. These are the elements that will be used as convincing arguments towards the policy makers, the donors and any others who are interested to scale up the platform.

- One key way of getting them active is to organize sessions for them to share experience. When they do this, they can identify where the gaps are. Another way is to compare the kind of membership as there may be the need to re-visit the selection criteria.
- The seeming non-performance of the south platforms may be due to the relatively higher number of the NGOs north that are able to support them compared to the south where there are really limited number of NGOs.
- We need to think that the vulnerability of the northern sector may be a factor. As such most of the programmes and projects addressing poverty, food security, environmental degradation are taken to the north.
- The planting/rearing for food and jobs is an opportunity for the platforms in the southern sector.

vii. Other considerations

- The aspect of the media in the case of Senegal: they selected a press representative on the agriculture sector to represent the media within the platform. This media outlet is interested to get innovative and exciting information so every week this media representative was reporting on what the platform is doing. It is important to identify some missions from each component of the platform and use them as champion to link up with major and large initiatives, be it projects or programmes.
- Senegal developed a few communication products that are relevant to the country's agriculture sector with regards to climate change and successfully promoted them with some donors. For instance, the WAAPP programme was happy with the process of district platforms formation and supported them with US\$200,000.00. Currently, Senegal has 17 district level platforms. These are linked to the decentralisation process as such some district platforms are now developing their own proposals for funding. Senegal has national level Green Climate Fund and so some of the platforms have developed and

submitted a 10 million dollar proposal. Ghana needs to document the platform experiences in an in-depth manner and use to promote the platform and make it more visible.

- The sub-national platforms present were very grateful for the issues and the way forward. They indicated that all the emerging issues were to their betterment and for us to be active to contribute their quota. We are very grateful especially for the knowledge and skill enhancement towards winning proposals development. The approach of blending the local and the national level platforms and effectively collaborating with MoFA and the MRLGD together will make things work and make platforms more visible everywhere. So we are very grateful and by this we know we will always succeed.

3.5. Closing remarks

Three key dignitaries present were selected to give the closing remarks on the day's event. Below are their respective remarks.

i. Remarks by Dr. Robert Zougmore, CCAFS West Africa Program Leader

It has been great pleasure to have this one session to look at the platform experience and to explore the way forward. The Ghana Platform is one of the best platforms in West Africa and the platform achievements have made the West Africa CCAFS Programme very proud of this initiative. Dr. Philip Thornton can even testify how at the global level the achievements of the Ghana Platform have been frequently mentioned as an example of successful science-policy interface. As you know the more you achieve good things the more people are asking for more.

We started with 5 national platforms but we are currently working with mainly three platforms (Ghana, Senegal and Mali). For the 2 years to come we really want these 3 platforms to learn from the past 7 years; to learn about what was the successful and the reasons for the success stories so as to inform the scaling up as mentioned. This is very crucial because it is an effective way to mobilize resources. If we have an argument that this has been successful somewhere, definitely the donors and policy makers will be interested and get attracted to invest in it.

In Mali, for instance, they went through training processes on proposal development for submission to the Green Climate Fund. They went on to develop the proposal and the received approval from the Parliament of Mali, hence there is that strong political support. Currently, the World Bank has accepted to develop 12 projects around the ideas of investment sectors that the platform is leading. This is going to be millions of dollars and the World Bank is planning to push in, all due to the platform activities. The Mali platform is doing less than the Ghana platform. The opportunities are there but something new needs to be done to get to the next mile ahead. Dr. Robert Zougmore thanked Dr. Philip Thornton for making time to come to West Africa, Ghana and particularly to the CSVs to witness the achievement so far in order to assist documenting and promoting them to the global CCAFS programme and elsewhere. He finally thanked all participants.

ii. Remarks by Dr. Philip Thornton, CCAFS Priorities and Policies for CSA Flagship Leader

Dr. Thornton stated that it is a privilege to be here not only to visit to the CSVs but also to interact with stakeholders to learn the first time some great stuff the platforms are doing. Now, the value of the platform is even clearer than it was and is a great experience. At times when people ask how you get the science into policy in really effective way, immediately, the Ghana Platform is always the example I give. A lot has already been documented but there are still more that could be done to really help the course in moving forward.

It was stated that the focus is on strategic directions but he believes in the *power of opportunism*. One may do all the strategic planning but the best thing is to ultimately take advantage of the opportunities as they arise. There are a lot of opportunities both internally and externally. For the internal, some of the interventions mentioned here can be considered. There are different philosophies around agriculture and research for development, which may sometimes oppose development in some places. The fact is that differences exist in the opinions of people; as some may be talking about conservative agriculture, others CSA, sustainable intensification or agro-ecological approaches. Ultimately it is all about one basic thing; trying to improve the lives, nutrition and incomes of the smallholder farmers. For the external, there are enormous opportunities that can be built on; for instance, the fund for climate financing in the area of agriculture and research for development. There are also many potential and interesting initiatives that are arising; some large amount of new finance may be

going into investment to climate adaptation. It has actually been realized that the scale of the challenges is growing clearer day-by-day, which may present more opportunities in the future.

Additionally, he stated that the observed differences between the northern and the southern platforms are very interesting as per the last discussion and there might be the need to conduct relative studies. In fact the more you narrow the potential impact of climate change on human systems including agriculture the more it is like worse things are happening and become scary. Let's build the new information coming up around climate effects in terms of human nutrition, human health impact. Perhaps our perception about the vulnerability of the north or south may not hold but may depend on the circumstance. We can still consider increasing potential investment in the south.

Dr. Thornton thanked everyone for the opportunity but was very particular about Dr. Robert Zougmore and therefore acknowledged his great leadership in the regional CCAFS programme. He gave the assurance that he is open for future interactions and declared his intention to be involved in the platform. Finally, he emphasized that the new policy project will be looking forward to interacting with the platform in the next 2 years.

iii. Remarks by Dr. George Owusu Essegbey, Ghana platform Policy Analyst

Dr. George Essegbey agreed with the remarks by the other two speakers that a lot has been done by the Ghana platform so we need to celebrate our achievements. Again, there is so much more to be done, we have come far and there is so much further to go. There are 3 things we need to take away from here.

a. Introspection – It is necessary to do some internal assessments before we attempt to meet again. This came up during the last presentation of the national platform and also at the discussion and suggestion session. For instance, it has been identified that M&E system is a weakness that needs urgent attention. Also, the reasons why the platforms in the south are doing less compared to those in the north poses a question that we need to answer. As indicated earlier, there is the need to do more research to support evidence-based policy analysis. Of course the question remains about the resources to support that kind of research, which needs to be discussed further.

b. Taking opportunities – As indicated by Dr. Philip Thornton, we need to take advantage of the opportunities that are available. Opportunistic behaviour is very critical in this regard and

there are no doubts about it. Already there are projects that have been mentioned coming up and even at the global level, nations have committed to the SDGs and there are all kinds of programmes being framed around the SDGs. We can be very opportunistic, which will make the platform very successful in the end.

c. Strengthen our collaborative bonds – As a multi-stakeholder platform, we have a diversity of actors and therefore we need to look at the basics where we can draw on the strengths of the stakeholder institutions/organization and groupings we come from. There is the need to share relevant information on opportunities available and also come together to act on these opportunities. By doing so we may be moving much further than we have come.

As we leave here let's move into introspection, begin to identify the opportunities and strengthen our collaborative bonds. This will help us to move further than we have come.

4. Conclusion and recommendations

The session draws conclusion of the workshop proceedings and also makes some useful suggestions and recommendations based on the discussion and the issues that came up during the event.

4.1. Conclusion

The workshop ended with a closing prayer from Mrs. Naa from WIAD, Accra followed by departure. Attendance and participation was excellent and the objectives achieved. The workshop was very successful, it was interactive and both the organizers and participants were satisfied with the opportunity.

4.2. Recommendations

The following suggestions and recommendations, among others, were proposed based on the discussions and the observations from the workshop proceedings.

- The need for capacity building for the platforms at all levels, especially towards bankable proposal development.
- Research into available funding opportunities and taking advantage of them
- Strengthening the monitoring and evaluation systems of the platforms

- Developing and effectively implementing platform communication strategy
- The need to scale up district and sub-national platforms to cover all districts in Ghana
- Completing the climate change impact model under development by Prof S. G. K. Adiku of University of Ghana.

Annexes

Annex 1. Workshop agenda

PERIOD	PLANNED ACTIVITY	RESPONSIBILITY
8:30am-9:00am	Arrival and Registration	Ghana Platform Secretariat
9:00am-10:30am	OPENING	
	Opening Prayer	Ghana Platform Secretariat
	Introduction of Participants	Facilitator
	Welcome Address	Chairman, Ghana Platform
	Setting the context/Purpose of the workshop	National platform
	Statement from CCAFS, WA	Dr. Robert B. Zougmore
	Statement CCAFS Flagship on "Priorities and Policies for CSA"	Dr. Philip Thornton
	Key Note Address	Hon. Regional Minister, N/R
	Workshop Photograph	Ghana Platform Secretariat
10:30am-11:00am	SNACK/TEA/COFFEE BREAK	
11:00am-14:00pm	TECHNICAL SSESSION: PRESENTATION AND DISCCUSION	
	Platform Structure and Function: The Way Forward for an Effective Operation and Visibility At Regional and National-Levels	National platform
	Major Platform Achievements in terms of Outputs and Outcomes	National platform
	Strategic Focus and Major Activities going Forwards	National platform
	Presentations from Sub-National Platforms (Lawra, Nandom, Jirapa, Nadowli, Lambussie)	Sub-national platform
14:00pm-15:00pm	LUNCH BREAK	
15:00pm-16:30pm	WAY FORWARD	
	Platform work plan Next step/roadmap	National platform
	Closing Remarks	
	Closing Prayer	Participant

Annex 2. List of participants

NO.	NAME OF PARTICIPANT	STATUS	ORGANIZATION
1	Dr. Naaminong Karbo	Chairman	CSIR-ARI
2	Mr. Delali K. Nutsukpo	Vice Chairman	MoFA

NO.	NAME OF PARTICIPANT	STATUS	ORGANIZATION
3	Mr. Vincent Ansah Botchway	General Secretary	CSIR-ARI/CCAFS
4	Mr. Kingsley Odum Sam	M&E Focal Person	CSIR-ARI/CCAFS
5	Dr. George Owusu Essegbey	Executive Member	CSIR-STEPRI
6	Mr. Kingsley Agyemang	Member	MoFA (Crop Services Directorate)
7	Mr. Foster Aboagye Gyamfi	Member	Ministry of Finance (Economic Strategy and Research Division)
8	Mrs. Naa Oyoe Quartey	Member	MoFA (Women in Agriculture Directorate)
9	Dr. Dilys McCarthy	Member	University of Ghana
10	Mrs. Prospera Anku	Member	MoFA (Agricultural Extension Services Directorate)
11	Dr. Franklin Avornyo	Ag. Director, Tamale	CSIR-ARI
12	Dr. Saaka Buah	Director	CSIR-SARI
13	Eric E. Kaliebu	Representative	Lawra Sub-national Platform
14	Mr. John Ere-Zolko	Secretary	Jirapa Sub-national Platform
15	Mr. Bilathey Bimi	Secretary	Nadowli Sub-national Platform
16	Mr. Felix Gandaaku	Representative	Lambusie Sub-national Platform
17	Mr. Peter Maalongae	Focal Person	CSV, Doggoh
18	Dr. Philip Thornton,	CCAFS Flagship Leader	
19	Dr. Robert B. Zougmore	CCAFS, West Africa Coordinator	ICRISAT, Mali
20	Mathieu Ouedraogo	CCAFS, West Africa	ICRISAT, Mali
21	Mr. Mahama	Focal Person	CSV, Bompore
23	Mr. Clotey	The Chief Director	Regional Coordinating Council, Tamale
24	Other	The Director for Planning	Regional Coordinating Council, Tamale
25	Other	Director	CARE International, Tamale

Annex 3. Keynote address by representative of the Hon. Minister for Northern Region Minister

Mr. Chairman, ICRISAT and CCAFS representatives, Dr. Philip Thornton (CCAFS Flagship Leader, Dr. Robert Zougmore (Africa Program Leader of CCAFS) and colleagues from ICRISAT, Bamako Office, Directors of Agriculture, Chairman and Executives and members of the Ghana Climate Change, Agriculture and Food Security (CCAFS) Platform,

representatives of district level science-policy platforms, Researchers at CSVs in northern Ghana, noble farmers and actors in the agricultural value chain, Invited Guests, ladies and gentlemen; I am happy to be with you this morning to discuss the new policy project planned from 2019-2021 which am reliably be informed hoovers around the phenomenon of climate change and variability and achieving food security on the continent.

Mr. Chairman, ladies and gentlemen, Climate Change has become an important developmental issue that requires focused attention by all. Climate change is being manifested in several forms such as increasing temperatures, rainfall variability and associated longer than known dry periods, and shorter growing seasons.

Climate change is putting further stress on our natural resources thus resulting in further degradation of land (soils) and water resources. Climate Change is also associated with increasing occurrence of extreme events including droughts and floods; all of which have dire consequences for our agriculture and food systems. These effects are of concern because of the high dependence of our agriculture and food systems on climatic factors.

The Government of Ghana realizing the impacts of climate change on key sectors of the economy developed the National Climate Change Policy (NCCP), which was launched in July 2014. The policy is to serve as a framework for effectively addressing Climate Change in the key economic sectors including agriculture.

In line with the implementation arrangements of the NCCP, the Ministry of Food and Agriculture (MoFA) with support from the Climate Change, Agriculture and Food Security (CCAFS) Ghana with support from CCAFS West Africa has developed National Climate Smart Agriculture (CSA) and Food Security Action Plan to serve as a vehicle for the implementation the Agriculture and Food Security component of the NCCP for the period 2016 – 2020.

The ministry in collaboration with its partners have rolled out and continue to roll out a number of CSA related intervention to improve the resilience of farmers to climate change impacts. One such interventions is “Support Transition Towards Climate Smart Agriculture Food Systems”, an FAO technical cooperation project. The project aims to create an enabling environment for the scaling up of CSA to build resilience of actors along the value chain through improved coordination, alignment of policies, strategies and investment framework.

Mr. Chairman, I am aware that, the Ghana platform in partnership with the CCAFS West Africa Program has been functioning for over seven years, collaboratively addressing issues of research-policy linkages aimed at influencing national policies and project implementation trajectories in agriculture. For instance, Sub-national platforms were set up to scale up the process and confer a bottom-up approach to policy influence on matters of climate-smart agriculture and sustainable development. I believe that today's workshop will provide an opportunity to share information and achievements by the platform and also to discuss a work plan in accordance with the new West Africa policy project.

It is expected that at the end of the day all stakeholders and partners within the agricultural sector present will benefit and would be capable of supporting agricultural development at the local level to boost productivity, ensure sustainable agriculture through the promotion of localized CSA technologies and practices while enhancing the social well-being of all actors particularly the smallholder farmer.

Mr. Chairman, I want to welcome all key stakeholders to Tamale, and entreat each person to participate fully by providing relevant inputs, comments and suggestions to help make the workshop a success.

I wish you a successful deliberation, Thank you.

Annex 4. Detailed statement/presentation by Dr. Philip Thornton, CCAFS Priorities and Policies for CSA Flagship Leader

<https://www.slideshare.net/cgiarclimate/sciencepolicy-dialogue-helping-agriculture-adapt-to-a-changing-climate>

Annexes 5a, 5b and 5c. Presentation at the CCAFS Ghana science-policy dialogue platform national stakeholders' workshop on 4 July 2019 in Tamale, Ghana.

Including:

* Platform structure and function as a way forward for an effective operation and visibility at regional and national levels by Mr. Kingsley Odum Sam

* Major achievements of the platform in terms of outputs and outcomes by Mr. Vincent Ansah Botchway

* Strategic focus and major activities going forward by Mr. Delali Nutsukpoh

<https://www.slideshare.net/cgiarclimate/ghana-sciencepolicy-dialogue-platform-presentations>

Annex 6a. Presentation from Jirapa platform

<https://www.slideshare.net/cgiarclimate/presentation-from-the-jirapa-platform>

Annex 6b. Presentation from Nadowli platform by Erik Kaliebu

<https://www.slideshare.net/cgiarclimate/presentation-from-the-nadowli-platform>

Annex 6c. Presentation from Lambussie platform

<https://www.slideshare.net/cgiarclimate/presentation-from-the-lambussie-platform>