



AICCRA Zambia Additional Finance Stakeholder Consultation Report

21 September 2023

AICCRA Zambia



AICCRA
Accelerating Impacts of CGIAR
Climate Research for Africa



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Accelerating Impacts of CGIAR Climate Research for Africa (AICCRA) is a project that helps deliver a climate-smart African future driven by science and innovation in agriculture. It is led by the Alliance of Bioversity International and CIAT and supported by a grant from the International Development Association (IDA) of the World Bank.

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About AICCRA Reports

Titles in this series aim to disseminate interim research on the scaling of climate services and climate-smart agriculture in Africa, in order to stimulate feedback from the scientific community.

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About AICCRA



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ABBREVIATIONS

AICCRA	Accelerating Impacts of CGIAR Climate Research in Africa
AU	African Union
AUC	African Union Commission
AUDA	African Union Development Agency
BAU	business as usual
CA	conservation agriculture
CAADP	Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme
CBA	cost-benefit analysis
CCAFS	Climate Change Agriculture and Food Security
CGIAR	Consultative Group of International Agricultural Research Centres
CIS	climate information services
CSA	climate-smart agriculture
CSAIP	climate-smart agriculture investment plan
CSEP	Climate-Smart Agriculture Education and Policy Project
CSV	climate-smart village
FANRPAN	Food, Agriculture and Natural Resources Policy Analysis Network
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
FNS	food and nutrition security
GCCASP	Gender Climate Change and Agriculture Support Programme
ICT	information and communications technology
INGO	international non-governmental organisation
IRR	internal rate of return
MoAMID	Ministries of Agriculture, Mechanisation and Irrigation Development
MSP	multi-stakeholder platform
NDE	National Designated Entity
NEPAD	New Partnership for Africa's Development
NGO	non-governmental organisation
NPV	net present value
PICZ	Professional Insurance Company of Zambia
REC	Regional Economic Community

01. SUMMARY

This report presents the outcomes of Accelerating Impacts of CGIAR Climate Research for Africa (AICCRA) Zambia Stakeholder Consultation Workshop for Additional Financing (AF). The consultation was held on September 21, 2023, from 09:00 to 14:00 CAT at the Inter-Continental Hotel, Lusaka. In total, 100 participants (31 females and 14 youth) participated in the consultation. The objectives of the stakeholder consultation were to: i) update and inform stakeholders about the AICCRA program; ii) inform partners and stakeholders about the continuation of financing and the rationale for AICCRA's AF, including the new orientations and increased ambitions; and iii) collect inputs and feedback from stakeholders to consolidate into the AICCRA AF proposal.

The stakeholder consultation workshop was a resounding success in terms of fostering collaboration and gathering diverse feedback and input on the key challenges and priorities for building food system resilience to climate shocks in Zambia by increasing uptake and use of CIS and CSA innovation bundles during the AICCRA Zambia Additional Funding period.

The workshop was officially opened by the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Green Economy and Environment, Dr. Dauty Chibamba. The Permanent Secretary stressed the importance of encouraging marginalized communities to take part in decision-making processes and suggested the following priorities for consideration during the implementation of the AICCRA Additional Funding: (i) foster stronger, more meaningful collaboration between local stakeholders; (ii) make technologies, innovations, and information available in the most remote corners of the country to ensure informed decision-making and address the problem of limited extension services; (iii) invest in capacity building for farmers, extension officers, and other stakeholders; and (iv) efforts to scale climate-smart agriculture should be aligned with the national and regional climate policies and priorities.

The consultation comprised breakout sessions on emerging challenges, priorities, and opportunities for partnerships under the AF, including gender and social inclusion. Four themes emerged strongly from the group discussions, and these are: (i) accelerating bundled and gender-responsive climate-smart

agriculture (CSA) and climate information services (CIS) in Zambia through agribusiness accelerators and other programs; (ii) delivering just-in-time scientific evidence and knowledge that respond to local organizations and country requests (EWS, drought management, agro-advisories); (iii) strengthening the pipeline: education, capacity strengthening, learning exchange (I2G, curriculum development, etc.); and policy and investments (cross-cutting).



Attendees of the AICCRA Zambia Additional Finance Stakeholder Consultation.

In conclusion, the AICCRA Zambia consultation workshop for Additional Financing provided a platform to engage in meaningful discussions, exchange ideas, and collectively identify challenges and priorities for increasing

smallholder farmers' uptake and use of CIS and CSA technologies to improve the food system's resilience in Zambia's climate hotspots. Going forward, the cluster will carry forward the momentum and enthusiasm generated during this workshop. The project will maintain open lines of communication through multistakeholder dialogue, nurture its relationships with Zambian government through various departments and the accelerator partners (agribusinesses) in the private sector, including the internship innovation grant, and diligently follow up on the priority items identified in the four themes discussed in this brief report.

Acknowledgement

The Accelerating Impact of CGIAR Climate Research for Africa (AICCRA) project is supported by a grant from the International Development Association (IDA) of the World Bank. IDA helps the world's poorest countries by providing grants and low to zero-interest loans for projects and programs that boost economic growth, reduce poverty, and improve poor people's lives. IDA is one of the largest sources of assistance for the world's 76 poorest countries, 39 of which are in Africa. Annual IDA commitments have averaged about \$21 billion over circa 2017-2020, with approximately 61 percent going to Africa.



AICCRA Zambia Additional Finance Stakeholder Consultation.

02. INTRODUCTION

Accelerating Impacts of CGIAR Climate Research for Africa (AICCRA) is a project that helps deliver a climate-smart African future driven by science and innovation in agriculture. AICCRA enhances access to climate information services (CIS) and climate-smart agriculture (CSA) technologies and practices, validated through rigorous research and innovation led by CGIAR, the world's largest research partnership for agriculture and food security.

Through the support of AICCRA, farmers and livestock keepers can anticipate climate-related events better and take preventative actions, with better access to climate advisories linked to information about effective response measures. This helps African communities better safeguard their livelihoods and their environment. AICCRA focuses its efforts on six countries: Senegal, Mali, Ghana, Kenya, Ethiopia, and Zambia. It also promotes positive 'spillover' effects across entire regions, namely West Africa and East and Southern Africa. AICCRA is led by the Alliance of Bioversity International and CIAT and supported by a grant from the International Development Association (IDA) of the World Bank.

In Zambia, AICCRA is led by the International Water Management Institute in partnership with CGIAR partners IITA, ICRISAT, and WorldFish, and several local partners who work collaboratively to scale bundled CSA and CIS innovations. These include an Agribusiness Accelerator program, an Innovation and Internship Grant (I2G) Mechanism, a Multi-stakeholder Dialogue Platform, an Integrated Agdatahub, and various training and capacity strengthening activities (see *Brochure and AICCRA Zambia Scaling Vision attached*).

The World Bank has approved the start of a process for presenting to the Board the two-year Additional Financing (AF) for AICCRA, expected to begin on March 1, 2024. The AF will focus on: (i) scaling up the validation and use of CSA and CIS technologies, including the validation of more technology bundles and reaching more people; (ii) strengthening the regional organizations to provide direct support to beneficiaries for sustainability; and (iii) expanding AICCRA's support to target governmental and non-governmental programs and priorities, including those financed by the

World Bank and other international development partners.

Purpose of the AF Stakeholder Consultation

The purpose of the stakeholder consultation were to: (i) keep the AICCRA Zambia stakeholders up-to-date and informed about the AICCRA program including impact achieved to date, (ii) inform partners and stakeholders about the continuation of financing and the rationale for AICCRA's AF, including the new orientations and increased ambitions (i.e., (a) transitioning from "access" to validated CSA and CIS technologies to include "their uptake and use" by beneficiaries and end users, (b) focusing on the strengthening of the regional organizations to provide direct support to beneficiaries for sustainability, and (c) expanding AICCRA support to target government programs and priorities); and (iii) collect inputs and feedback from the stakeholders on challenges, needs and priorities to consolidate into the AICCRA's AF proposal.

03. METHODOLOGY

AICCRA AF National Consultation in Zambia was held on September 21, 2023, from 09:00 to 14:00 CAT at the Inter-Continental Hotel, Lusaka. In total, 100 participants (31 females and 14 youth) from diverse backgrounds participated in the consultation.

Open and interactive discussions characterized the consultation, and prior to the workshop, all invited participants received consultation materials that included a concept note and agenda to help them understand the purpose of the workshop and expectations as well as the [AICCRA Zambia Brochure](#) and [Scaling Vision](#). To enhance transparency, the consultation sessions involved presentations, group discussions, and question-and-answer sessions.

The session format was in-person although a virtual connection was provided for speakers and a few AICCRA project management team members. Diverse stakeholders were put in group discussions to promote knowledge sharing, get quality feedback, and ensure that all stakeholder input was considered in the development and implementation activities for the AF. Stakeholder feedback was compiled using flipcharts, sticky notes and PowerPoint presentation slides and collected afterwards for collation into this Summary Report.



AICCRA Zambia Additional Finance Stakeholder Consultation.

04. FINDINGS

The stakeholder consultation workshop was a success in terms of fostering collaboration and gathering diverse perspectives on the key challenges and priorities for building food system resilience to climate shocks in Zambia by increasing uptake and use of CIS and CSA technologies during the AICCRA Zambia Additional Funding period.

The following are the salient outcomes of the workshop:

High-level support for AICCRA

The AICCRA Additional Funding Stakeholder Consultation in Zambia was officially opened by **Dr. Douty Chibamba, Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Green Economy and Environment** (See Annex 2 for Opening Speech). The Permanent Secretary reiterated government support for the AICCRA project's implementation in Zambia and expressed delight at the World Bank's approval of additional finance, stating that the project would go a long way toward reducing climate risks in the country and the world at large.

“The effects of climate change can be seen everywhere; our food security in the country is threatened; and countries across borders are dealing with similar issues. Consider what is happening in Libya, Hawaii, Greece, and many other countries that are strong signs of the effects of climate change. As a government, we appreciate this increased financing since it will go a long way toward filling information gaps and assisting the country in confronting and tackling various climate-related challenges like developing resilient agri-food systems.” The Permanent Secretary appreciated stakeholder consultations in Zambia for AICCRA Additional Funding.

The Permanent Secretary pleaded for the AICCRA project to increase smallholder farmers' utilization of new technologies and stressed the importance of finding cost-effective ways to make advanced technologies available to all. He noted that in the past, interventions have widened the gap between large-scale producers and smallholder farmers. He stressed the importance of encouraging marginalized

communities to take part in decision-making processes. He suggested the following:

- Foster stronger, more meaningful collaboration between local stakeholders.
- Technologies, innovations, and information are made available in the most remote corners of the country to ensure informed decision-making and address the problem limited extension services.
- Investing in capacity building for farmers, extension officers, and other stakeholders. Extension officers and farmers need to be continuously updated on the most up-to-date knowledge. The Permanent Secretary noted that agriculture is more than just the act of growing food; it is also the cornerstone of Zambia's economy and a driving factor in our carbon footprint.
- Efforts to scale climate-smart agriculture must align with national and regional climate policies ensuring that research and innovations are not just sustainable but also compliant and supportive of broader environmental directives.

The Permanent Secretary also emphasized the following policy priorities of the Ministry of Green Economy and the Environment and requested that these be factored into all future plans:

- **Green Job Creation:** As we advance our technologies and practices, there's immense potential to create green jobs – from research, to renewable energy in farming, to sustainable supply chain management. Our young population, eager to be part of solutions addressing global challenges, can be at the forefront of this green revolution.

- **Low Carbon Agriculture:** The innovations championed by AICCRA have the potential to transition our agriculture into low carbon or even carbon-neutral practices. From sustainable irrigation methods to precision agriculture, we can substantially reduce our carbon footprint, setting a precedent for other sectors of our economy to follow.
- **Resource Efficiency:** Climate-smart agriculture can also lead the way in efficient resource use – be it water, soil, or energy. This not only ties into our sustainability goals but also underpins key principles of a green economy, ensuring that our growth is resource-efficient, cleaner, and less wasteful.
- **Market Transformation:** By aligning our agricultural advancements with green economy principles, we can also transform our market dynamics. Products and produce that adhere to sustainable, climate-resilient methods can be recognized, valued, and even fetch premium prices, driving market forces to align with climate goals.

Dr. David Chikoye, CGIAR Country Convener for Zambia; Dr. Felix Imbwae, representing the Director of the Zambia Meteorological Department; Dr. Inga Jacobs-Mata, AICCRA Zambia Cluster Lead; and Dr. Ana Maria Loboguerrero, AICCRA program director, were among those who spoke during the opening session.

Dr. Chikoye opened with remarks emphasizing the increasing global concerns surrounding climate change, referencing its recognition as humanity's foremost challenge at the African Climate Summit in Kenya. He stressed that through scientific innovation and strategic partnerships, we could address the climate's impacts on agriculture, livestock, and society at large. Highlighting AICCRA's efforts over the past two years, Dr. Chikoye mentioned their initiatives such as the promotion of Climate Innovation Systems (CIS), the accelerator grant, an internship program, and the establishment of the AgData hub. He underscored the importance of the MSD platform, developed under AICCRA, as a venue for stakeholders to collaborate and ideate solutions to climate issues. Using the African proverb, "If you want to walk fast, walk alone. If you want to go far, go together," and a

political saying emphasizing collective strength, he urged the workshop delegates to collaborate and share their experiences openly. Dr. Chikoye believes that through candid feedback and discussions, more effective climate mitigation strategies can be crafted.

Dr. Ana Maria Loboguerrero expressed her gratitude to the AICCRA team in Zambia and provided an overview of the AICCRA project, detailing its presence in six countries across two African regions. Emphasizing the power of partnerships in achieving significant results, she pointed out that the workshop was timely. It served as an essential platform to review Zambia's progress over the past three years and contemplate ways to build upon and enhance the project's outcomes. She stressed the necessity of aligning the project with in-country demands and listed key shifts within AICCRA: ensuring that smallholder farmers access and utilize technologies; gauging impact based on the adoption of these technologies; and transitioning from merely providing access to fostering both access and informed usage. This, she mentioned, is crucial for guiding the operations of collaborating institutions, including the World Bank. Concluding her remarks, she expressed gratitude to the World Bank and other partners for their commendable contributions over the years and encouraged the AICCRA team to persistently leverage their partnership to innovate and broaden the reach of their technologies.

Dr Inga Jacobs-Mata then followed with a presentation in two segments: 1) overview and impact of AICCRA in Zambia to date; and 2) Overview of AICCRA Additional Financing. For the presentation and background on the AICCRA AF meeting, click here: [AICCRA Zambia Overview Presentation](#)

The AF emphasizes: (i) the importance of ensuring that smallholder farmers have access to and use the technologies; (ii) the impact will be measured based on the utilization of promoted technologies; and (iii) the project is transitioning from access to access and use, with the goal of producing knowledge to inform the operations of the various institutions with which we collaborate, including the World Bank.

Summary of plenary discussions on the objectives of AF in Zambia

The overview presentation spurred several questions and discussions. One focal point was enhancing performance in the project's second phase. In response, Dr Jacobs-Mata highlighted the transition from simply providing access to innovations to ensuring their *usage, particularly by farmers and vulnerable groups*. Regarding the shift from mere access to uptake and use, potential metrics were discussed, such as KAP studies and impact assessments.

Emphasis was also placed on the need for partners to actively address the requirements of women and youth. When queried about fortifying extension services, especially since many extension officers might lack climate change information, the speaker pointed out the need for greater alignment with other initiatives such as the USAID-funded Accelerated Innovation Delivery Initiative (AID-I) that focuses on strengthening extension services. In addition, she emphasized the need for the AICCRA Zambia Accelerator program to be expanded to include extension services within its model.

On the subject of expanding reach and ensuring sustainability, the consensus was to aggregate outcomes and products on a universally accessible platform. A notable point from the second presentation on the principles of Additional Financing was the incorporation of soil fertility and health. The plenary suggested incorporating definite measurable objectives, a sentiment echoed by the mention that while accelerator partners already have some objectives defined, there's room to enhance these across the entire program.

Interactive group discussions

Group discussions resulted in the identification of Zambia's priorities that can help increase uptake and use of CIS and CSA innovations during the AICCRA Additional Financing period.

The consultation comprised breakout sessions on emerging challenges, priorities, and opportunities for partnerships under the AF

including gender and social inclusion. Four themes emerged from the group discussions:

1. Accelerating bundled and gender-responsive climate-smart agriculture (CSA) and climate information services (CIS) in Zambia (through agribusiness accelerators and other programs)
2. Strengthening the pipeline: education, capacity strengthening, learning exchange (I2G)
3. Policy and investments (cross-cutting)
4. Delivering just-in time scientific evidence and knowledge that respond to local organizations and country requests

The breakout group discussions centered around the following questions:

Each group to discuss and answer the following questions:

1. What are the emerging challenges for Zambia related to this topic?
2. What are priorities/needs for stakeholders in this area?
3. What are the opportunities for partnerships under the AF?
4. For those familiar with the AICCRA program: what went well and what did not go well with the AICCRA program related to this topic/issue area?
5. How do we enhance women and youth participation, empowerment and benefits in this area? How do we ensure that our scaling efforts do not inadvertently further disenfranchise smallholder farmers and vulnerable groups?

Specific for Acceleration group:

1. How do we ensure that the program moves from access to use of bundled innovations? How do we expand the AICCRA Zambia Accelerator?

2. What type of *bundled* innovations are most impactful?
3. How can the program crowd-in additional funds for Acceleration?
4. How can extension services be incorporated?

Specific for Capacity group:

1. How do we ensure that the program also benefits non-university going youth?

For Policy and Investment group:

1. What policies/investments can the AICCRA program inform? And how can this be achieved?
2. NFCWS will continue – how do we ensure broad sector buy-in and actionable outcomes?
3. How do we link to WB programs in Zambia?

For the 'Just-in time' Evidence group:

1. What types of just-in time scientific evidence and knowledge is needed by different stakeholders in Zambia, and in what form?
2. Do we continue with the Agdatahub, and if so, how to embed it within the Accelerator
3. How can agro-advisories best meet the needs of farmers and SMEs?
4. What communication channels are needed to enhance dissemination?

The section below documents the discussions in more detail, however, a summary is provided here: [AICCRA Zambia AF Consultation Discussion Summary](#).

1. **Accelerating bundled and gender-responsive climate-smart agriculture (CSA) and climate information services (CIS) in Zambia through**

agribusiness accelerators and other programs

A focal breakout discussion revolved around bolstering gender-responsive climate-smart agriculture (CSA) and climate information services (CIS) in Zambia through agribusiness accelerators and other programs. A slew of challenges were listed by participants: many lack access to digital platforms like TVs or mobile phones, and literacy levels, especially among women and the youth, remain worryingly low. The CSA landscape is further marred by the scant availability of equipment such as solar panels and rippers. There's also a glaring disconnect in extension services, with misinformation rampant and ineffective outreach methods. The need for information on underground water for those using irrigation technologies, limited funding avenues for CIS/CSA innovations, and a non-demand-driven approach to CIS technologies further exacerbate the challenges. The low evidence of on-farm impact and the absence of supportive policies compound these issues.

Addressing these requires a multi-pronged approach. Localizing early warning systems through district-level partnerships emerged as a top priority. Additionally, stakeholders emphasized the necessity of reshaping the mindset and behaviors of smallholder farmers (SHFs) towards CSA/CIS adoption. The development of a collaborative extension service framework and studies into the affordability of CSA/CIS innovation bundles were highlighted.

Opportunities lie in galvanizing collaboration with local partners. Strengthening ties with local trade schools can augment information dissemination. Partnerships with the Zambia Meteorological Department (ZMD) and other local CIS/CSA providers hold potential. Clearly communicating the tangible benefits of CSA technologies to SHFs is pivotal.

The participant demographic was diverse, spanning accelerator partners, farmer-producer organizations, and extension officers. The pivot towards digitized information systems has improved extension services, yet a sizable fraction of SHFs remains bereft of smart phones or televisions. A paradigm shift towards expanding CSA bundles scaled by local agribusinesses and consolidating partnerships

with district players is seen as the solution. The AICCRA Zambia Accelerator Program, lauded for its success, garnered appeals for expansion. Moreover, the prevalence of illiteracy among SHFs underscores the need for customized climate information in user-friendly formats. Collaborating with the ZMD at the district level can ensure tailored climate advisories, equipping farmers with actionable insights, such as recommended seed varieties in response to anticipated rainfall patterns and other season-specific climate risks.

2. Strengthening the pipeline: education, capacity strengthening, learning exchange (I2G, curriculum development etc)

Discussions in this breakout session spotlighted the need for strengthening educational pathways, emphasizing capacity-building, and facilitating learning exchanges. A key challenge identified was the dwindling interest among the youth in agricultural careers. This is exacerbated by the CSA and CIS curricula, which often lack real-world applicability. Moreover, non-university youth face limited opportunities to engage in innovative scaling activities. Stakeholders stressed the urgency of integrating hands-on training and a multidisciplinary approach within educational programs. They further advocated for the inclusion of CSA and CIS topics at foundational educational stages. On the partnership front, the dialogue revolved around bridging the gap between students and youth networks or young farmer groups. Collaborative ventures with youth-led entities and farmer associations could be instrumental in ensuring mentorship and shared learning experiences. The already-existing infrastructure provides an opportunity to tap into Accelerator programs and synergize with the private sector for more robust capacity development.

The Zambian Government's commitment to youth empowerment through various initiatives aligns seamlessly with the AICCRA Zambia Innovation and Internship Grant (I2G) program. This program emerges as a beacon in the nation's endeavor to curb unemployment. Stakeholders felt a pressing need to revisit educational curricula to embed more CSA and CIS at foundational levels. The focus should encompass not just the university-bound youth but also those outside the traditional academic

sphere. Engaging them can be achieved through mentorship initiatives linking students with young farmers and by solidifying ties with youth-centric groups. Partnerships with the private sector could pave the way for enriched internship experiences. A structured mentorship system, especially with CGIAR or similar entities, could provide interns with invaluable guidance and feedback. The emphasis was also placed on the importance of complementing internships with climate change workshops to enrich their skill set. A culminating evaluation of the intern's journey, spotlighting accomplishments and growth areas, was deemed crucial. With these insights, the I2G team is poised to enhance its offerings, fostering collaborations with diverse educational and agricultural stakeholders.

3. Delivering just-in time scientific evidence and knowledge that respond to local organizations and country requests (EWS, Drought management, agro-advisories)

A third breakout group provided insights into the pressing need for delivering timely scientific evidence to local organizations and the country. This session highlighted several strategic challenges, notably the ineffective coordination among partners delivering Climate Information Services (CIS) and the fragmented nature of current early warning systems. Additionally, the infrastructure for data collection was flagged as lacking, alongside concerns about groundwater, salinity, and challenges in data management. The group expressed concern that many technology solutions overlook gender and social aspects, coupled with a significant lack of localized research, leading to unreliable data.

When discussing needs and priorities, the conversation pivoted towards the urgent need for digitizing data held by national agencies such as ZMD. A pressing sentiment was the necessity to ensure that early warnings lead to timely actions. Equally paramount is the importance of climate-proofing livelihoods through measures like drought contingency plans. Another highlighted priority was the co-development of technologies with target groups to ensure inclusivity and relevance. This is especially vital in drought-affected regions like Zambia's Eastern, Central, and Southern Provinces,

where accurate groundwater mapping is crucial for optimal drilling.

The group saw a significant opportunity in partnerships. They stressed the importance of harmonizing data collection and interpretation across different entities. There was a collective call for the government to ensure all decisions are inclusive and considerate of all stakeholders, especially when these decisions directly impact the livelihoods of the people. The possibility of creating a structured window for data publication was discussed, giving communities adequate preparation time to act. Emphasized throughout the session was the need for collaboration in mapping ground and surface water resources.

In summary, the discussion revolved around the pivotal role of inclusive and timely scientific evidence delivery. The consensus was clear: technological advancements and research efforts must be inclusive, relevant, and actionable, with a strong foundation of partnership and collaboration.

4. Policy and investments (cross-cutting)

The breakout group on policy and investments deliberated on a range of challenges and opportunities in the sector. Chief among the challenges is the limited inclusivity in policy formulation, coupled with a weak implementation of existing policies. This gap is particularly evident in the land-use policies that inadvertently facilitate desertification due to indiscriminate tree-cutting and uncontrolled fire management. Furthermore, the group recognized an alarming disconnect between energy and agriculture policies, especially concerning their greenhouse gas emissions. A trend of prioritizing foreign over local investment was also flagged as concerning, especially since it overlooks the valuable Indigenous Knowledge Systems in Early Warning Systems and innovations.

As for priorities, the group emphasized the need for multi-sectoral skills training to ensure that policies are not just formulated, but also understood and implemented at the grassroots level. The co-creation of policies, supported by citizen science initiatives, was identified as a valuable avenue for more inclusive and effective policymaking. Additionally, the introduction of a

Climate Change Bill, promotion of local investments focusing on agro-ecology, and strengthening of weather and climate information services were cited as immediate needs.

Opportunities for impactful partnerships were also pinpointed. The decentralization policy was spotlighted as an avenue to seamlessly integrate policy and investment strategies. Moreover, AICCRA's potential role in assisting the government to refine agricultural policies—making them evidence-based and more climate-responsive—was viewed as a beneficial partnership. The ongoing investment discussions within the government present another opportunity to align investment decisions with climate-conscious strategies. Lastly, the group advocated for harmonizing agro-ecology and nature-based solutions with Climate-Smart Agriculture (CSA) efforts, underscoring the importance of sustainable, yet resilient, agricultural practices in Zambia.

5. Enhancing women and youth inclusion, empowerment and inclusive benefits

During the workshop, participants also deliberated on the pivotal topics of enhancing participation, empowerment, and benefits for women and youth in Zambia, and ensuring that scaling efforts don't disenfranchise smallholder farmers and vulnerable groups. A salient theme was the necessity for direct engagement with the youth, emphasizing a co-creative approach coupled with a needs assessment. Notably, there was a call to extend outreach to non-university going youth, stressing that educational institutions beyond universities, especially schools in rural areas, should be engaged. Collaboration emerged as a key strategy, with participants advocating for increased partnerships with women's and youth organizations, as well as traditional and civil leaders.

To bridge the understanding gap for the uneducated, it was underlined that sensitization and awareness campaigns should be designed with simplicity and clarity in mind. Another proposed strategy was the consolidation of information from diverse sectors, ensuring it's disseminated effectively to the targeted groups. Lastly, participants underscored the significance

of intentionality in planning and executing activities, ensuring that they not only reach but also resonate with women, youth, and vulnerable groups, thereby guaranteeing inclusivity and broadened benefits.

Table 1: Summary of findings

Strategic Focus Area	Challenges	Priorities and Needs	Opportunities for partnership
<p>Table Body Accelerating bundled and gender-responsive climate-smart agriculture (CSA) and climate information services (CIS) in Zambia (through agribusiness accelerators and other programs)</p>	<p>Lack of access to TV or mobile phones</p> <p>Low literacy levels especially among women and youth</p> <p>Limited availability of CSA equipment e.g. solar, rippers etc. Uncoordinated ext. services & inaccurate info, and inappropriate ext. methods</p> <p>Farmers using irrigation technologies need information on the underground water.</p> <p>Lack of funding for scaling CIS/CSA innovations</p> <p>CIS technologies are not demand-driven</p> <p>Low on-farm evidence of impact</p> <p>Lack of policy support and regulations of CSA/CIS scaling</p>	<p>Partnership at district level & localization of information on early warning systems</p> <p>Mindset and behavioral change needed by SHFs to use/adopt CSA/CIS</p> <p>Development of a participatory extension services framework to facilitate coordination</p> <p>Farmers using irrigation technologies need information on the underground water.</p> <p>Affordability studies of CSA/CIS innovation bundles</p>	<p>Partnership with local trade schools to help in dissemination of information</p> <p>Strengthen partnerships with ZMD and other local CIS/CSA providers</p> <p>Demonstrated benefit of CSA technologies clearly communicated to SHFs</p>
<p>Strengthening the pipeline: education, capacity strengthening, learning exchange (I2G)</p>	<p>Mindset of the youth: very few interested in careers in agriculture</p> <p>Topics in CSA/CIS curriculum are not-specific or based on real world issues</p> <p>Insufficient opportunities for non-university going youth to get involved in</p>	<p>More practical in-service training experience needed for students and multidisciplinary training</p> <p>Integration of CSA/CIS at lower education level</p>	<p>Linking students with other youth networks/young farmers</p> <p>Partnering with youth-led groups and farmer associations</p> <p>Infrastructure already in place</p> <p>Leverage Accelerator and</p>

	innovations scaling		private sector partnerships
Delivering just-in time scientific evidence and knowledge that respond to local organizations and country requests	Weak coordination of partners to deliver CIS	Digitizing data hosted by national agencies e.g. ZMD	Data harmonization
	Weak and fragmented early warning systems	Translate early warning to early action	Decisions by government should consider all stakeholders especially if they involve peoples' livelihoods
	Low capacities and infrastructure for data collection	Climate proofing livelihoods in the form of drought contingency plans etc. and co-develop technologies with target groups	Window to publish data and time for the communities to act
	Ground water challenge and salinity	Translate information into the language to be used by farmers	Mapping ground and surface water
	Information management	Groundwater mapping to identify the right depth for drilling	
	Technologies not developed taking into account gender and social inclusion	Engagement of postgraduate students	
	Lack of localized research – no good data/ unreliability of data		
Policies and investments (cross-cutting)	Limited inclusive policy formulation and weak/lack implementation of policy (and alignment – conflicting policies) on land-use (cutting trees indiscriminately, uncontrolled fire management) –exacerbate desertification (emerging issues)	Multi-sectoral skills training needed to translate existing policies to community level	Explore decentralization policy – embed the bundles on policy & investment – through decentralization and CDF
	Land of regulation on climate change & associated mitigation instruments (carbon markets), disconnect between energy & agriculture and their contribution to greenhouse gas emissions	Co-creation of policy formulation (through citizen science)	AICCRA to assist government to review Agriculture policies – evidence-based policy & linkages to climate change
	Promotion of foreign investment at the expense of local investment	Climate Change Bill	Take advantage of the current investment discussions in government
	Lack of IKS component on EWS/ Innovations	Promote local investment; push towards agro-ecology- refer to new government manifesto (move away from the input support program focus on maize)	Harmonize agro-ecology and nature-based solutions policy with CSA efforts
		Strengthen policies on weather/climate information services	

Source: Gathered from participation at the Additional Finance Stakeholder Consultation

06. DOCUMENTATION, COMMUNICATION, DISSEMINATION AND FEEDBACK MANAGEMENT

The AICCRA Zambia AF stakeholder consultation placed a significant emphasis on ensuring transparency, inclusivity, and knowledge sharing through its strategy for documentation, communication, and dissemination. Recognizing the workshop's crucial role in charting the course for future interventions and partnerships, every discussion, recommendation, and decision was meticulously documented, capturing the richness of stakeholder input.

A team of rapporteurs compiled session notes on flipcharts and on harvest slides in PowerPoint. A multi-faceted communication approach was employed, leveraging both traditional and digital mediums to ensure extensive outreach. This Summary Report was communicated post-event, encapsulating the workshop's highlights, learnings, and action points across all stakeholder groups with an opportunity to provide feedback and revisions.

Further partner discussions followed in the co-development of the AICCRA Zambia AF workplan..



AICCRA Zambia Additional Finance Stakeholder Consultation.

07. CONCLUSION

In conclusion, the AICCRA Zambia consultation workshop for Additional Funding was a productive engagement for the continuation of the AICCRA program in Zambia. It has provided a platform to engage in meaningful discussions, exchange ideas, and collectively identify challenges and priorities for increasing smallholder farmers' uptake and use of CIS and CSA technologies to improve food systems resilience in Zambia's climate hotspots.

Going forward, the cluster will carry forward the momentum and enthusiasm generated during this workshop. The project will maintain open lines of communication through multistakeholder dialogue, nurture its relationships with the Zambian government through various departments and the accelerator partners (agribusinesses) in the private sector, including the internship innovation grant, and diligently follow up on the priority items identified in the four themes discussed in this brief report.

Recommendations

Based on the discussions and insights gathered during the AICCRA Zambia Stakeholder Consultation Workshop for Additional Financing, the following recommendations are proposed:

Strengthen collaborative efforts: Harness the synergy of local stakeholders to foster stronger collaborations, ensuring more meaningful and impactful outcomes in the field of CIS and CSA. Highlighted partnerships included: Ministry of Agriculture; Ministry of Green Economy and the Environment; DMMU; Smart Zambia; NASFAZ; WARMA; Munda Makeover; ZMD; agribusinesses; ZAWARD; BongoHive; ACIDI/Voca; and several more.

Ensure use of CSA/CIS innovation bundles: It's crucial not just to make technologies, innovations, and essential information accessible but to also facilitate their adoption and sustained use, even in the remotest parts of Zambia. This approach goes beyond merely addressing the challenge of limited extension services. It actively engages communities, providing them with the tools, training, and support they need to fully integrate and benefit from these innovations, thereby enhancing climate resilience across all regions.

Empower through capacity building: Allocate resources for the education and training of farmers, extension officers, and other pivotal stakeholders including extending efforts to non-university going youth and schools. This will enhance their skills, knowledge, and capability to make informed decisions that benefit the broader community.

Alignment with national and regional policies: Any strategies or efforts to escalate climate-smart agriculture should be synchronized with the prevailing national and regional climate policies and priorities. This ensures congruence in action and maximizes impact.

Promote gender-responsive approaches: Emphasize and integrate gender-responsive measures in all initiatives, ensuring that the specific needs of women and marginalized communities are addressed.

Prioritize real-time scientific evidence: Place emphasis on delivering timely scientific evidence and knowledge tailored to meet the specific requests of local organizations and the country. Tools such as Early Warning Systems (EWS), drought management techniques, and agro-advisories should be at the forefront of this initiative.

Boost education and policy integration: Elevate the importance of education in the sector by strengthening the educational pipeline, incorporating relevant curriculum developments, and ensuring that policies and investments are cross-cutting and holistic.

Stakeholder input into decision-making

Stakeholder engagement is a cornerstone of the AICCRA program. The inputs received during the workshop from various parties, especially the guidance from Dr. Douty Chibamba, the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Green Economy and Environment, have been invaluable. Their insights provide a compass for the AICCRA program, ensuring it aligns with the broader national vision and addresses the unique challenges Zambia faces.

The success of the AICCRA Zambia Additional Funding initiative hinges on its ability to integrate these stakeholder inputs into its decision-making processes. This inclusive approach not only garners broader support but also ensures that the initiative is grounded in real-world challenges and solutions.



AICCRA Zambia Additional Finance Stakeholder Consultation.

ANNEXTURE 1: NATIONAL CONSULTATION AGENDA

AICCRA's Additional Financing Zambia Cluster Stakeholder Consultation

Date and venue: September 21, 2023, from 9:00 am to 2:00 pm (CAT)

Venue: Inter-Continental Hotel, Lusaka, Zambia

WORKSHOP PROGRAM

Workshop facilitators: Dr Martin Moyo (ICRISAT) and Lizzy Muzungaire (WorldFish)

Time	Agenda item	Person responsible
08:30 – 09:00	Registration	AICCRA Zambia
09:00 – 09:15	Welcome Remarks	Dr. Douty Chibamba, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Green Economy and Environment Dr David Chikoye, CGIAR Country Convenor for Zambia Dr Ana Maria Loboguerrero, AICCRA Director / Dr Dawit Solomon, AICCRA Regional Lead – East and Southern Africa
09:15 – 09:30	Introduction of participants and agenda briefing	Facilitators
09:30 – 10:00	Briefing on AICCRA's past achievements	Dr Inga Jacobs-Mata, AICCRA Zambia Lead and Director, Growth and Inclusion at International Water Management Institute (IWMI)
10:00 – 10:30	Health break and networking	

10:30 – 11:00	Overview and Highlights of the AF	Dr Inga Jacobs-Mata, IWMI
11:00 – 11:30	Brief Q&A for clarifications on AF	Facilitators
11:30 – 12:15	<p>Breakout sessions on emerging challenges, priorities, and opportunities for partnerships under the AF including gender and social inclusion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Accelerating bundled and gender-responsive climate-smart agriculture (CSA) and climate information services (CIS) in Zambia (through agribusiness accelerators and other programs) • Strengthening the pipeline: education, capacity strengthening, learning exchange (I2G) • Policy and investments (cross-cutting) • Delivering just-in time scientific evidence and knowledge that respond to local organizations and country requests 	<p>Facilitator: Munyaradzi Mutenje (IWMI) Note-taker: Keagan Kakwasha (World Fish)</p> <p>Facilitator: Mirriam Makungwe (IWMI) Note-taker: Winnie Pele (IWMI)</p> <p>Facilitator: Dr Victor Siamudaala (World Fish) Note-taker: Dr Joel Botai (IWMI)</p> <p>Facilitator: Dr Yakob Umer (IWMI) Note-taker: Amos Ngwira (ICRISAT)</p>
12:15 – 12:45	Reporting back from the breakout session	Group leads/rapporteurs
12:45 – 13:00	Wrap up and way forward	Dr Inga Jacobs-Mata, IWMI
13:00 – 14:00	Lunch and Networking	AICCRA Zambia

ANNEXTURE 2: PERMANENT SECRETARY OPENING SPEECH

AICCRA's Additional Financing Zambia Cluster Stakeholder Consultation

Date and venue: September 21, 2023, from 9:00 am to 2:00 pm (CAT)

Venue: Inter-Continental Hotel, Lusaka, Zambia

Opening Remarks by Dr. Douty Chibamba, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Green Economy and Environment

Protocol

- Ms Katie Kennedy Freeman, Task Team Lead for the AICCRA Program, World Bank
- Dr Ana Maria Loboguerrero, AICCRA Director / Dr Dawit Solomon, AICCRA Regional Lead – East and Southern Africa
- Dr David Chikoye, CGIAR Country Convenor for Zambia
- Dr Inga Jacobs-Mata, AICCRA Zambia Cluster Lead and Regional Representative for the International Water Management Institute, Southern Africa
- Ladies and gentlemen, distinguished delegates, esteemed partners, researchers, and members of the agrifood system in Zambia,

I am profoundly honored to stand before you today as we co-create and set the agenda for the Additional Financing of the Accelerating Impacts of CGIAR Climate Research in Africa (AICCRA) in Zambia. As we gather to chart the way forward for scaling climate-smart agriculture and climate information services in Zambia, it is paramount to reflect on our journey thus far and the incredible milestones we have achieved.

The challenges posed by climate change are neither abstract nor distant for the people of Zambia. Our farmers, the backbone of our nation's food and economic security, confront these challenges daily. Irregular rain patterns, prolonged droughts, and unforeseen weather events have only emphasized the critical importance of developing resilient agricultural systems and ensuring our farming communities, agribusinesses, and local institutions are empowered with the knowledge and tools to adapt.

"AICCRA, since its inception, has been pivotal in advancing the dialogue and the science of climate-smart agriculture in our region – in essence the science as well as the practice of scaling these bundles innovations."

AICCRA, since its inception, has been pivotal in advancing the dialogue and the science of climate-smart agriculture in our region – in essence the science as well as the practice of scaling these bundles innovations. The research, innovations, and solutions it has brought to the table have already transformed countless lives and set many on a path to sustainable and resilient farming.

But as we transition into this next phase, our aspirations must be grander, our commitment firmer, and our strategies more integrative. Most importantly, as we chart our path forward, there is a pressing and ethical matter we must remain vigilant about: ensuring inclusivity and equity. Our ambition to scale and enhance our agricultural capabilities must not inadvertently sideline our smallholder farmers and other vulnerable groups. They are not just beneficiaries of our efforts; they are indispensable contributors to the agricultural landscape and the custodians of our rich farming heritage.

In the past, well-intentioned advancements sometimes had the unintended effect of widening the gap between large-scale producers and our smallholder farmers. Access to new technologies, resources, and information often reached those with more means first, leaving behind many who could benefit from them the most.

As we usher in this next phase, our strategies must be rooted in principles of equity and inclusion:

Tailored Interventions: Recognizing that one-size-fits-all solutions may not work. We need tailored strategies that cater to the unique needs and challenges of smallholder farmers and vulnerable communities.

Affordable Solutions: Ensuring that any technological or methodological innovations introduced are affordable and accessible to all, irrespective of their scale of farming or economic status.

Active Participation: Encouraging the active participation of smallholder farmers and vulnerable groups in decision-making processes. They possess invaluable grassroots knowledge that can guide and enrich our scaling strategies.

Let's not forget, it is the very tenacity and resilience of our smallholder farmers that have brought our agriculture sector to where it is today. Their voices, insights, and well-being must remain central to our mission. With this vision in mind, let us move forward, combining innovation with empathy, science with tradition, and ambition with responsibility.

We envision a Zambia where every farmer, whether a smallholder or a large-scale producer, has access to tailored climate information services. A nation where our agricultural practices not only withstand the challenges of a changing climate but also actively contribute to mitigating its effects. We aim for a Zambia that sets a regional benchmark in the adoption and scaling of climate-smart innovations, paving the way for a more sustainable and food-secure Africa.

To realize this vision, our priorities are clear:

Strengthening Partnerships: We must foster stronger, more meaningful collaborations between research institutions, policy makers, the private sector, NGOs, and the farmers themselves.

Enhancing Accessibility: Our climate information services and innovations must be made available in the most remote corners of our nation, ensuring that every farmer can make informed decisions.

Investing in Capacity Building: We must ensure that our farmers, agricultural extension officers, and other stakeholders are continuously trained and updated on the latest in climate-smart agriculture.

A vital component of our overarching mission is the harmonization of our agricultural interventions with broader climate and green economy policies. Agriculture is more than just the act of growing food; it's a cornerstone of our economy, a driving force in our ecological systems, and a significant determinant of our carbon footprint.

The intersection of AICCRA's mission with the broader tenets of a green economy cannot be understated:

Policy Alignment: Our efforts in scaling climate-smart agriculture should not exist in isolation. They need to be in tandem with national and regional climate policies, ensuring that the research and innovations we push forward are not just sustainable but also compliant and supportive of broader environmental directives.

Green Job Creation: As we advance our technologies and practices, there's immense potential to create green jobs – from research, to renewable energy in farming, to sustainable supply chain management. Our young population, eager to be part of solutions addressing global challenges, can be at the forefront of this green revolution.

Low Carbon Agriculture: The innovations championed by AICCRA have the potential to transition our agriculture into low carbon or even carbon-neutral practices. From sustainable irrigation methods to precision agriculture, we can substantially reduce our carbon footprint, setting a precedent for other sectors of our economy to follow.

Resource Efficiency: Climate-smart agriculture can also lead the way in efficient resource use – be it water, soil, or energy. This not only ties into our sustainability goals but also underpins key principles of a green economy, ensuring that our growth is resource-efficient, cleaner, and less wasteful.

Market Transformation: By aligning our agricultural advancements with green economy principles, we can also transform our market dynamics. Products and produce that adhere to sustainable, climate-resilient methods can be recognized, valued, and even fetch premium prices, driving market forces to align with climate goals.

In essence, our efforts under AICCRA can act as a catalyst, setting in motion a wider transition towards a climate-resilient green economy. By integrating our strategies and policies, we are not just safeguarding our food security but also ensuring that our economic growth is sustainable, inclusive, and in harmony with our planet.

Ladies and gentlemen, the task ahead is monumental, but the collective resolve present in this room gives me immense hope. Let us remember that we are not merely shaping the future of agriculture in Zambia; we are shaping the future of our nation and safeguarding the wellbeing of generations to come.

In this spirit, let us embark on this next phase of AICCRA with passion, determination, and the shared belief that together, we can create a climate-resilient Zambia.

Thank you.

ANNEXTURE 3: RECORDS ON PREPARATION

AICCRA Zambia Stakeholder Consultation Records on Preparation of AICCRA Additional Financing

Date	Key Participants ^[1]	Total Participants	No of Females	No of Youth	No of Males	Number of Vulnerable persons ^[2]
21/09/2023	ACDI/VOCA; ACF; Africa Nature's Organic Foods; Agova; Bongohive; Better World Innovations; CAMFED Zambia; CASSEK Enterprises; CGIAR: ABC, ICRISAT, ILRI, IITA, IWMI, WorldFish; Centre for Climate Change and Advocacy; Chitetezo Federation; COMACO; Copperbelt University; Cortiva; DMMU; Eunimos Investment LTD; FANRPAN; Golden Valley Agricultural Research Trust; Greenbelt Energy; Hope Ways; IAPRI; iDE; ILO; WWF; Kasama Arts; Kasisi Agricultural Training Centre; Lupiya; Ministry of Agriculture; Ministry of Fisheries and Livestock; Ministry of Green Economy and the Environment (MGEE); Ministry of Water Development, Sanitation and Environmental Protection; Mulungushi University; Munda Makeover; National Association for Smallholder Farmers in Zambia (NASFAZ); Participatory Ecological Land Use Management (PELUM); Petauke District Farmers Association; PlantCatalyst; POULTRY ASSOCIATION OF ZAMBIA (PAZ); Risk Shield Lusaka; SMART Zambia Institute; Solidaridad Network; Southern African Science Service Centre for Climate Change and Adaptive Land Management (SASSCAL); Sustainable Village Zambia; Toda Raba Farm; Triple Blessings; UNZA; University of Zambia (UNZA)-School of Agricultural Sciences; Vitalite; WARMA; Zambia College of Agriculture – Mpika (ZCA-Mpika); Zambia Meteorological Department; Zambezi River Authority; ZARI; ZNFU	100	31	14	69	0

^[1] Refers to various institutions, organizations, and associations present at the meeting.

^[2] Indicate separately the range and number of vulnerable persons present, i.e., persons with disabilities, persons living with HIV/AIDs, etc.



AICCRA

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Climate Research for Africa



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