



AICCRA Continental Level Stakeholder Consultation Report

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Summary

This report presents the findings of continental level stakeholder consultations conducted by the Policy theme of AICCRA during the month of September 2023. We undertook these consultations to gather inputs from stakeholders and feed them into the design process of the AICCRA Additional Financing (AF). Conversations with stakeholders focused on understanding the challenges faced, the opportunities presented and the priorities for AICCRA's AF from various stakeholder perspectives.

The main challenges noted were an overall need for longer term funding from African development partners, the lack of political stability in West Africa and issues related to cascading transboundary climate risks. Various opportunities that were mentioned included providing embedded support to African institutes, engaging policy makers from initial stages of project design to get buy in and support during implementation and increasing collaboration with existing partners to work in different countries where they have presence. Some of the major priorities highlighted included focusing more on youth groups, improving access to finance and giving more emphasis to medium and late-stage agri-businesses and shifting from government-led to farmer-led initiatives.

Introduction

The World Bank has approved to start a process for presenting to the Board the two-years' Additional Financing (AF) for the Accelerating Impacts of CGIAR Climate Research for Africa (AICCRA) project expected to begin on March 1, 2024. Since this is a continuation of financing, the AF will maintain the parent project's component structure and aim to scale up activities under each component with a focus on three areas: (i) **scaling up the validation and use of CSA and CIS technologies**, including validation of more technologies 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.

Intensive consultations with relevant stakeholders began in September and will continue through to our October mission in Ethiopia and the entire AF design phase. We organized stakeholders' consultation meetings at country, regional and continental levels, as well as within CGIAR, with the objectives to:

- i. update and inform our stakeholders about the AICCRA program, including its unique model for research and innovation development helping to bridge the "missing middle" between science and action;
- ii. inform our 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 the stakeholders to consolidate into AICCRA's AF proposal.

This report summarizes the feedback received from participants in the continental level consultation, which complements the consultations conducted at national and regional levels.

Methodology

Fifty-two stakeholders from a range of organizations were invited to a Zoom meeting scheduled for Friday, 29 September from 10:00am – 1:00pm GMT. The list of invitees was jointly compiled by the AICCRA program leader, thematic leaders and regional leaders.

Bilateral conversations with several organizations were also held during the month of September and the feedback has been incorporated into this report. During the consultation period, several principles

were upheld, including openness and transparency, provision of information and acceptance of all comments.

Zoom was chosen as an appropriate method for conducting the main continental level consultation given the nature of the conversation and the resources that would have been required to bring participants together in person. Given that AICCRA is a project geared toward addressing climate change, it was not felt appropriate to fly people from across the continent for this meeting. We instead made use of the available technology for virtual meetings and had a rich exchange of ideas.

Implementation of Key Stakeholder Consultation Components

The main consultation event was the Zoom meeting, followed by conversations with individuals from the African Academy of Sciences (AAS) and IFPRI. Detailed information is provided in the appendix. Of the 52 people invited for the Zoom consultation, we had 39 people register for the meeting and ultimately a total of 22 people who participated. The conversation with AAS was held by video call, and the discussion with the IFPRI colleague was conducted in person on the ILRI campus in Nairobi. This was a discussion with a colleague related specifically to the policy component which is why it did fall under the CGIAR high level consultation in Washington, DC.

The stakeholders that joined the Zoom continental consultation represented the following organizations: Southern African Science Service Centre for Climate Change and Adaptive Land Management (SASSCAL), African Union Development Agency (AUDA-NEPAD), ACRE Africa, Zindi Africa, the African Group of Negotiators Experts Support (AGNES), UN Women, IFPRI, SouthSouthNorth (SSN), United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA), Open Capital and SNV. The AICCRA Task Team Leader from the World Bank (WB) also joined for the reporting back session and spoke to participants about the importance of AICCRA for the WB and reiterated what we hope to achieve through the AF.

The opening presentation highlighted the areas of emphasis under the AF, which are (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.

Findings

The consultation focused on exploring three topics with the participating stakeholders: challenges to the AICCRA AF, opportunities that can be leveraged and priorities for activities moving forward. The priority activities consider the enhanced emphasis in the AF on uptake and use of gender-smart CSA/CIS bundles.

One of the challenges raised by a participant in the Zoom consultation was the need for longer term funding for development projects in general. When Katie Kennedy of the World Bank gave closing remarks, she addressed this concern by reminding participants that the AICCRA parent project built on successes of the previous CCAFS program and that the two-year AF which is being designed now is likely to be followed by an additional three years. While we recognize that short-term funding is an issue in international development, the longer duration of AICCRA is overcoming that challenge. Another concern that was expressed is the ongoing political instability in West Africa. As of now, this should not affect the operations of AICCRA within any of its focus countries, but participants raised the issue that it might make activities more difficult in future if the unrest within the region spreads. Cascading transboundary climate risks—not only across borders but across sectors as well—were mentioned as a challenge with which the AICCRA AF will need to contend. Another challenge that was

raised was on how we plan to measure and demonstrate how we are improving the quality of people's lives.

The opportunities raised for the AICCRA AF included a request for embedded support to African institutes (e.g., secondments) and to engage policy makers from initial stages of project design to get buy in and support during implementation. Stakeholders also suggested that the AICCRA AF build on digital or disruptive technologies and make use of CIS to improve uptake of climate smart insurance. Several participants noted that we should increase collaboration with existing partners to work in different countries where they have presence (e.g., SNV, AAS). It was also recommended that we leverage on the Africa Group of Negotiators (AGN) to highlight and present African issues on all AICCRA workstreams in the upcoming UNFCCC COPs.

The priorities which stakeholders felt the AICCRA AF should have include working on business models to scale innovations/practices and enhancing access to finance for more medium and late-stage agribusinesses. They emphasized that we should leverage on what already exists and complement others' approaches by providing tailored and contextualized solutions. They wanted to see more of a focus on youth groups and a shift from government-led to farmer-led initiatives. When building tools, they encouraged us to have a clear plan for implementation beyond building great tools and datasets – we need to have a plan that will support putting those tools in farmers' hands. Finally, there was a recommendation to put more emphasis on pasture and livestock management within the AF.

Documentation, Communication, and Dissemination of the Process

This report has been prepared based on notes from several AICCRA team members who participated in the online consultation. It will be uploaded to CGSpace and made publicly available.

Accountable Feedback Management to Feed Back to Stakeholders and Feed Forward

This report will be shared with the participants from the Zoom consultation and with the AICCRA management team who will utilize the feedback in the AF design process.

Conclusion

Stakeholders at the continental level were keen to engage and share insights and advice on how to improve AICCRA's activities going forward. These findings, in combination with the reports from the country level and regional consultations, will help inform the design process of the AICCRA AF. Over the remainder of 2023, these inputs will be taken on board as the AICCRA management team works with the World Bank to develop the AF proposal.

Appendix

ACCELERATING IMPACTS OF CGIAR CLIMATE RESEARCH FOR AFRICA (AICCRA)

Stakeholder Consultation Records on Preparation of AICCRA Additional Financing

Date	Main Purpose of Consultation	Key Participants ^[1]	Total Participants	No of Females	No of Males	Number of Vulnerable persons ^[2]	Summary of Stakeholders Views and Inputs
29 Sept 2023	Collect inputs from continental stakeholders	AGNES, UNECA, SASSCAL, ACRA Africa, UN Women, AUDA-NEPAD	22	12	10	Not available	AICCRA AF should focus on opportunities such as: Embedded support to African institutes (e.g., secondments); engaging policy makers from initial stages of project design to get buy in and support during implementation; building on digital or disruptive technologies; making use of CIS to improve uptake of climate smart insurance; increase collaboration with existing partners to work in different countries where they have presence e.g., SNV; leveraging on the Africa Group of Negotiators (AGN) to highlight and present Africa issues on all AICCRA workstreams in upcoming COP
20 Sept 2023	Bilateral conversation with African Academy of Sciences (AAS)	Obed Ogega, AAS	1	0	1	0	AAS promotes knowledge generation and capacity building across the continent; they work with UNECA and Africa Climate Policy Center (ACPC) which are partners in common with AICCRA, AAS has a program called the African Research Initiative for Scientific Excellence Pilot Programme (ARISE) that supports researchers with grants to push the innovation agenda and could be a possible entry point for partnership with AICCRA
20 Sept 2023	Bilateral conversation with IFPRI	Berber Kramer, AAS	1	1	0	0	IFPRI has country offices in most of the AICCRA focus countries with local staff who have in-country networks with the policy community. IFPRI has models that can be used for ex-ante policy analysis and can carry out evaluations on the ground to help with evidence-based decision making

^[1] Refers to range of 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.