

# Info Note

## The CSA Papers: Critical investigations to support climate-smart agriculture development

*An effort to analyze, publish, and present previously unreleased data on CSA*

*Todd S. Rosenstock, Evan H. Girvetz, and Andreea Nowak*

MAY 2017

### Key messages

- The CSA Papers aim to generate critical insights into five key areas of CSA based on unpublished scientific information.
- Contributors of Papers will participate in a write-shop, be provided honoraria, and be eligible for travel grants to showcase their work.

The Climate-Smart Agriculture Papers ('CSA Papers') will support the documentation and sharing of lessons from unpublished or on-going research and development interventions relating to climate-smart agriculture (CSA) broadly, with emphasis on experiences in Eastern and Southern Africa. While there is a significant body of knowledge available on technologies, varieties, models, and institutional arrangements relevant for agricultural development, there is much less information that specifically address the three objectives of CSA. This project will support scientists and development actors to finalize and release data, to create new knowledge on CSA and get the information in front of development actors.

### Our approach

This project will create a think tank-type of atmosphere, where thought leaders come together with ideas and data to answer key questions on the following five topic areas:

1. **Climate impacts:** What are the most significant current and near future climate risks undermining smallholder livelihoods?
2. **Varieties:** How can climate-smart varieties be delivered quickly and cost-effectively to smallholders?
3. **Value chains:** How can climate risks to supply and value chains be reduced?
4. **Farm management:** What are key lessons on the contributions from soil and water management to

climate risk reduction and how should interventions be prioritized?

5. **Scaling up:** How can most promising climate risks reduction strategies be quickly scaled up and what are critical success factors?

The CSA Papers will convene a write-shop, offer honorariums to authors and reviewers, and support travel grants for select participants to present their papers.

### Expected results

This project will produce an open-source book, with 6-8 chapters on each of the five topics. Additionally, a selection of the papers will be presented in relevant scientific and development meetings. The initiative will help form a cadre of thought leaders that can help take CSA to the next level of implementation.



Figure 1. A metaphor for the current state of information on CSA, one of disarray. Photo: K. Tully (University of Maryland).

The CSA Papers is funded by UK AID through the Vuna Program and implemented by CCAFS under its Partnerships for Scaling CSA (P4S) Project. For more information, please contact Todd Rosenstock ([t.rosenstock@cgiar.org](mailto:t.rosenstock@cgiar.org)) and/or Andreea Nowak ([a.nowak@cgiar.org](mailto:a.nowak@cgiar.org)).