FANRPAN
2023 Regional Climate Smart Agriculture Policy Dialogue

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An introduction to ACIAR

• ACIAR is an independent statutory authority in Australia’s Foreign Affairs portfolio, established in 1982

• We fund, broker and manage research partnerships

• We aim to boost agricultural productivity, sustainability and food system resilience in our partner countries
How we work

• Multilateral research collaborations
• Bilateral research partnerships
• Co-investment with other partners
• Building capacity in our region
• Evaluating impact
Strategic Focus

ACIAR 10-year strategy

• Improving food security and reducing poverty
• Managing natural resources
• Enhancing human nutrition
• Gender equity and empowerment of women and girls
• More inclusive agrifood and forestry market chains
• Scientific and policy capability within our partner countries
• Climate Change
ACIAR in Africa

- ACIAR has been working in Africa for >30 years. Its presence was increased dramatically with the advent of the Australian International Food Security Centre (AIFSC) 2011
- Regional office in Nairobi since 2012
- ~$US130M in investment since 1986, generating $US 1.89B in benefits
- Strong alignment with regional and sub-regional priorities
- Increasingly responding to rapidly changing regional and country priorities / relationships
Current footprint

- 11 countries in Eastern and Southern Africa + one in West Africa
- 7 of the 10 ACIAR programs represented
- 3 Co-investment partners: IDRC, icipe, DFAT
- 26 projects in the region for the FY 2022/23 = $USD 24M
- Partners include international research institutions including Australian universities, national organisations including African universities, SROs (ASARECA and FANRPAN) and private sector
- Strong focus on capacity building and education
- 38 ACIAR Alumni in the region
The Virtual Irrigation Academy project

Research scientist Chikondi Katungwe from the Tea Research Foundation of Central Africa demonstrates the Chameleon sensor to smallholder farmers.
Digital Earth Africa

Supporting earth observations to increase agricultural productivity and sustainability, and build community resilience

- RGB Sentinel 2 image
- Water observation from space
- Normalised difference vegetation index
- Surface change variability (red = greatest variability)
- Irrigated crops identification
Transforming irrigation in southern Africa (TISA)

Agricultural Innovation Platform meeting

Rice store and mill
What’s next

• $3.6M project on Circular Food Systems

• Opportunities to build on the Virtual Irrigation Academy business model, support the Digital Earth Africa Roadmap

• Transformational Research Initiative on Drought in Eastern and Southern Africa (TBC)