2023 Regional Climate Smart Agriculture Policy Dialogue

Transforming smallholder farming in SSA through capacity building

Mamadou Biteye
Executive Secretary
African Capacity Building Foundation
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Context

**Climate change**
- Extreme Weather events
  - Droughts
  - Cyclones
- Rainfall variability
  - Short cycles
  - Off-season rains
- Season Shifts

**Climate change impact**
- Weed and pest proliferation
- Short run crop failure
- Low yields
- Long run crop production decline

High dependence on rain-fed agriculture

**Climate Change Adaptation a principal development challenge in SSA.**
Challenges of smallholder farming in SSA

Farm Level Dynamics

• High susceptibility to climate change and variability
• Unaffordable inputs - fertilizers, high yield seeds, pesticides.
• Lack of market intelligence.
• Low Productivity
• Rudimentary farming methods
  • Low use of technology
  • Land degradation - fertility

Socio-economic & political dynamics

• Inadequate infrastructure – irrigation & roads systems, storage facilities.
• Limited access to credit and innovative finance
• Low mechanization
• Insecure land tenure systems
• Low investments in Agriculture Research and Development
• Inadequate access to climate information services that are critical for planning farming operations
Capacity gaps in smallholder farming

- Critical technical skills
- Knowledge
- Indigenous technological innovation
- Infrastructure
- Finance
- Climate change adaptation
Bridging the capacity Gaps

- Develop Critical Technical skills
- Invest in Research and development
- Strengthen Institutional Capacity
- Predictable, Structured and well Coordinated Capacity Building funds
Opportunities for Change

• Wake up call from the pandemic & Ukraine war
• Harnessing the demographic dividend
• New global financing instruments
• AfCFTA
• Supportive Policy Frameworks
Commitment to transform smallholder farming is immense at continental, regional and national level

AGENDA 2063
Africa’s Agriculture is modern and productive, using science, technology, innovation and indigenous knowledge

Agenda 2030
Zero Hunger

Malabo Declaration Commitments
• Re-commitment to the principles and values of the CAADP Processes
• Enhancing investment finance to Agriculture
• Ending hunger in Africa by 2025
• Halving poverty through agricultural growth and transformation
• Boosting intra-African Trade in Agricultural commodities
• Enhancing Resilience of livelihoods, and production systems to climate variability

CAADP
• Improving rural infrastructure and trade-related capacities for market access;
• Increasing food supply, reducing hunger, and improving responses to food emergency crises;
• Improving agriculture research, technology dissemination and adoption.

Maputo Declaration Commitments
• Commitment to up-scale financing of CAADP for effective implementation
• Commit to adopt sound policies for agricultural and rural development, and allocating at least 10% of national budgetary resources to Agriculture

National Development Plans

Nationally Determined Contributions
The Paris Agreement

Climate Smart Agriculture
Where we could be........
“ It’s all about the right policies, instruments, opportunities and benefits”

Public and Private Sector Partnership

Private Sector – Adaptation/ Mitigation in agriculture and other supporting sectors

Technical Advisory Facility (Services) Green Investment window

Focus Areas

Climate resilient agricultural value chains
- Input
- Production
- Processing Distribution
- Marketing

Climate Information and Early Warning Infrastructures/equipment's

Financial instruments, products,
- Loans
- Guarantees
- Grants
- Equity

Technical Capacity, Industry knowledge

Financial institutions (MFIs, Ag Banks Insurance Comp., funds)

RET For Adaptation

Climate Resilient, Rural Infrastructures (markets, roads, dams...)

Agro-forestry

Biodiversity

Drought tolerant seeds, varieties

Nature based solutions

Water infrastructures & technologies
Empowering small scale farmers, women and youth in agriculture

- Targeting high potential farmers
- Intentional Support to Women and Youth

Resilience & Sustainability

- Seed grants
- Developed Networks created amongst umbrella org supporting smallholder farmers
- Linking farmers to potential funders

Commercializing Agriculture activities

- Training
- Coaching
- Mentorship
- Peer learning and exchange
- Knowledge generation for Evidence based policy making

Key Partners:
Efforts to capacitate farmers – ACBF Experience Cont’

Strengthening African Leadership on Climate Adaptation Program

Support selected African-based organizations working on climate adaptation in agriculture to effectively contribute to climate work at the community, national, and regional levels

Capacity Needs Assessments - Capacity Improvement Plan – Institutional Strengthening - Business process re-engineering – Skills enhancement

- Increased knowledge on effects of climate change on agriculture;
- Inform evidence-based climate risk reduction strategies in agriculture sector
- Efficiency, effectiveness, relevance in delivery of organizational mandate
ACBF Strategic Direction on Smallholder farmers – Agri-business and food security

Micro-Level Support

Capacity Dimensions Relating to:

• Value Addition
• Strengthening value chains and inclusivity
• Commercializing smallholder farming practices
• Building and strengthening networks for peer learning and knowledge generation
• Capitalization - Seed grants

Macro-level Support

Implementation Capacity for:

• System reforms
  • Private sector investments in Agriculture
  • Access and use of clean energy to power agricultural activities.
• Digitization
• Generation and utilization of data
Emerging Lessons: What could be Done differently?

1. Enhance and increase **scale for collaborations** to avoid duplication of effort and localized concentration of support.

2. Capacity Building requires **Patient capital**

3. Farmer **engagement and involvement** critical

4. Strengthening the **value chain** & Recognizing the **complementarity** of other sectors -
Thank You