

Regional CSA Alliances and platforms: Information sheet

The Eastern Africa CSA Platform

Name: The Eastern Africa CSA Platform.

Covered region / countries: **Eastern Africa** - The Eastern Africa CSA Platform covers 8 Countries in Eastern Africa: Burundi, Djibouti, Ethiopia, Kenya, Rwanda, Somalia, South Sudan and Uganda.

Status: Established and operational

Core documents:

- Report of the First Eastern Africa Sub-regional Workshop on Climate-Smart Agriculture (Nairobi, Kenya, 29 September - 01 October 2014)
- Second Eastern Africa CSA Workshop Reports (Kampala, Uganda, July 2015).
- Platform TORs.

Context:

It is recognized that, to promote the scale up of CSA at both national and sub-regional level, there is a need for the existence of functional and effective national and sub-regional CSA coordination platforms and sharing of information and lessons among stakeholders. With this context, the Eastern Africa Sub-regional CSA Platform was established in October 2014 and officially launched in July 2015 with the purpose of coordinating the activities of organizations working to support the introduction and promotion of CSA in the Eastern Africa Sub-region. Much of the work on the formation of the Eastern Africa CSA Platform was supported by FAO with funding by COMESA through the project on FAO Technical Support to the COMESA-EAC-SADC Programme on Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation in Eastern and Southern Africa. COMESA and EAC have provided valuable supporting to the Platform through the COMESA Project. The Platform relies at the moment on FAO to provide momentum in terms of support to realise its plans, goals and targets on CSA in Eastern Africa.

Objective of the Eastern Africa CSA Platform:

VISION

The vision of Eastern Africa Sub-Regional CSA Platform is that appropriate CSA practices are adopted by farmers throughout Eastern Africa leading to increased productivity, food security, farm profitability and sustainable farming systems.

MISSION

The mission of the Eastern Africa Sub-regional CSA Platform is to provide a platform for the coordination of stakeholders working at a sub-regional level to address the various constraints and exploit opportunities in the adoption and up scaling of CSA; provide strategic leadership and support to the NCATFs in the sub-region; develop sub-regional projects and programs to address issues that are sub-regional in nature; and support NCATFs in the

development of country specific CSA projects and programs with the ultimate aim to support and promote the adoption by farmers across Eastern Africa, of CSA practices and techniques that are appropriate to their agro-ecological situation and farming practices.

ROLES OF THE EASTERN AFRICA SUB-REGIONAL CSA PLATFORM

The roles of the Eastern Africa Sub-Regional CSA Platform are as follows:

- Coordinate the work of stakeholders with a sub-regional perspective on CSA development;
- Develop and manage sub-regional projects and programs to address issues that are sub-regional in nature;
- Support NCATFs in the development of country specific CSA programs, projects and activities;
- To develop and support implementation of a robust monitoring, evaluation and learning framework/mechanism to track the performance of CSA and provide learning lessons;
- Identify and facilitate implementation of priority sub-regional CSA research;
- Support capacity building and training in CSA at a sub-regional level;
- Establish and maintain a knowledge and information hub on CSA;
- Generate evidence to support policy analysis and advocacy on CSA adoption and up scaling;
- Develop and implement guidelines for Eastern Africa Sub-Regional CSA Platform members, NCATFs and others seeking funding through the Eastern Africa Sub-Regional CSA Platform for CSA activities; and
- Make linkages with the CSA supply chain at a sub-regional level.

Members:

The Eastern Africa Sub-regional CSA Platform works with a network of National CSA/CA/CAWT Task Forces (NCATFs) in Eastern Africa which coordinate CSA stakeholders in their respective countries. The Platform also works with diverse CSA stakeholder groups including national governments, regional economic communities, research, NGOs/CBOs and private sector among others.

Governance:

The Eastern Africa CSA Platform has:

- A chairing organization: The East African Farmers Federation
- A Secretariat: Hosted at the FAO Sub-regional Office for Eastern Africa
- Thematic leads, through 4 organisations that are very active on CSA in Eastern Africa
 - Policy and advocacy - East African Community (EAC)
 - Knowledge management and capacity development - African Conservation Tillage Network (ACT)
 - Research and Monitoring and evaluation (M&E) - Association for Strengthening Agricultural Research in Eastern and Central Africa (ASARECA)
 - Value chain development (scaling up CSA) - Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa (AGRA)

The Thematic Groups bring together all Eastern Africa Sub-Regional CSA Platform members who have a role to play or a particular interest in a particular area of CSA activities.

Meetings of the Eastern Africa Sub-Regional CSA Platform will be organized at a frequency to fulfil the sub-regional coordination needs and to suit the membership and the workload. As a minimum, however, the group should meet annually to monitor progress and agree on priorities for the way forward

Timeline / Key events:

- 1) First Eastern Africa Sub-regional Workshop on Climate-Smart Agriculture (Nairobi, Kenya, 29 September - 01 October 2014): The modalities for a sub-regional platform on CSA in the sub-region were deliberated upon based on experiences from and terms of reference for the CARWG in Southern Africa. The participants agreed to form a climate-smart agriculture platform for Eastern Africa that would lead on issues of CSA scale up in the sub-region ;
- 2) Second Eastern Africa CSA Workshop held in Kampala, Uganda, July 2015 during which:
 - a. The Platform's TORs were clearly outlined and agreed on;
 - b. Structure of the Platform and its governance mechanism were agreed on including agreement on Chair, secretariat and thematic group leads;
 - c. Work plans for the Platforms activities (based on thematic areas of work) for the next 3-5 years were elaborated.
- 3) FAO Sub-regional Office for Eastern Africa prepared the Eastern Africa CSA Scoping Study Report (which was validated by stakeholders) to help inform the activities of the Platform and the wider community of CSA partners and practitioners in the sub-region.

Contact persons:

- Secretariat (FAO Sub-regional Office for Eastern Africa):
 - Mathew Abang (FAO-SFE), Crop Production Officer : Mathew.Abang@fao.org (+251 11 647 8888)
 - Sebastian Grey (FAO-SFE), Natural Resources Officer: sebastian.grey@fao.org (+251 11 647 8888)
 - Edward Kilawe (FAO-SFE), Forestry Officer : Edward.kilawe@fao.org (+251 11 647 8888)
- Chair:
 - Philip M Kiriro, East Africa Farmers Federation (EAFF) : philipkiriro@gmail.com

Website: <http://www.fao.org/africa/news/detail-news/fr/c/318721/>