

CLIMATE SMART AGRICULTURE: CAPTURING THE SYNERGIES AMONG MITIGATION, ADAPTATION AND FOOD SECURITY IN MALAWI, VIETNAM AND ZAMBIA

What is climate-smart agriculture?

Climate smart agriculture (CSA) aims to enhance the capacity of agricultural systems to support food security, incorporating the need for adaptation and the potential for mitigation into sustainable agriculture development strategies. CSA proposes more integrated approaches to the closely linked challenges of food security, development and climate change adaptation/mitigation, to enable countries to identify options with maximum benefits and those where trade-offs need management. CSA recognizes that the implementation of options will be shaped by specific country contexts and capacities, as well as enabled by access to better information, aligned policies, coordinated institutional arrangements and flexible incentives and financing mechanisms. The concept of CSA is evolving and there is no one-size-fits-all blueprint for how it might be pursued.

What does the project aim to achieve?

The long-term desired outcome is more effective agricultural policies, aligned with climate change policies that enhance food security, adaptation, and mitigation co-benefits. The project would also contribute to the development of climate change solutions for different contexts, as well as appropriate tools and mechanisms for CSA prioritization, financing and adoption. The project would strengthen country capacity for (i) early action on climate smart agriculture in partner countries, and (ii) more evidence-based input into UNFCCC processes, especially discussion on agriculture and the design of enabling mechanisms.

How will the project achieve these aims?

The project will enhance research and policy linkages. It is based on the notion of first establishing an evidence base, which would involve assembling existing data and collecting targeted new data. This data would inform

- a. identification of promising practices and adoption constraints, as well as policy formulation to promote these practices and overcome constraints,
- b. the preparation of a CSA strategic framework or roadmap that guides action and investment and
- c. the development of investment proposals and the identification of possible financing sources, including climate finance. Capacity building cuts across all of these elements of the project, and includes building capacity for horizontal coordination across agriculture and environment ministries and vertical coordination between national experience and UNFCCC processes.

National action is not starting from zero and can build upon ongoing activities at country level. The importance of and benefits that accrue from nationally led and owned efforts in the context of the proposed action is also fully recognized.

Expected outputs:

1. An evidence base for identifying, developing and implementing practices, policies and investments for climate smart agriculture.
2. A strategic framework to guide action and investment on CSA.
3. Climate smart agriculture investment proposals and possible financing sources, including climate finance.

For more information: <http://www.fao.org/climatechange/73769/en/>

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EPIC ECONOMICS & POLICY INNOVATIONS FOR CLIMATE-SMART AGRICULTURE



CSA Theory of Change

