Climate Smart Agriculture: “Window-Dressing, icing on the cake, or a fundamental transformation for agricultural investment

Leslie Lipper
TCI Investment Days  December 17, 2013
• CSA evolving concept with multiple partners

• CSA - new **approach** to identifying, supporting and financing existing/known **practices**

• CSA could (should) facilitate fundamental shift  
  – But we’re not there yet
Evolving definitions of CSA

**FAO 2010**: agriculture that sustainably increases productivity, resilience (adaptation), reduces/removes GHGs (mitigation), and enhances achievement of national food security and development goals.

**FAO 2013** sourcebook: Climate-smart agriculture (CSA), contributes to the achievement of sustainable development goals. It integrates the three dimensions of sustainable development (economic, social and environmental) by jointly addressing food security and climate challenges. It is composed of three main pillars:

1. sustainably increasing agricultural productivity and incomes;
2. adapting and building resilience to climate change;
3. reducing and/or removing greenhouse gases emissions, where possible.

CSA is an approach to developing the technical, policy and investment conditions to achieve sustainable agricultural development for food security under climate change.
New bottle: matured wine

- Prioritize actions within context of achieving multiple objectives (synergies & tradeoffs)
- Evidence base: agro-ecological heterogeneity and institutional effects
- Policy framework for multiple objectives
- Financing: (more & better) support transitions & integrate externality value
New areas to address CC

• CC changes what make sense where: need to incorporate climate uncertainty into planning
  – Using NOAA temp and rainfall data linked to HH data to identify where changes are occurring and how farmers are adopting

• Risk & Uncertainty: need for comprehensive risk management & “stress testing”

• Climate finance: mandating new metrics
CSA: icing, window dressing or?

• Triple wins at practice level?

• Double wins (adaptation and food security) do they count?

• What if they increase emissions?
  – Over current levels
  – Over the level of a conventional ag. growth path?
What CSA could be...

Lever for achieving fundamental transition

• Finance at international level (GCF): getting design, financing to support ag. investment
• Integrated evidence base using recent climate information
• Policy harmonization: national & international
Bottom line

• Now more in the “icing on the cake” mode
• Some promising elements for fundamental transformation:
  – IFAD ASAP
  – GCF
  – FAO CSA
  – Better TCI – technical unit links?
• Some danger of being just window dressing