



“Strengthening the role of conservation agriculture in food security disaster risk reduction in Southern Africa”

Project code: OSRO/RAF/503/USA

Donor: United States of America

Contribution: USD 500 000

Implementation: 01/01/15 – 31/03/16

Target areas: Lesotho, Madagascar, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, Swaziland, South Africa, Zambia, Zimbabwe



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- Objective:** To increase the role of conservation agriculture (CA) in food security disaster risk reduction (DRR) in Southern Africa through knowledge sharing and advocacy.
- Key partners:** National and regional CA Platforms/Taskforces, government line ministries.
- Beneficiaries reached:** 98 chiefs and local leaders in Lesotho, an estimated 33 500 farming households across the region and 126 CA/DRR decision-makers.
- Activities implemented:**
- Commissioned a scientific study to assess the impact of CA on livelihoods in Southern Africa.
 - Four case studies of CA farmers documented and used in advocacy materials.
 - Advocacy for integration of CA into disaster response for the 2015/16 El Nino event.
 - CA Platforms/Taskforces held at least 27 national networking and knowledge sharing events, including field days.
 - At least 470 subnational field days were organized.
 - A regional CA/DRR coordination and knowledge sharing meeting was held in South Africa in November 2015 with the participation of 64 people from ten countries.
 - Two regional study visits were conducted to El Niño drought-affected areas in Zambia and Zimbabwe for 66 DRR policy-makers and CA actors.
 - CA awareness raised through distribution of over 400 different messaging materials and more than 2 000 CA/DRR awareness brochures produced in Lesotho.
 - 214 traditional leaders and local community leaders were trained in Lesotho on the role of CA in DRR.
- Results:**
- DRR, humanitarian and community leaders and actors in the focus countries and the region now have increased understanding of CA in the DRR context.
 - Enabled CA and DRR actors to identify and map country and regional DRR institutional arrangements, structures and mechanisms that can link with CA national/regional platforms for joint actions, knowledge sharing, learning and advocacy.
 - DRR and CA actors at country and regional levels had the opportunity to see evidence, draw lessons and identify best practices on the role of CA in drought situations based on the opportunity presented by the 2015/16 El Niño event.
 - Presence of senior government officials in the regional study visits significantly raised the profile of CA and DRR.
 - Promotion of CA through the national CA platforms enabled households to still harvest some crops even with the intense drought experienced in the region.