Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

Key achievements of the project Making agriculture part of the solution – building capacities for agriculture mitigation

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From field level work to global climate change negotiations

Making Agriculture Part of the Solution – Building Capacities for Mitigation in Agriculture was a six-year project under FAO's Mitigation of Climate Change in Agriculture (MICCA) Programme launched in January 2010, funded by the Finnish Ministry for Foreign Affairs.

The project's scope ranged from field level work with smallholder farmers to contributions to climate change negotiations at the global level. It achieved substantial results in developing and sharing evidence on: Nationally Appropriate Mitigation Actions (NAMAs) in agriculture, forestry and land use sectors; GHG emission reduction potential in integrated and efficient smallholder systems; sustainable peatland management; and means to mainstream gender in Climate-Smart Agriculture (CSA). In addition, two pilot projects were carried out in the United Republic of Tanzania and Kenya focusing on CSA.

What we achieved

Increased evidence on effective climate-smart agriculture for smallholders

The two pilot projects in the United Republic of Tanzania and Kenya provided evidence that CSA practices can improve farmers' livelihoods and allow local communities to adapt to changing climatic conditions, while reducing greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions.

The field work reached approximately 9 000 men and women farmers who benefitted through higher income and improved food security.

A CSA guideline was developed by Tanzania with the support of FAO in English and Swahili based on the evidence stemming from the project. It highlights key climate change and agricultural risks in the country and provides information on mainstreaming climate change adaptation and mitigation objectives within rural development. The lessons learnt gathered during the project contributed to the successful development of the countries' national CSA guidelines.

Capacity development and policy support on Nationally Appropriate Mitigation Actions (NAMAs) in the agriculture, forestry and other land use (AFOLU) sector

In response to the need for support to country-specific mitigation actions in the context of national sustainable development, the project developed a knowledge tool giving guidance on the design and implementation of NAMAs in the AFOLU sector. Benefitting from FAO support, a NAMA proposal has been developed by Kenya reaching more than 600 000 dairy farmers in the country.

A gender-responsive approach for sustainable results

The project developed field-tested training guides and materials with the World Bank, the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), the CGIAR Research Program on Climate Change, Agriculture and Food Security (CCAFS) and the Global Alliance for Climate-Smart Agriculture (GACSA) to support the design and implementation of gender-responsive CSA. The most recent reference is the Gender in Climate-Smart Agriculture Module of the Climate-Smart Agriculture Sourcebook.

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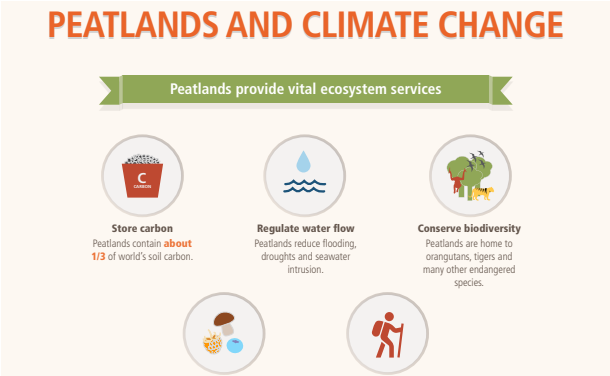
Sustainable peatlands management

The project guided decision-makers in the management of peatlands and organic soils through a collection of case studies on peatland management. Two major publications were produced to enhance ecosystem services and livelihoods, and to reduce fires and GHG emissions, as well as an infographic on peatlands and climate change which has been translated into seven languages. The recently launched Global Peatland Initiative builds extensively on the project results.



Knowledge exchange through Communities of practice

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In supporting a transversal dialogue with all stakeholders, the project established and facilitated 11 online communities of practice (CoPs), with over 11 000 members from different stakeholder groups in more than 120 countries. The communities actively exchanged knowledge and experiences and the largest one on agriculture and climate change is still active. A facilitation guidebook was published, which synthesizes the lessons learned to help others searching for effective ways to set up and organize online communities.

Impact

Thanks to the visionary work of the project, mitigation of GHG in agriculture is more visible and recognized on global, national and FAO agendas. For example, the Paris agreement and countries' Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) showed that the project's work had contributed to a better understanding of climate change issues, including mitigation in agriculture. As a response to the demand from its member countries, FAO launched its Climate Change Strategy in 2017.

Outstanding recognition for supporting farmers to adapt to climate change

The work of the Programme has over the years attracted attention not only from various stakeholders within Tanzania and Kenya but also in other countries around the globe. Such is the case of the Spanish non-governmental organization SIGFITO (Sistema de recogida de envases agrarios). In October 2017, SIGFITO awarded the MICCA Programme for its outstanding work in developing the capacities of farmers around the world in sustainable agriculture practices that help them cope with the impacts of climate change while protecting the environment.

The way forward

Following up on the Paris Agreement, the data, tools, knowledge and findings of the MICCA project have guided countries to scale up their climate actions in the agriculture sectors. The implementation, monitoring and reporting on the NDCs further increases the need for transparent and accurate information on the greenhouse gas emissions from all sectors. To be able to face this challenge in the agriculture sectors, countries are already requesting more support from the MICCA Programme.

Reporting to the UN Framework Conference on Climate Change is a key area under the Paris Agreement. The ongoing project Mitigating Agriculture GHG Emissions Towards Wider Opportunities (MAGHG-2), under the MICCA programme, provides support to countries regarding the reporting requirements under United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). It is relevant and fully in line with the requirements of the new Enhanced Transparency Framework of the Paris Agreement. It will be of great importance as countries start implementing their NDCs.

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A selection of MICCA resources and tools

Planning, implementing and evaluating Climate-Smart Agriculture in smallholder farming systems:
www.fao.org/3/a-i5805e.pdf

Climate-Smart Agriculture Guideline for the United Republic of Tanzania: A country–driven response to climate change, food and nutrition insecurity:
www.fao.org/3/a-i7157e.pdf

Learning tool on Nationally Appropriate Mitigation Actions (NAMAs) in the agriculture, forestry and other land use (AFOLU) sector:
www.fao.org/3/a-i4642e.pdf

A Gender-responsive Approach to Climate-Smart Agriculture:
cgspace.cgiar.org/bitstream/handle/10568/73049/CSA%20Practice%20Brief%20Gender.pdf

Gender in climate-smart agriculture:
www.fao.org/3/a-i5546e.pdf

Cases on peatland management:
www.fao.org/in-action/micca/knowledge/peatlands-and-organic-soils/cases-of-peatland-management-practices/en/

Infographic: Peatlands and climate change:
www.fao.org/documents/card/en/c/19699299-8585-4f7c-9e6a-de1f11ed92be/

Guidebook for online facilitators:
www.fao.org/3/a-i5742e.pdf

MICCA website:
www.fao.org/in-action/micca

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