



**Climate Smart Agriculture:
Capturing the synergies between Adaptation, Mitigation and Food Security
GCP/INT/139/EC**

**Inception Workshop Zambia
Ibis Garden Hotel- Lusaka
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Opening Speech by Ms Farayi Constance B. Zimudzi , *FAO Representative ad interim*

Ladies and Gentlemen, Colleagues,

On behalf of The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations I would like to congratulate the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock for having approved the EU-funded project "Climate-Smart Agriculture (CSA): Capturing the synergies between mitigation, adaptation and food security".

His Excellency, Permanent Secretary David Shamulenge, Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock, has approved the project on 9 October 2012 and today we are witnessing the inception of the same.

Being the first project under the FAO Program on *Economic and Policy Innovations for Climate-Smart Agriculture*, FAO Zambia, in collaboration with colleagues from HQ, is proud to start the implementation of the CSA project together with the national implementing partner, the Department of Agriculture of the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock.

FAO acknowledges that if agriculture is to feed the world in a way that can ensure sustainable rural development, it must become 'climate-smart'. A 'Climate-Smart agriculture' is agriculture that increases productivity in a sustainable manner, strengthens resilience (adaptation) and, where feasible, reduces/removes greenhouse gases (mitigation). Yet at the same time it seeks to enhance the achievement of national food security and development goals.

The greatest challenge the vast majority of human population is called to face nowadays is the eradication of hunger and extreme poverty. At the same time, countries have to confront the impact of climate change, which poses among the most serious, immediate and long term threats to the efforts of achieving sustainable development with striking negative effects

on food security and rural development. Agriculture represents a cornerstone of these challenges. If on one side it suffers the impacts of climate change, it is also responsible for 14 percent of global greenhouse gas emissions, and in fact when land-use changes, including deforestation, are considered its share becomes around 30 percent. It is therefore important to find the right balance in allocating resources between adaptation to climate change and greenhouse gas mitigation efforts based on each country's economic situation and development objectives.

Recent experiences and studies on Climate-Smart agriculture show that there are no one-size-fits-all solutions: better climate-smart farming practices need to respond to different local conditions, to geography, weather and the natural resource base and this is precisely what the project CSA aims at addressing and understanding in the countries of Viet Nam, Malawi and Zambia.

In order to achieve this objective, the project intends to develop an evidence base to support the identification of promising practices, adoption barriers, risk profiles, policies, strategies and investment options. It is foreseen that country-owned strategic frameworks for CSA activities and CSA investment plans will be delivered by the end of the project. The project works with governments, local institutions and universities in the partner countries.

Some of the questions that the CSA project will address, and for which this inception workshop will function as the foundation, are:

- What are the **agricultural practices** contributing to increased productivity for food security, and, where possible, mitigation?
- What are the **barriers to adoption** of CSA and which **policies** are needed to overcome them?
- Which **participatory processes** are needed to build on existing development strategies?
- What are the **enabling mechanisms**, both institutional, and financial, and the tools required?

The evidence base to be built by the project will then be an important input into another project activity that will be the development of Climate-Smart investment proposals that could contribute to the broader CAADP process.

Following an initial stakeholder consultation in collaboration with the Zambian Government, the project identified the **three areas** that could be analyzed and further developed to provide policy insights and develop investment proposals that would enhance food security. These three potential research areas are:

- 1) Conservation agriculture and soil & water conservation
- 2) Diversification of production (dairy, legumes)
- 3) The role of agriculture as a driver of deforestation (Zambia is a UN-REDD country)

This workshop aims to share the progress made in identifying those topic areas where the project can contribute most effectively, and to provide focus to the forthcoming work. Your advice and contributions throughout the inception workshop are highly appreciated and will ensure the success for this project by being incorporated in this early phase.

The project staff has familiarized with ongoing activities in Zambia and existing data sources relevant for the project. I understand many agricultural practices have been reviewed, as have existing policy instruments and investment frameworks. This is a first step in order to build on existing processes and make the output of the CSA project useful in the current Zambian development context. We are confident the advice and guidance from this workshop will enable the commencement of the in-depth work to be carried out throughout the next couple of years of project implementation.

I would like to congratulate MAL, the project partners, the FAO HQ team and the project staff for your efforts and I wish the project success and results that can be brought to the wider attention.