

*Center for Coordination of Agricultural Research and Development for Southern Africa*

# BUILDING CAPACITY OF AGRICULTURAL EXTENSION SERVICES IN SOUTHERN AFRICA FOR SCALING UP CLIMATE SMART AGRICULTURE INNOVATIONS

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# Objectives

- Climate change in SADC
- Institutional context
  - Centre for Coordination of Agriculture Research and Development for Southern Africa (CCARDESA)
  - Adaptation to Climate Change in Rural Areas of SADC (ACCRA) Programme
- ACCRA's approach to capacity building for scaling CSA
- Processes of capacity development & lessons learnt
- Conclusions & implications moving forward

# Introduction

- SADC Region is affected by Climate Change
- Majority of farmers in SADC are smallholders
- Climate smart agriculture (CSA) approaches offer solutions, but
  - Low availability of user-friendly information
  - Low adoption of CSA practices & technologies
  - SADC countries lack capacity to integrate climate change aspects into agricultural programmes and operationalise these for investment
- Extension Services critical in assisting farmers

# Institutional context: CCARDESA

- In 2007 SADC Council of Ministers approved review & harmonisation of the policy for agriculture & NR
- CAADP Pillar 4: Agric. research - technology development, dissemination & adoption
- CCARDESA established (2011) by 15 SADC Member States as SADC sub-regional organisation



# Institutional context: CCARDESA

- Mandate to coordinate agricultural research and development (AR&D) in the region
- CCARDESA aims to be a regional hub to facilitate access to agricultural knowledge and information
- Facilitate collaboration among NARES & CGIAR
- Promote public-private partnerships in regional agricultural R&D
- Improve agric. technology generation, dissemination, adoption through collective efforts, training and capacity building

# Institutional context: CCARDESA

- Empower and strengthen farmers and their organisations and enhance their access to markets and negotiating skills
- Facilitate devt. of sustainable education, training and learning systems that contribute to farmer-oriented innovation & technology transfer systems
- Promote cooperation, consultation and exchange of scientific and technical information on best practices in agric. research and advisory services

# CCARDESA: mission and themes

**VISION:** A food secure and prosperous Southern African region with vibrant rural livelihoods

**MISSION:** To promote innovative research, technology generation and adoption for sustainable agricultural development through effective partnership and capacity building

Farmer  
Empowerment  
& Market  
Access

THEME 1

Research and  
Technology  
generation and  
farmer demand  
driven advisory  
services

THEME 2

Knowledge,  
Information  
and  
Communication

THEME 3

Institutional  
Development  
and Capacity  
Building

THEME 4

Establishment  
and  
Strengthening  
of CCARDESA as  
an effective  
SRO

THEME 5



# Institutional context: CCARDESA

Medium Term Operation  
Plan Cross Cutting Issues

## CATEGORY I

HIV/AIDS

Gender

Environment

Climate change

## CATEGORY II

Agricultural policy

Trade and markets

Urban agriculture





# Institutional context: ACCRA

- Adaptation to climate change in rural areas in southern Africa (ACCRA) Programme
- Implemented by CCARDESA with support through GIZ, funded by the German Government
- Objective: increase capacities of SADC member states to integrate climate change aspects into agricultural programmes and investments
- ACCRA contributes towards implementation of the SADC Regional Agricultural Policy

# ACCRA's approach to capacity building

- Underlying notion: CSA practices known to scientific community but need to be translated into practice
- Regional & national institutions mandated with agricultural development as strategic entry points
- Extension services strengthened to become key knowledge brokers for supporting decision making on CSA

# ACCRA's approach to capacity building

- Programmatic approach to capacity building to strengthen capacities in SADC member states to take CSA practices and technologies to scale
- Capacity building through promoting regional knowledge dissemination on CSA and climate proofing of priority agricultural value chains

# ACCRA Activities

**Capacity development & Technical assistance**

**Regional knowledge dissemination on Climate Smart Agriculture**

**Capacity Development of CCARDESA and selected MS organizations**

**Climate Proofing of Agricultural Value Chains**

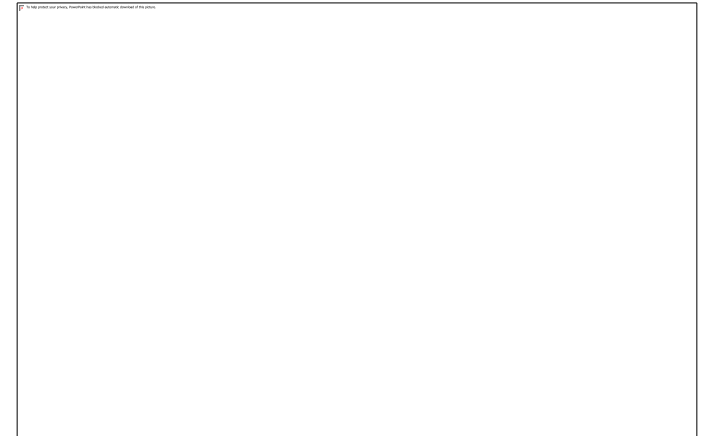
- Creation and dissemination of user friendly knowledge products
- Strengthening the CCARDESA knowledge management system
- Climate proofing of policies, strategies, programmes and investments
- Trainings on climate smart agriculture and climate financing

- Development of a Capacity Development Strategy for CCARDESA and selected MS Institutions
- Implementation of prioritized CD measures

- Assessment of climate risks for priority agricultural value chains
- Identification of appropriate practices and technologies to reduce climate risks
- Feasibility studies and piloting
- Preparation of Investment proposals and submission to financiers

# RESULTS

- Capacity building through joint project implementation
- Capacity strengthening through regional trainings and awareness creation



# Results – joint project implementation

- ACCRA is partnering with diverse stakeholders to jointly implement projects that aim to climate proof selected agricultural value chains
  - Vulnerability assessments
  - Stakeholder driven selection of suitable CSA practices & piloting of selected ones
  - Feasibility studies
  - Development of bankable investment proposals for the scaling of CSA innovations within particular agricultural value chains

# Results – joint project implementation

## Sorghum in Lesotho, Botswana

- Enhancing sorghum productivity through the use of conservation agriculture and the stimulo-deterrent diversionary strategies for pest control
- Lesotho Department of Agricultural Research, Botswana DAR, National University of Lesotho, Rural Self-Help Development Association (RSDA), National Vulnerability Assessment Committees, Extension Services and Department of Planning and Policy Analysis



# Results – joint project implementation

## Maize in Zambia, Malawi, Zimbabwe

- Out scaling climate-smart technologies to smallholder farmers in Malawi, Zambia & Zimbabwe
- Zambia Agricultural Research Institute, Machinga (MoA-MAL); Total Land Care (MAL), AGRITEX(ZIM), CIMMYT



# RESULTS - regional trainings & awareness

- International, regional, national experts
- Training courses on *Tackling climate change in agriculture: approaches to climate change adaptation and climate-smart agriculture in the SADC Region* – available on [saaiks.net](http://saaiks.net)
- Regional training in 2016: 27 national extension staff trained
- Upon request by SADC member states, national trainings in Namibia and Zimbabwe training over 50 extension staff

# RESULTS - regional trainings & awareness

## Regional training to enhance skills

- Understanding modalities of international (and other) climate finance and climate finance readiness
- Writing investment proposals that are bankable and integrate social and environmental safeguards, and other aspects of mobilising large-scale investment for CSA development



# RESULTS - regional trainings & awareness

- Outreach and awareness creation
  - Series of events hosted by CCARDESA and partners
  - Public awareness (and among targeted audiences) of climate change impacts in agriculture, adaptation and CSA in the region
    - Regional CSA Conference with FANRPAN
    - Dry season management workshop in Botswana with AgriBusiness Forum
    - Agricultural Radio show
  - CCARDESA ICKM system with knowledge sharing platform to reach regional stakeholders

# Lessons

## Stakeholders continue to work in silos

- Exchange, learning & collaboration between research & extension services needs strengthening
- Collaboration among NARES is key to bring together experience, expertise & skills for climate proofing
- Effective representation of farmers' and community perspectives, engaging with private sector and civil society within projects remains a challenge

# Lessons

## Coordination has to be cultivated

- Isolated initiatives by different actors requires coordination to bring interventions to scale
- Forming meaningful collaboration requires effort
  - brings about efficiency gains
  - minimises duplication
  - move away from a culture of working in silos
  - overcoming organizational, cultural hurdles and competing interests presents challenges
  - enhance synergies and multi-dimensional perspectives



# Lessons

**Climate change challenges transcend national boundaries**

**Regional collaboration enhances learning**

- **Offers opportunity for learning and spill-over of technologies at lower cost**
- **Consolidation of best practices provides validation and useful guidance to choose interventions suited to local contexts**
- **Value of regional information and knowledge exchange, peer to peer learning and collaboration is important but, collaboration mechanisms are weak**



# Lessons

## Regional collaboration requires resources

- Collaboration requires additional capacities, high-level buy-in and dedicated facilitation
- CCARDESA with mandate for regional coordination of AR&D is well-positioned to take on role of regional broker - institutional resources needed



# Lessons

## Enabling policy environments

- Strengthen policies, strategies and programmes to guide agricultural decision making, planning and investment
- National agricultural policies in SADC consider climate change impacts, but specific interventions are still lacking
- Resources for design and implementation need to be mobilized

# Lessons

**Agricultural extension services are central**

- Key actors in bringing national policy to local level and CSA to scale
- Specific extension strategies or guidelines are rare
- Often under-staffed, under-funded and lack the capacities, tools & products to bring agricultural development to scale



# Lessons

## Agricultural extension services are central

- Existing extension manuals/guidelines
  - are generic and not address climate change specifically
  - do not specifically guide CSA implementation
- Many adaptation efforts implemented, but capacities for prioritising CSA by context to be strengthened
- Targeted and user-friendly knowledge products for CSA need to be produced and disseminated to strengthen extension service capacity

# Lessons

- **Key mechanism for climate action:**
  - **Countries' Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) under the Paris Agreement of the UNFCCC**
  - **Resources are to be mobilised for their implementation through international climate finance**
    - **Complex funding mechanisms**
    - **New skills are needed on how to write bankable investment proposals**
    - **Collaboration across ministries is key**

# Conclusions

- **Climate Change**
  - poses additional challenges to agric. development in SADC and threatens livelihoods of smallholders
  - creates opportunity for innovation, cooperation and re-orienting existing systems
- **Enabling conditions for transformation in light of climate change are favourable**
  - International climate negotiations
  - Regional momentum
  - National support
  - Local innovation



# Conclusions

- **National agric. extension services play a key role**
  - bridging gap betw. policy and local implementation
  - supporting farmers in adopting climate-resilient, productive farming practices
- **New skills, new ways of working and new efforts for collaboration are needed to take CSA to scale**
  - collaboration between research and extension
  - cross-country collaboration mechanisms
  - multi-scale partnerships need to be mobilised



# Conclusions

- Existing initiatives of combining approaches to capacity strengthening on scaling up CSA
  - Partnerships for climate proofing agricultural value chains
  - Technical skills for CSA
  - Climate financing and proposal writing
- In collaboration with farmers, farmers associations, NARES, private sector and NGOs, CCARDESA is contributing towards these efforts

# Visit our exhibition booth

## CCARDESA ICKM System:

[saaiks.net](http://saaiks.net)

[www.ccardesa.org](http://www.ccardesa.org)

[www.facebook.com/ccardesa](http://www.facebook.com/ccardesa)

[www.twitter.com/ccardesaa](http://www.twitter.com/ccardesaa)