



## **Concept Note**

### **3<sup>rd</sup> Africa Climate Smart Agriculture Alliance**

## **Annual Forum**

**Theme:  
Towards Vision 25x25 – Taking stock  
of Climate Smart Agriculture in Africa”**

**Dakar, Senegal**

**20 – 21 March 2019**

**Financial support**



**Technical Partners**

## **1. Introduction and Background**

The world's population is expected to grow to almost 10 billion by 2050, with the bulk of that growth predicted to take place in Africa. In addition, income growth in low- and middle-income countries hastens a dietary transition towards higher consumption of meat, requiring commensurate shifts in output and putting pressure on natural resources. Food production will therefore have to increase by approximately 70% to provide for everyone. Across Africa, 51 million of farming households still depend on smallholder rain fed agricultural production systems, putting them at severe risk from a changing climate. This could force tens of millions of people into food insecurity and poverty.

At the global level, the Paris Agreement on Climate Change has been hailed as an historic achievement in the fight against climate change as it applies to developed and developing countries alike and sets an ambitious goal to keep global warming under 1.5°C. The Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) submitted by Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) form the building blocks for implementation of the Paris Agreement. Most African countries included actions that relate to agriculture in the context of adaptation and/or mitigation in their NDCs. Through the Paris Agreement, parties also agreed to a long-term goal for adaptation – to increase the ability to adapt to the adverse impacts of climate change and foster climate resilience and low greenhouse gas emissions development, in a manner that does not threaten food production.

At the 23rd Conference of the Parties to the UNFCCC (COP 23), the Koronivia Joint Work Programme on Agriculture was adopted as a landmark agreement for the agriculture negotiations under the climate convention which emphasizes the key role of agriculture and food security in the international climate change agenda.

In Africa, the Malabo Declaration on Accelerated Agricultural Growth and Transformation for Shared Prosperity and Improved Livelihoods, adapted by African Heads of State and Government at the 23rd African Union (AU) Summit in 2014, repositioned agriculture as a priority on the continental development agenda. It re-affirmed the commitments and guided the implementation of the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP).

The Malabo declaration with its Commitment 6 calls for AU members states to enhance Resilience of Livelihoods and Production Systems to Climate Variability and other related risks. To this end, AU member states are expected to ensure that at least 30% of farm, pastoral and fisher households are resilient to climate and weather related risks. A major component of the Malabo declaration was the commitment of African leaders and member states through the adoption of the Africa Climate Smart

Agriculture Vision 25X25 which aims to support at least 25 million farm households in practicing CSA by 2025.

This African Union Decision also endorsed the NEPAD Programme on Climate Change and Agriculture with its components on gender empowerment and support to small-holder farmers. The African Climate Smart Agriculture Alliance Forum through which the NEPAD Agency collaborates with all stakeholders and partners towards the attainment of Vision 25X25 was established. The NEPAD Climate change and Agriculture Programme elaborates three interrelated core action segments. These are:

- (a) **The Africa CSA Alliance Forum**– an essentially member states driven platform and movement fostering sharing, learning and strengthening public voice in support of CSA;
- (b) **Country Action-** which reflects country national policy support, investment financing as well as institutional and human capacity development at all levels including in the “last-mile” – focusing on practitioners especially, youth, women and rural populations.
- (c) **Programme interventions and support services** – through which technical, financing and knowledge services are organized in supporting country action. Under this segment, the NEPAD Agency is collaborating with various players and stakeholders including Regional Economic Communities (RECs) has provided support to countries especially in the development of project proposals for funding.

## **2. The Africa CSA Alliance**

With CSA providing an alternative pathway by addressing these multiple and intertwined challenges, the NEPAD Agency established the Africa CSA Alliance Forum in 2015. The overall aim of the Africa CSA Alliance is to bring together AU member countries, RECs, representatives from the private sector, civil society and other relevant stakeholders to share experiences, to identify interests and opportunities for activities related to agriculture within the climate change discourse and to foster dialogue amongst the African CSA community.

Following the success of two Africa CSA Alliance Forums in 2015 and 2016 the NEPAD Agency in conjunction with the African Union Commission and with support from GIZ and Norad is convening the 3rd Africa Climate Smart Agriculture Alliance Forum from **20-21 March, 2019** in Dakar, Senegal. The theme for the Forum is ***“Towards Vision 25x25 – Taking stock of CSA in Africa”***.

### 3. General Objective

The general objective of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Africa CSA Alliance Forum is to facilitate dialogue and sharing of experiences and good practice on CSA in Africa.

Moreover, the Forum will have discussions on progress towards attaining the Vision 25X25 and uptake of the CSA approach in Africa.

Specific objectives are to:

- Foster CSA partnerships, alliances and networks across the continent
- Share the latest information, research findings and new insights and innovations on CSA and modalities for its implementation
- Facilitate more rapid implementation of CSA programmes by enabling access to information on financing opportunities
- Support a more coherent approach to formulating national climate change and agriculture policy frameworks such as NAIPs, NDCs, NAPs etc.

### 4. Specific outcomes of the conference

- Increased alignment and harmonization in the efforts to foster knowledge and support the scaling up of CSA.
- Information exchange and access to systems which will increase sharing of information about CSA among regions and the continent as a whole

### 5. Forum Structure

The Forum is organized essentially to encourage dialogue, debates and exchange by all the participants. The Forum will, therefore, be a mix of plenary discussions and parallel side sessions, where specific sub themes are discussed in smaller groups. The Forum further provides space for exhibition information from countries and institutions.

The forum will be organised into *three* segments as follows:

#### (i) The knowledge segment

The objective of the *Knowledge segment* is to update participants on the state of play on climate change and agriculture, CSA on these topics among others:

- a) Evolution the CSA approach – is it still the best available?
- b) On the research front – what are some of the emerging issues and key related to CSA, including adoption rates, farmer perspectives, resilience outcomes
- c) Agriculture in the climate change negotiation
- d) CSA implementation approaches – what are the promising models
- e) The state of climate change and agriculture related policy & planning frameworks (e.g. NAIPS, NAPs, NDCs)

#### (ii) The Lessons and Insights segment

The objective of the *Lessons and Insights* segment is to share lessons and insights from practice. These will be presented in the form of case studies to be invited from technical/private sector/NGO/governmental/donor partners and farmers involved in the implementation of CSA programmes.

The case studies will highlight some of the following elements:

- a) Successful (promising) CSA approaches/initiatives/models – what works in programme design, partnerships, financing, implementation
- b) Ensuring adequate farmer support (capacity and incentives)
- c) Synthesis of overarching lessons and insights

In addition the case studies will aim to address some of the pressing questions such as:

- How to ensure sustainable adoption on CSA
- How to ensure gender equality and youth involvement
- How to catalyse private sector engagement with smallholders on CSA
- How to build adaptive capacity of farmers
- How to go beyond pilots – scaling up in CSA

### **(iii) The Looking Forward- segment**

The *Looking Forward Segment* of the forum will aim to:

- (i) Identify and build consensus on priority areas (actions) for supporting CSA implementation going forward
- (ii) foster cooperation/partnerships/cohesion/joint action at regional and continental levels

## **6. Conference Participants**

The African Climate Smart Agriculture Alliance is open to all interested stakeholders. These include Governments, Regional Economic Communities, Farmers' Organizations, Private Sector, Civil Society, Specialized Agencies, Development Partners, donor community etc.