

Africa CSA Vision 25x25

Africa's Strategic Approach for Food Security and Nutrition in the Face of Climate Change



1. INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND/SCOPE

1.1 The Africa Vision 25x25 on CSA

In order to assure regional food and nutrition security, to build farmer livelihoods and to contribute to the global food security agenda through exports and value added processing, African agriculture must strive to attain the three integrated goals of dramatically increasing productivity; enhancing the resilience of people and incomes; and as a result achieve lower emission co-benefits. Such a strategic approach to agriculture will deliver higher incomes and more robust companies; drive growth and jobs; improve nutrition and deliver on the true potential of the agriculture sector in Africa.

In its 31st African Union Summit (Malabo, June 2014) the Heads of State and Government were clear in their resolve to commit to action on the agriculture-climate change nexus issue. In the Summit Decisions on NEPAD, the Heads of State and Government endorsed the NEPAD programme on agriculture climate change including its components on gender empowerment, intensified support to small-holder farmers and the setup of an African Climate Smart Agriculture (CSA) Coordination Platform as means in pursuit of what was endorsed as the African Union Vision to have at least 25 million farm households more practicing CSA by 2025

To achieve this, Africa is leading with country-driven and regionally-integrated INITIATIVE that will provide the tools for action and platform for partnerships that will deliver results. Centered on NEPAD, the INITIATIVE will be fully aligned with and an integral part of the already highly successful CAADP process as well as cultivating the necessary multi-sectorial engagements, including with Environment and natural resources and climate change policies and programmes. The initiative will focus on catalytic and enabling programme interventions to strengthen grassroot capacity to plan, innovate and implement to scale up sustained practicing of CSA. The Initiative's Programme interventions will involve rallying technical, political and financial action for the desired enabling factors for accelerated adoption of CSA. The Initiative will also emphasis accountability and learning along a results based system. Therefore, monitoring and collating data/information on performance, results and impact will be important, as a capacity issue in the Programme's strategy and activities. In its position at the nexus of food and nutrition security, agriculture and climate change in Africa, the initiative will bring deliberate attention and practical opportunities to foster multi-sectorial, multi-national and inter-disciplinary action across various national and international stakeholders to drive the action at scale that is required.

1.2 Key guiding principles and values

Specific principles have been identified to guide the work in pursuit of the Vision 25 x 25, initially underlining the fact that pursuing the Vision 25 x 25 is an integral part of the CAADP implementation goals and processes.

The specific principles and values defined include:

- The work and interventions of the Initiative are characteristically intended to influence or contribute to strengthening local systemic capacity, especially in the text of ability to plan, to execute and review
- Local state and non-state players and stakeholders (local government; private sector; farmer organisations; civil society and non-governmental organisations including traditional structures) form a critical and integral part of the Alliance's delivery model. The country CAADP implementation process and specifically the National Agriculture Investment Plans (NAIPs) will be the entry point, which will also ensure linkage and alignment to national agriculture development goals and priorities
- The Initiative will deliver its value addition and ultimately attain its goal by catalyzing, facilitating and supporting activities around four interrelated result/impact areas; namely:
 - i. Training; nurturing and skills development (formal and informal) in both technological knowledge and skills as well as management
 - ii. Improved availability and accessibility to relevant and appropriate CSA and CSA support technologies or practices
 - iii. Policy and institutions, relating to enabling environment through among others (a) data and analytical support to policy practices processes; (b) strengthening and informed public voice; (c) local farmer/practitioners associations and purpose-clubs; (d) champions in various constituencies; etc...

Within the context of the Sustaining CAADP momentum and specific the CAADP Results Framework (Malabo, 2014), the Initiative will articulate (politically compelling and technically sound) targets with clear modalities and means to monitor and assess performance and progress. This is the basis of the Vision 25 x 25

2. OPERATIONAL COMPONENTS OF THE AU-NEPAD AGRICULTURE CLIMATE CHANGE PROGRAMME (VISION 25X25)

The INITIATIVE is defined under two inter-linked components. These are (a) Country Action component, with clear focus on national/community level capacity and enabling environment to accelerate and expand implementation; and (b) Pan-African platform with focus on fostering appropriate partnerships and alliances, knowledge support and learning including evidence-based support to programme and policy design and review. An initial outline of these parts follows below.

2.1 COUNTRY BASED PROGRAMS (CBP)

The initiative will be driven by country-led action to bolster, support and enhance existing country programs and initiatives to achieve amplified scale and impact. Countries seeking to become more climate-smart will lead the development of national CSA action plans in alignment with sectorial and country based policies and objectives. They will have *supporting services* at their disposal, provided by partners and facilitated by a NEPAD facilitation unit. According to their individual needs, countries will be able to select from a menu of four key process elements:

- i. Analysis:
This relates to support to strengthen and align capacity and actual understanding (i.e. knowledge, information) through analysis to establish status and trends in relevant parameters to scale-up CSA. This include aspects such as CSA GAP analysis which would include taking stock of ongoing CSA programmes, existing related policies and institutional arrangements as well as determining Climate risk and vulnerability, CSA preparedness, policy needs, investment gaps and human capacity constraints.

Standardized methodologies and processes for undertaking this analysis will be developed by the facilitation unit in coordination with technical service providers. Through the platform and activities by the Facilitation Unit, countries will also have access to expert /technical support when required.

ii. Planning:

Development of integrated national CSA strategies, with building blocks and clear roadmaps for implementation; Development of NAIPs, NAPAs, NAMAs and other tools as appropriate. Technical service providers (expert networks and pools) would be available to assist countries (upon request) with conceptualization, planning and drafting.

iii. Financing:

The development of the CSA investment strategies and programmes within the process and approach of the NAIPs, NAPAs and NAMAs will enable alignment of the CSA programmes along national public sector budget and therefore a way to compel desired public financing. Public financing is expected to have significant catalytic and leveraging value

iv. Execution:

Translation of CSA strategies into transformational action on the ground, with countries potentially taking advantage of financial and technical services offered by partners under the CAADP umbrella and/or engage in collaborations with initiatives driven by private sector and other partners. The facilitation unit would work to develop and catalyze a number of initiatives and partnerships available to countries.

v. Tracking and assessing Impact and Learning:

Best practice learning and results tracking systems will be used to continuously generate lessons learned that are fed back into the national decision making processes as well as into the platform (below). Through the Platform and the Programme Interventions and Technical Support Services, the Facilitation Unit will also coordinate to enable countries to have access to appropriate tools and guidelines as well received expert support in build associated capacity especially as concerns the Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning

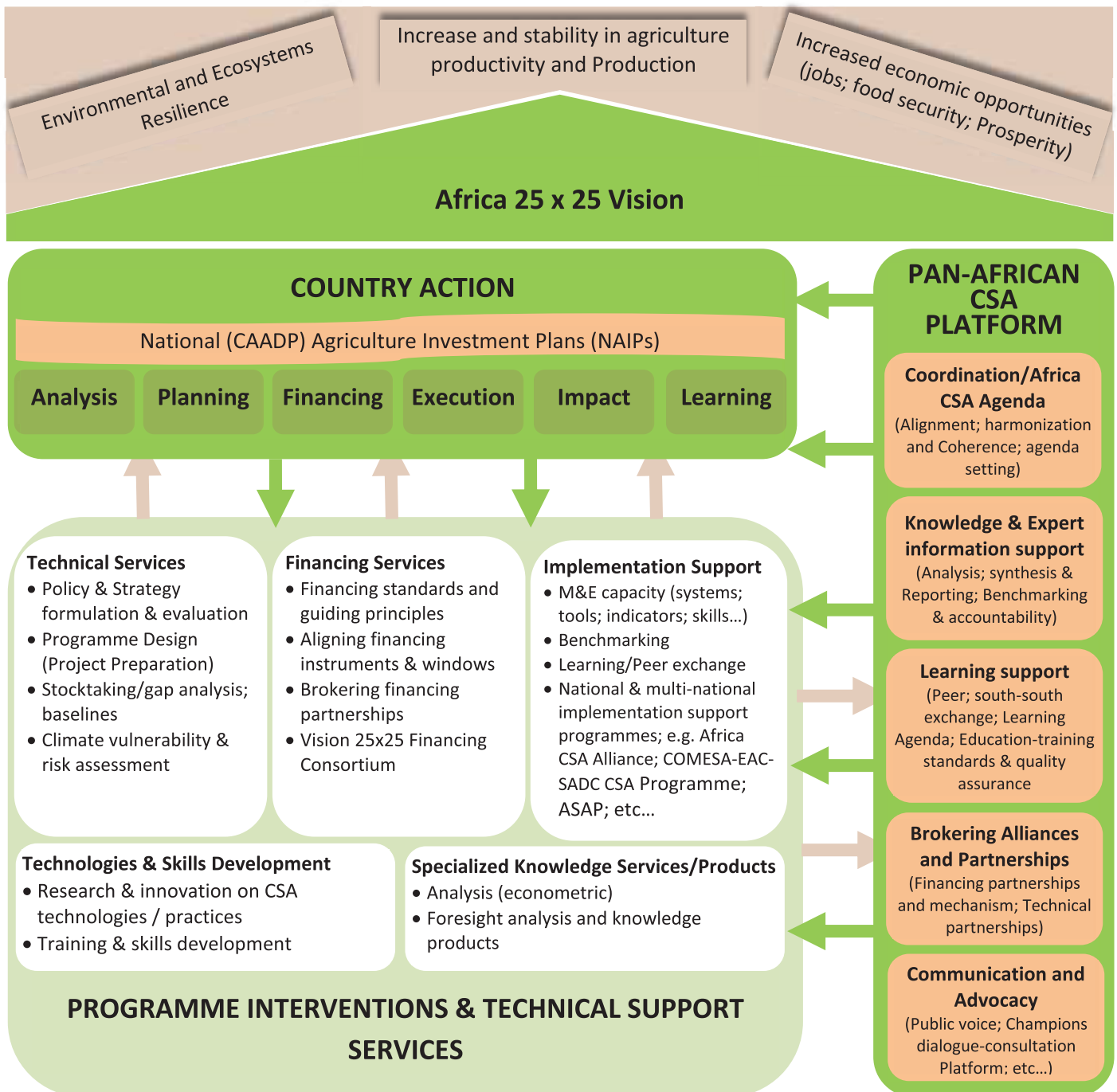


Figure 1: The AU-NEPAD Agriculture Climate Change Programme - 25 x 25

2.2 PAN-AFRICAN CSA PLATFORM

To support countries, a virtual and physical pan-African platform will be established where knowledge is exchanged to identify best practice and partnerships across stakeholder groups are catalyzed. The Platform will also serve in fostering a coherent African CSA Agenda as well as sustaining the collective power and urge

for action. The Platform will also facilitate assessment of individual (country, region, sector, etc...) performance against continental and even global benchmarks

i. Coordination

CSA is by definition a multi-sectorial, multi-disciplinary subject. It is in this context recognised that the seemingly inherent fragmentation in institutional mandates and responsibilities and the multiplicity of initiatives on CSA could be critical obstacles to effective CSA implementation support. At continental level, the Platform will play coordination functions and through open dialogue and sharing compel increased alignment and harmonization in the efforts to support the scaling up of CSA. The sharing, dialogue and consultations within the framework of the Platform will also be instrumental in agenda setting and benchmarking

ii. Knowledge Exchange, Expert Information Support and Learning:

This will facilitate and support (including expert nurturing support) within and inter-country interaction and exchange for peer-to-peer learning, sharing of results and showcasing of lessons learned. The virtual space would offer webinars for in-depth thematic work, discussion forums would ensure opportunities for continued exchange. Identified best practice would be published and knowledge gaps would be filled with publications and through linkages into the research agenda in cooperation with partners such as FARA or the CGIAR system. The knowledge exchange will bring about the interaction between experts/expert institutions and communities of practitioners including farmers. This aspect will also facilitate technical backstopping to practical skills training and orientation at field level for both trainers and farmers/practitioners.

iii. Brokering Alliance and Partnerships:

In this aspect, the Platform will rally capacity and tools to be able to respond to and support countries on relevant analysis (e.g. institutional mapping) and tools to analyse, determine, establish and manage effective alliances and partnerships including Public-Private Partnerships on scaling up CSA. Multiple stakeholders including governments, farmers, private sector, NGO/CSOs, academia and development partners would contribute their respective competencies and resources to explore and identify areas for mutually beneficial collaboration. The NEPAD facilitation unit will play a proactive role in pulling partners in and brokering such collaborations, informed by its unique awareness of country needs and partner strengths. In the context of the Agriculture – Climate change nexus, this includes specific brokering of collaboration between agricultural and environment and natural resources mandates and interests.

iv. Communication and advocacy:

Additional to rallying public and specific expert/stakeholder opinion and views including supporting informed dialogue, the Platform will in this regard also target the necessary change in mind-set.

2.3 PROGRAMME INTERVENTIONS & TECHNICAL SUPPORT SERVICES

One of the unique value addition in the proposed architecture for catalyzing and implementing the scaling up of CSA in Africa is in the inherent feature to rally and facilitate organized and coherent technical back-up support, including providing the quality assurance and relevant technical checks-and-balances to ensure appropriate and demand-based technical backstopping.

The technical backstopping is organized around five key result/change driver areas, namely:

a. Technical Services

- Policy and Strategy formulation and evaluation
- Programme Design (Project Preparation)
- Stocktaking/gap analysis; baselines
- Climate vulnerability and risk assessment

b. Financing Services

- Aligning financing instruments and windows
- Brokering financing partnerships

c. Implementation Support

- M&E capacity (systems; tools; indicators; skills...)
- Benchmarking
- Learning/Peer exchange
- National and multinational implementation support programmes; e.g. Africa CSA Alliance; COMESA-EAC-SADC CSA Programme; ASAP; etc...

d. Technologies & Skills Development

- Research & innovation on CSA technologies / practices
- Training & skills development

e. Specialized Knowledge Services/Products

- Analysis (econometric)
- Foresight analysis and knowledge products

Supporting initiatives

One of the critical technical Support components is actual scaling up implementation Programmes which will be design and implemented jointly with local institutions and stakeholders. Some of these programmes will target capacity strengthening for the local institutions – e.g. Programme support for training of trainers. In terms of the subsidiarity principles which will guide the support programmes, the Joint Implementation Support Programmes will generally operate at national/community level with close to direct implication on the actual scaling up actions.

There is a number of National and multi-national and Regional implementation support programmes currently under implementation on Climate Smart Agriculture

3. OPERATIONAL AND DELIVERY ARRANGEMENTS

National-Regional level arrangements

The Initiative, operating at continental level, will function essentially in catalytical form. This will involve mobilizing and making available/accessible knowledge products and guidelines/tools to enhance the quality (effectiveness, efficiency and appropriateness) in the work of the various regional and national organisations and programmes supporting the scaling up of CSA. The Initiative will foster principle of subsidiarity, complementarities and synergies in the development of implementation support partnership programmes and alliances, such as the Africa CSA Alliance and the IFAD-ASAP.

The NEPAD-CAADP principles will come at the center in guiding the delivery arrangements. CSA support activities will be assessed in terms of the extent to which they contribute to scaling up CSA adoption as well as their impact on enhancing capacity for CSA implementation support in local institutions. The national and regional CAADP implementation systems including the National Agriculture Investment Plans (NAIPs) is the entry point for the CSA work. This means ensuring national and regional systems and tools (the NAIPs, NAPAs, etc...) providing and confirming local prioritization for CSA and also defining the institutional arrangements and accountability systems for programmes supporting the scaling up CSA. The NAIP also ensures the Africa CSA Alliance work is linked to and complementary to any possibly on-going CSA initiatives.

Facilitation Unit

Hosted and operated by NEPAD, the facilitation unit will be a central hub that integrates and co-ordinates, where countries find immediate support and establish linkages with technical and financial service providers. The unit will support the roll out of the national action plans, compile data on results and best practice and develop a knowledge bank on potential sources of finance. It will facilitate country access to top-level technical specialists, provide an interface with the private sector, connect countries with ongoing initiatives and facilitate the process of capturing results and developing lessons learned.

Informed by its proximity to the country programs, the unit will also lead and host the pan-African platform and set its programmatic focus areas to best serve country needs.

Collaborating partners

Farmer Organizations and Farmers: Farmer organizations will bring a direct linkage to the ultimate agents of change and the most important constituents of the initiative: farmers. Their engagement at the platform and CBP levels will ensure feedback comes through and broad buy-in can be built.

NGOs/CSOs: Civil society will align with “Vision 25:25” and bring their grassroots networks, expertise in capacity building and ensure the inclusion of the perspective of marginalized groups and their buy-in at CBP and platform levels.

Private Sector: Private sector partners will engage with the initiative via the platform and interface with the NEPAD facilitation unit to support countries with in their CBP objectives through concrete on the ground action in alignment with the “Vision 25x25”. Clear frameworks for engagement on continued exchanges will help unlock potential and ensure mutually beneficial collaboration.

Bi- and Multilaterals: Traditional country partners in the bi- and multilateral communities will align with “Vision 25:25” through support of CBPs (following the traditional CAADP process), through contributions to and involvement with the Platform and potentially through funding of the NEPAD Facilitation Unit.

Technical Organizations: Local, regional and global technical and research entities will be available to countries at all stages. Facilitated by the NEPAD facilitation unit, expert teams from across institutions will be assembled based on country demand to create tailored support services informed by the latest science.

