



# Gender, Climate Change and Agriculture Support Programme





## ***Gender, Climate Change and Agriculture Support Programme (GCCASP)***

### **What is it**

The Gender, Climate Change and Agriculture Support Programme supports women and other vulnerable farming groups in dealing with the effects of climate change on agriculture. The vision of the programme is to see farming women empowered for effectiveness and efficiency in dealing with the vagaries of climate change through policy changes and access to climate-smart agricultural technologies.

The Gender, Climate Change and Agriculture Support Programme aims to integrate gender issues and concerns of women small-scale farmers in responding to climate change in agriculture. This is in recognition of the insurmountable role women play in African agriculture.

### **Why is it needed**

Climate change is causing significant damage to economies and environments. Africa is greatly affected, as exposure is increasingly high while its capacity to respond is very low. Smallholder agriculture is the most vulnerable sector dominated by women farmers who account for over 80% of the continent's food production. Women and youth are highly vulnerable and are most likely to be disproportionately affected by the adverse effects of climate change.



## How it works

The commencement of the Gender, Climate Change and Agriculture Support Programme entailed the design process of a detailed situation analysis of smallholder women farmers through case studies and consultations in five selected African countries.

The countries are Cameroon, Ethiopia, Malawi, Niger and Rwanda. They represent five of the eight Regional Economic Communities recognised by the African Union Commission. The consultations in the five countries saw the gathering of information on challenges that smallholder women farmers encounter in agriculture within the context of climate change.

Information from the countries then led to the development of a programme document that highlights key issues and intervention areas among many other things.

### **The four key interventions areas identified include:**

- (i) Closing institutional gaps
- (ii) Capacity building of Women small holder farmers
- (iii) Creation and strengthening of women platforms
- (iv) Investments in up-scaling of successful and innovative practices

The interventions are aimed at empowering women smallholder farmers, youths and other vulnerable groups to better cope with the negative impacts of climate change and climate variability.

The programme will be operationalised at two phases namely: (i) Inception phase (ii) Implementation phase. Currently, the programme is at an inception phase where detailed work programmes for the five initial countries and regional economic communities will be developed for implementation. Subsequently, the programme will be scaled up from year three through the enrolment of new countries to as many African countries as possible.





## Its benefits

### The specific benefits of this programme are:

- Strengthened and aligned institutional, and policy environment to address climate related challenges impacting on women small holder farmers;
- Strengthened local capacity through training, shared learning, access to information and knowledge;
- Improved women smallholder farmers' accessibility to land, inputs, credit and technologies; and
- Enhanced women's participation in local, national and regional economic, social and political decision making processes.









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