Accelerating the Impact of CGIAR Climate Research for Africa (AICCRA) Project

Overview

Introduction

Project was launched in May 2021

Goal:

- To enhance access to climate information services and validated climate-smart agriculture technologies in Africa

Aims:

- To help African countries strengthen the resilience of their agricultural sectors to the threat posed by climate change

- To build local capacity to promote innovation in agriculture by engaging with Africa's regional economic communities (RECs) and their associated regional agricultural research networks

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Background

Category	Description
Donor	World Bank (IDA)
Target countries	Senegal, Ghana, Mali, Ethiopia, Kenya, and Zambia
Total duration	3 years
Grant amount	US$ 300,000
Lead Institution	CGIAR Research Program on Climate Change, Agriculture and Food Security (CCAFS). Partners SROs, ICPA, IWM, RUFORUM etc
Target group	- National government representation from AICCRA target countries - Leading African regional and national organization partners - Private & public sectors, academia and civil society - World Bank IDA representatives - International organizations, NGOs and farmer organizations working on food and agriculture issues in the African region

Thematic Areas

- Innovation

- Knowledge

- Partnerships

- Gender and social inclusion

AICCRA Project

- The project is focusing on these areas;

  - Validation and consolidation of the evidence base of the suitability of identified best-bet CSA options for Africa,

  - identification of the most appropriate best practices for scaling up approaches and tools for CSA, and

  - strengthening strategic partnership and collaboration for widescale scaling up of CSA across Africa.

Achievements

- One regional participatory workshop was held to prioritize best bet CSA technologies in the SADC region for multiple key actors involved in the implementation of CSA-related interventions.

- The following have been drafted and undergoing review;
  - A list of best-bet technological options
  - CSA handbook
  - A CSA training manual for Southern Africa
  - A paper on scaling up approaches and tools for CSA

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Achievements

- A 2ha site for the solar-powered irrigation demo has been identified in Chipata.

- Evaluation of bids for the solar irrigation service provider is on-going

- Had a Mid-Term Review last week in Senegal. The overall project has been rated as satisfactory

- A concept note to motivate the request for Phase 2 will be developed early next year and submitted to the World Bank for consideration

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Synergies with CCARDESA programmes

- **Aligned to the following Strategic Plan thematic areas:**
  - Thematic Area 2 : *Resilience to emerging agricultural risks*
  - Thematic Area 5: *Knowledge and information management*

- **APPSA**
  - Technology generation and dissemination
  - Resilience of smallholder farmers

- **CAADP-XP4**
  - Promotion of climate-resilient innovations
  - Developing competencies in conducting foresight and in the interpretation of foresight results
  - Strengthening multi-stakeholder partnerships for the delivery of climate-smart innovations in agriculture
  - Information, Communication and Knowledge management
  - Capacity building of AR4D institutions

- **GCCA+**
  - Promotion of CSA innovations
  - ICKM

Challenges

- Slow start and lost 1 year due to delay in

- Lengthy process of acquiring land for the demo site

- Limited budget hence it might be difficult to realize a meaningful impact

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Future Plans

Themes	Activities
Innovation	• Consolidate gains from validated CSA and CIS options for the effective dissemination and adoption • Training of Trainers on scaling up approaches for best-bet CSA and CIS options • Scaling up of digital options [e-voucher, FAMWES, climate information dissemination, e-commence, precision farming,]
Knowledge management	• Development of the draft brochures for scaling up approaches and tools on • Develop gender-responsive blogs, articles, success stories, policy briefs, videos, and documentaries to enhance cross learning
Partnerships	• Promote bundling of different options and leverage other CCARDESA projects and ongoing CSA and CIS initiatives to ensure sustainability • Joint capacity building of CSA national and regional platforms
Gender and Social Inclusion	• Develop AR4D Gender Policy to ensure inclusivity and responsive projects and programmes • Develop gender-responsive packages of CSA technologies and practices to enhance the inclusion of women and other marginalized social groups

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