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

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African Extension Week

Durban, 30 Oct – 3 Nov, 2017
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

THEME 1: Farmer Empowerment & Market Access
THEME 2: Research and Technology generation and farmer demand driven advisory services
THEME 3: Knowledge, Information and Communication
THEME 4: Institutional Development and Capacity Building
THEME 5: Establishment and Strengthening of CCARDESA as an effective SRO
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

- 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

Capacity development & Technical assistance

Regional knowledge dissemination on Climate Smart Agriculture

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

Capacity Development of CCARDESA and selected MS organizations

- 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

Climate Proofing of Agricultural Value Chains
• 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
- 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
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
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
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