

Concept Note

Stepping Up Engagement Efforts in Sub-Saharan Africa to Catalyse
Investments in Climate Action

side-event at the EU Pavilion UN Climate Change Conference (COP25)

Room Helsinki IFEMA Madrid | Friday 6 December 2019 | 16:30 –18:00hrs

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the UNFCCC Paris Agreement together with a series of landmark international agreements adopted in 2015 provide an overarching blueprint for a more sustainable and prosperous future. However, significant efforts are needed to transform visions into reality. Our present and future global development progress and the achievement of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are severely threatened by the adverse impacts of climate change and variability.

The negative impacts of climate change are already being felt in the Southern Africa Development Community (SADC) region's agriculture sector. 70 % of the region's population depend on agriculture for food, income and employment. In 2016 a regional drought disaster was declared with a cereal deficit of 9.3 million tons and 643,000 cattle perished. The food insecure population increased by 31% to 40 million people in the 2017-2018 season. In 2019 alone, four cyclones killed over 1,000 people, leaving 3,000 injured (SADC, 2019). Tropical cyclone Idai alone destroyed crop over 780,000 hectares in Malawi, Mozambique and Zimbabwe. A strong drought, driven by El Niño, affected central and western parts of the region between October 2018 and March 2019. This included many areas of southern Angola, northern and southern Botswana, northern Namibia, north-western South Africa, southern and western Zambia and north-western Zimbabwe. The drought resulted in crop failure, reduced pasture and low water availability. These dry conditions affected the livestock too. For example, Namibia recorded more than 64,000 drought-related cattle deaths between October 2018 and April 2019 (FAO 2019).

In future Southern Africa continues to be significantly impacted by climate change with the latest projections for the region indicating that both temperature and extremes are to increase into the 21st century. Agriculture across Africa must undergo a significant transformation to meet the multiple challenges of climate change and accompanying food insecurity, poverty and malnutrition. Fundamental to tackling climate change is the need to make agriculture more adaptive and climate smart.

In SADC many programmes and partners have piloted and identified climate smart agriculture (CSA) practices, technologies, strategies and policies to accelerate the transformation of Africa's agriculture into a more sustainable and profitable future. All 16 Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) of SADC member states prioritize agriculture as an adaptation area and 8 also as a mitigation strategy. For the SADC region and its member states, a major challenge to scaling up climate resilient agriculture practices is the failure to secure adequate resources, thus undermining regional efforts at achieving sustainable economic development and regional integration. Business as usual approaches to policy engagement will not suffice in the face of accelerating climate change. To realise substantial and long-term investments into CSA, innovative engagement approaches hold the key.

In this context, Food, Agriculture and Natural Resources Policy Analysis (FANRPAN) in partnership with the SADC Secretariat, the Centre for Coordination of Agricultural Research and Development for Southern Africa (CCARDESA), the SADC/ Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH *Adaptation to Climate Change in Rural Areas in Southern Africa* (ACCRA) programme (implemented on behalf of German Federal Ministry for Economic Development and Cooperation, BMZ), , the CGIAR Research Program on Climate Change, Agriculture and Food Security (CCAFS), CARE International, the Initiative for the

Adaptation of African Agriculture (AAA) and the World Bank will organize a side-event at the European Union Pavilion UN Climate Change Conference (COP25) on *Stepping Up Engagement Efforts in Sub-Saharan Africa to Catalyse Investments in Climate Action*.

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

The event will showcase how farmers and key stakeholders in SADC experience climate change and have developed solutions that are ready to scale out through theatre as an innovative policy engagement approach. Experience from Sub-Saharan Africa shows that participatory theatre enables community participation in developing CSA solutions, and can inform investment decisions. Drawing on the latest scientific evidence in investment prioritization, the performance will be followed by a SADC-oriented panel discussion with key players in CSA investment planning in Africa, including the AAA initiative, CCAFS, CARE International, FANRPAN, ACCRA and the World Bank, to discuss which and how investments in CSA can be scaled, including through innovative engagement approaches such as theatre performances. It will bring together senior officials from the member states, international and intergovernmental organizations, and academia.