

Regional CSA Alliances and platforms: Information sheet

The Africa CSA Alliance (ACSAA) and the NEPAD-iNGO Alliance on CSA

Name: The Africa CSA Alliance (ACSAA) and the NEPAD-iNGO Alliance on CSA. The NEPAD-iNGO CSA Alliance is an implementation component of the Africa CSA Alliance.

Covered region / countries: Africa.

Status: Established and operational.

Core documents:

- Decisions of the 31st African Union Summit (Malabo, June 2014), Summit Decisions on NEPAD.
- NEPAD (2014), *Africa CSA Vision 25x25 - Africa's Strategic Approach for Food Security and Nutrition in the Face of Climate Change*, 9 p.

Background: During the 31st African Union Summit (Malabo, June 2014), in the Summit Decisions on NEPAD, the Heads of State and Government endorsed the NEPAD programme on agriculture and climate change (incl. its component on gender empowerment), intensified support to small-holder farmers and the setup of *an African 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*.

It is a country-driven and regionally-integrated *initiative* to provide the tools for action and platform for partnerships to deliver results. It is centred on NEPAD, fully aligned with and an integral part of the CAADP process (Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme). The initiative is focusing on catalytic and enabling programme interventions to strengthen grassroot capacity to plan, innovate and implement to scale up sustained practicing of CSA. It is also emphasising accountability and learning along a results based system: Monitoring and collating data/information on performance, results and impact will therefore be important, as a capacity issue in the Programme's strategy and activities.

Objective of the ACSAA: The Africa Climate Smart Agriculture Alliance was launched in May 2015 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. The first Forum of the Africa Climate Smart Agriculture Alliance included wide-ranging stakeholders from across the continent to support CSA in Africa. The Africa CSA Alliance is a multi-stakeholder platform for facilitating peer exchange and learning, building a common understanding of contributions to CSA, and aligning and harmonizing various climate change and agriculture programmes being undertaken across Africa and at multiple scales. The Africa CSA Alliance also provides the coordination platform needed to take stock of progress towards the *African Union Vision 25x25 on CSA*.

Objective of the NEPAD-iNGO Alliance for CSA: In an effort to have an integrated and proactive approach to address the impacts of climate change and climate variability, while advancing agricultural development, the 23 African Union (AU) Heads of State and Government Summit (Malabo, June 2014) was clear in its commitment to rally political, technical and financial resources and action to support the empowerment of farmers and local communities to ensure the necessary capacity to adapt to and/or mitigate the effects of climate change. The Heads of State and Government endorsed the African Union Vision – aiming to support at least 25 million farm households in practicing CSA by 2025.

The NEPAD-iNGO Alliance on CSA is one of the practical implementation means of attaining vision 25x25. Often referred to as the Africa CSA Alliance also it was launched in June 2014, and aims to support at least 6 million farm households practicing CSA in the period 2015 to 2021, contributing to the broader AU target. It is a unique collaborative innovation and partnership involving AU-NEPAD, five international NGOs (CARE International, Catholic Relief Services, Concern Worldwide, Oxfam and World Vision) and four technical partners (CGIAR Research Programme on Climate Change Agriculture and Food Security (CCAFS), Forum for Agriculture Research in Africa (FARA), Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the UN and the Food Agriculture and Natural Resources Policy Analysis Network (FANRPAN).

Key guiding principles:

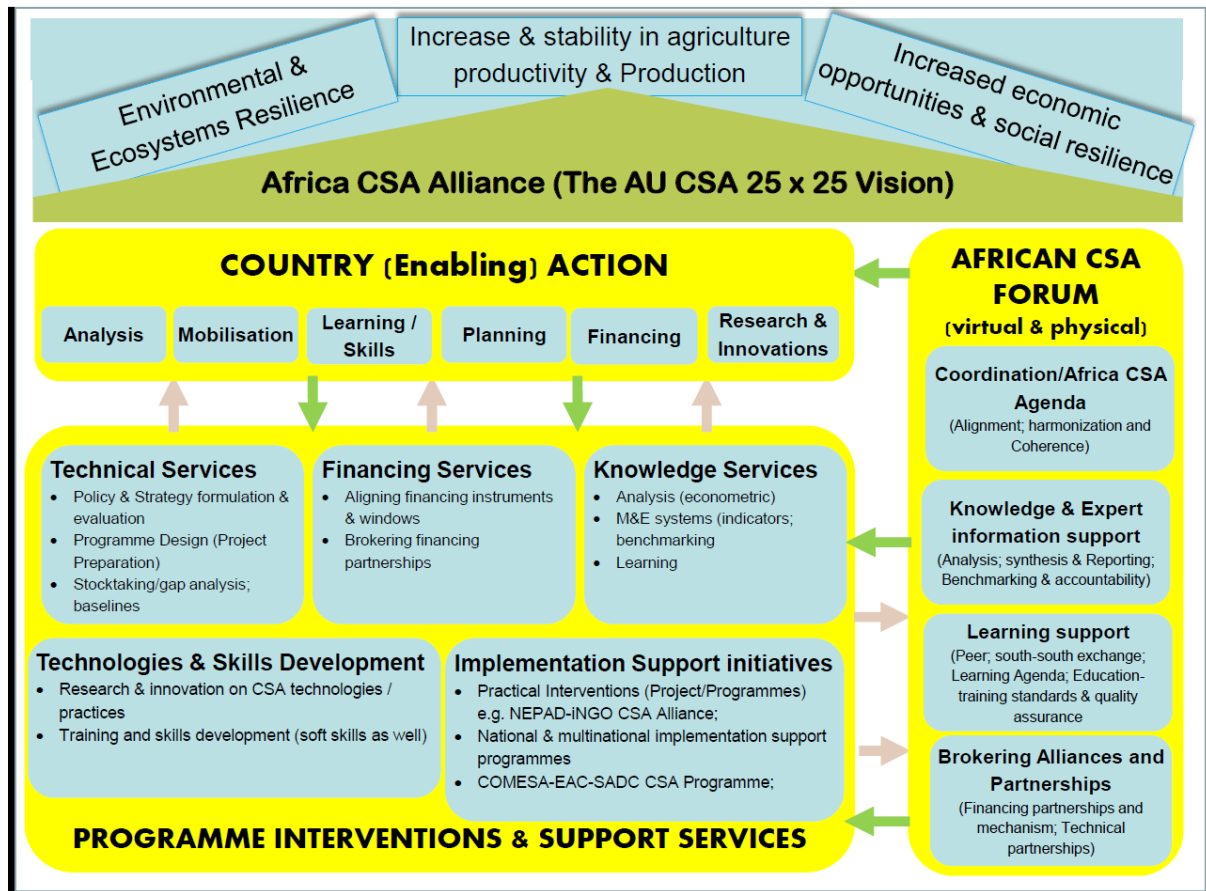
- The work and interventions are characteristically intended to influence or contribute to strengthening local systemic capacity, especially in the text of ability to plan, to execute and review;
- Local State and non-state players and stakeholders form a critical and integral part of the Alliance's delivery model. The country CAADP implementation process and specifically the National Agriculture Investment Plans (NAIPs) are the entry point;
- Three interrelated result/impact areas of action:
 - o Training, nurturing and skills development (formal and informal) in both technological knowledge and skills as well as management
 - o Improved availability and accessibility to relevant and appropriate CSA and CSA support technologies or practices
 - o 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 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, which is the basis of the Vision 25x25.
- The initiative is fostering principle of subsidiarity, complementarities and synergies in the development of implementation support partnership programmes and alliances, such as the ACSAA and the IFAD-ASAP.

Implementation principles:

The initiative is defined under two inter-linked components (see fig. below):

- Country action component, through *Country Based Programs (CBP)*, with clear focus on national/community level capacity and enabling environment to accelerate and expand implementation. Countries are benefiting from *supporting services* at their disposal, provided by partners and facilitated by a NEPAD facilitation unit. According to their individual needs, countries are able to select from a menu of supporting services: (i) *Analysis*; (ii) *Planning*; (iii) *Financing*; (iv) *Execution*; (v) *Tracking and assessing impact and learning*;
- *Pan-African CSA platform*, through the ACSAA and the NEPAD-iNGO Alliance on CSA, with focus on fostering appropriate partnerships and alliances, knowledge support and learning including evidence-based support to program and policy design and review. The Platform is also serving in fostering a coherent African CSA Agenda, and in facilitating assessment of individual (country, region, sector, etc.) performance

against continental and even global benchmarks. This includes: (i) *Coordination*; (ii) *Knowledge exchange, expert information support and learning*; (iii) *Brokering alliance and partnerships*; (iv) *Communication and advocacy*.



Source: NEPAD (2014), *Africa CSA Vision 25x25 - Africa's Strategic Approach for Food Security and Nutrition in the Face of Climate Change*, p.4.

Value-added: Technical support services

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:

- 1) Technical Services:
 - a. Policy and Strategy formulation and evaluation
 - b. Programme Design (Project Preparation)
 - c. Stocktaking/gap analysis; baselines
 - d. Climate vulnerability and risk assessment
- 2) Financing Services:
 - a. Aligning financing instruments and windows
 - b. Brokering financing partnerships
- 3) Implementation Support:
 - a. M&E capacity (systems, tools, indicators, skills, etc.)
 - b. Benchmarking
 - c. Learning/Peer exchange

- d. National and multinational implementation support programmes; e.g. Africa CSA Alliance; COMESA-EAC-SADC CSA Programme; ASAP; etc.
- 4) Technologies & Skills Development
 - a. Research & Innovation on CSA technologies / practices
 - b. Training & skills development
- 5) Specializes Knowledge Services/Products:
 - a. Analysis (econometric)
 - b. Foresight analysis and knowledge products.

Members: Alongside the AU-NEPAD, membership of the Africa CSA Alliance is drawn from the African Union Commission, Regional Economic Communities of the African Union, Member states, Private Sector and Civil Society and other non-state players such as learning and research institutions. The NEPAD-iNGO Alliance on CSA which is one of the implementation mechanisms of the Africa CSA Alliance is comprised of CARE International, Catholic Relief Services (CRS), Concern Worldwide, Oxfam, World Vision, the Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR) – Climate Change, Agriculture and Food Security Research Program (CAAFS), the Forum for Agricultural Research in Africa (FARA), and the Food, Agriculture and Natural Resources Policy Analysis Network (FANRPAN).

Governance: Facilitation Unit, hosted and operated by NEPAD. The unit supports 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 is facilitating 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 learnt.

Timeline / Key events:

- 2nd Africa Climate Smart Agriculture Alliance Forum – 12-14 October, 2016.

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