



POLICY BRIEF

# Partnerships for scaling up CSA Initiatives in Eastern and Central Africa

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This policy brief focuses on exploring and identifying current multistakeholder initiatives to scale up CSA within Eastern and Central Africa (ECA). Findings from this study are fundamental in showcasing how stronger networks, partnerships, alliances and platforms amongst national governments, research and development organizations, farmer associations and groups and private sector in CSA technologies and practices is important for scaling up CSA.

#### Key messages

- Networks, partnerships and platforms provide novel and innovative spaces for all stakeholders including national governments to collaborate, share and exchange information on CSA interventions.
- National governments and relevant stakeholders should establish networks, partnerships, platforms and alliances in order to scale up the CSA actionsand reach a wider population.
- Integrating women and youth based networksand building their capacities helps ensure that they become stronger advocates of CSA.





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## 1. Introduction

In Eastern and Central Africa, Climate Smart Agriculture (CSA) is emerging as a promising pathway to address challenges imposed by the changing climate (Newell et al. 2019; Sahu et al. 2020; Taylor, 2018; Shilomboleni, 2020). This is because CSA focuses on sustainably increasing agricultural production, while synergistically adapting to climate change and contributing to reducing greenhouse gas emissions (FAO, 2013). However, to ensure the success of CSA, the use of diverse complementary sustainable farming and fishing practices and technologies that are supported with multi-stakeholder, inter-sectorial approach to policies and investments is a prerequisite (Kaptymer et al. 2019; Dinesh et al. 2018; Girvetz et al. 2017).

There are CSA initiatives that have demonstrated positive impact in increasing food security, enhancing resilience and reducing greenhouse gas emission. However, some of this CSA initiatives are implemented on small scale. Strategies are therefore needed, to scale up some of the CSA best practices to a wider population. Strategies especially those that have a multi-stakeholder approach involving national governments, research and development organizations, farmer associations and groups, and private sector are crucial for planning, implementation and successful scaling up of CSA technologies and management practices (Dinesh et al. 2018). The aim of this policy brief is to explore existing CSA strategies and partnerships for scaling up CSA across different scales - community, sub-national, national, regional and global.

## 2. Methodology

This study was commissioned by ASARECA with the aim of identifying initiatives with high potential for scaling up in ASARECA member countries i.e. Burundi, DR Congo, Ethiopia, Eritrea, Kenya, Madagascar, Republic of Congo, Rwanda, South Sudan, Sudan, Tanzania and Uganda. To identify the CSA initiatives, a mixed methods approach was used, that entailed a desk review and stakeholder survey (conducted through emails and telephone) to collect both qualitative and quantitative data. Sampling of survey participants was through contacts provided by ASARECA Secretariat and snowballing sampling was integrated to identify more respondents. The CSA initiatives database was subjected to content analysis to identify CSA initiatives that specifically had elements of multi-stakeholder partnership, collaboration, networking, alliances, scaling up, scaling out, hubs, platforms and groups.

## 3. Results

#### 3.1 Existing CSA initiativesfor scaling upsustainable and climate resilient agricultural practices and technologies

Analysis of CSA initiatives identified a range of networks, partnerships, alliances, hubs, platforms and communities of practice) involving multi-stakeholder actors. These actors also ranged from farmer (farmer groups, women groups, youth groups), policy makers, businesses to civil society organizationsthat are engaged in scaling up CSA practices and technologies in ASARECA member countries. This suggests that tackling climate change in the agricultural sector requires participation and cooperation of all actors, more so involvement of farmers and communities, as well as women and youth groups (Table 1).

Additionally, engagement of formal and informal agribusinesses (private sector) to support adaptation and mitigation efforts will contribute to wider benefits amongst farmers. The CSA networks, partnerships, alliances, hubs, platforms and communities of practice, bring together various actors to communicate, exchange information and scale up CSA technologies and "best practices" across ASARECA member countries. Findings from the study show that 13.1%(N=489) of the initiatives identified were networks, partnerships and alliances, while 4.9%(N=489) and 2.2%(N=489) were communities of practice, and hubs and platforms, respectively. The remaining 79.8% (N=489) were CSA strategies, policies, programs and projects.

CSA networks, partnerships, alliances that exist amongst national governments, research and development organizations, farmer associations and groups, and private sector are crucial for planning, implementation and successful scaling up of CSA technologies and management practices. Of particular importance is the public-private partnership that is gaining momentum and recognition to support the potential of CSAto significantly mitigate climate impacts.

The Farm to Market Alliance for instance engages with a range of agricultural value chain actors, including private sector businesses, governments, farmer groups, market off-takers and aggregators, farm input companies, financial institutions, insurance providers and extension service practitioners in Tanzania, Kenya and Rwanda. These collaborations allow cross-country collaborators to align their interests and leverage resources around complex issues such as increasing food security, building resilience and reducing GHGs emissions. Table 1 below highlights of some of the partnerships, networks and alliances for scaling up CSA in ASARECA member countries.

Name of CSA Initiative	Focus Area	Partners	Countries Where CSA Initiative is Present
Africa CSA Alliance (ACSAA) and the NEPAD-iNGO Alliance on CSA (ongoing)	25 million farm households across Africa practicing CSA by 2025	AU-NEPAD, AU, RECs of the African Union, Member states, Private Sector and Civil; Learning and research institutions; CARE International: Catholic Relief Service; Concern Worldwide, Oxfam, World Vision; FAO; CGIAR; FARA; FANRPAN	Madagascar, Uganda, Tanzania, DRC, Rwanda, Kenya, Ethiopia.
Climate Smart Agriculture Youth Network (CSAYN) (ongoing)	CSA; Climate information services; Energy efficient farming; Agribusiness	IFAD; The World We Want; CTA; CONNECT4CLIMATE; GFAR; CIAT; Earth Charter International, CGIAR; IAAS; WAY; GYAN; ReRaC	DRC, Rwanda, Kenya, Uganda, Madagascar, Tanzania,
Global Agenda for Sustainable Livestock (GASL) (ongoing)	Livestock	AfDB; AU-IBAR; BMG; CIRAD; World Bank; Republics of ASARECA member countries; ILRI; Heifer International; FAO	Kenya and Rwanda
IGAD-FAO Partnership Programme (PP) on Building Resilience for (Agro-) Pastoralist Communities (ongoing)	Marketing and trade, transboundary animal diseases and natural resources management	IGAD and FAO	Ethiopia and Kenya
Strengthening Climate Information Partnerships - East Africa (SCIPEA) (ongoing)	Climate information Services and agro- advisory services	Met Office-UK; International Research Institute for Climate and Society (IRI), the IGAD (Intergovernmental Authority on Development) Climate Prediction and Applications Centre (ICPAC), and the national meteorological and hydrological services (NMHSs) of Ethiopia, Kenya and Tanzania	Ethiopia, Kenya and Tanzania
Partnership for Inclusive Agricultural Transformation in Africa (PIATA) (ongoing)	Commercialization of CSA	Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa; Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation; Rockefeller Foundation; United States Agency for International Development; UK Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office; German Federal Ministry of Economic Cooperation and Development	Sudan, Rwanda, Uganda, Kenya, Ethiopia and Tanzania
Kenya Climate Smart Agriculture multi- stakeholder platform (CSA-MSP)	Facilitate reporting, Learning and dissemination of CSA actions.	Ministry of agriculture, Biovision Foundation, CCAFS, CSOs working on agriculture and climate change, Private sector, academia and research.	Kenya

## Table 1: Examples of Networks, Partnerships, Alliances for scaling up CSA within ASARECA member countries

#### 3.1.1 Hubs and Platforms

CSA hubs and platforms are online websites where stakeholders can access data and literature on CSA technologies, practices and strategies. Some of the hubs and platforms are interactive such as CSA digital maps and/or downloadable files/links where stakeholders can download CSA data. Homann-Kee Tui et al (2013) defines innovation platforms as spaces for learning and change and comprises of a group of individuals (from different organizations) with different backgrounds and interests (farmers, traders, food processors, researchers, government officials).

Innovation platforms offer members opportunities

to share information for scaling up CSA, identify challenges, opportunities and solutions to achieve their goals for CSA. Innovation platforms can also be used to support bottom-up research and development initiatives amongst relevant CSA actors, hence allowing for prioritization, experimentation, and validation of solutions aimed at meeting the "triple aims" of CSA (mitigation, adaptation and sustainable development.

A total of eleven (11) CSA hubs and platforms were identified with the most hubs and platforms existing at the global level (7) and regional (3) level. Among the ASARECA member countries, there was only 1 dairy value chain hub/platform which was reported in Kenya. The other member countries did not have countrybased hubs/platforms but are members of the global and regional hubs and platforms.

CSA value chain innovation platform provides a space for relevant and yet diverse stakeholders to exchange and share information, and trade on specific commodities such as dairy, maize, sorghum, fish and honey. Such a platform connects farmers, input providers, scientists, weather and agro-advisory providers, traders, processors, financial institutions, policy makers, regulators and consumers.

#### 3.1.2 Communities of Practice

CSA Communities of Practice (CoPs) are groups of people (individuals and/or institutions) who share similar interests and are willing to learn together and exchange information through regular communication (Nuutinen and Filho, 2018).

Findings from the mapping exercise show that there are at least 24 communities of practice across the ECA sub region occurring at various levels (national, sub-regional and global).

Of these, the highest number of communities of practice exist at regional (9) and global (8) levels. Among the countries, Kenya had4 communities of practice while, South Sudan, Uganda and Sudan each had one community of practice. All the 24 communities of practice are currently ongoing (Figure 1).





#### 3.1.3 Networks, Partnerships and Alliances

Networks, partnerships, alliances comprise of organizations, government institutions, farmers, researchers, practitioners and private sector that come together for the specific goal of building resilience of Africa's agricultural systems. Networks, partnerships and alliances can be formal or informal and work towards promoting collaboration amongst institutions and partners at different scales - national, regional and global. With the promises of CSA contributing to the triple wins of food security, adaptation and mitigation in agricultural sectors, several networks, partnerships and alliances have been established to support the rapid scaling-up of climate-smart agriculture and agribusinessesat regional, continental and global levels.

Findings from the CSA mapping exercise show that the highest number of networks, alliances and partnerships are found at the regional (43) and global (16) levels(Figure 2). Through this study, 3 networks/partnerships/alliances were identified in Tanzania and only 1 in Kenya and Uganda. This clearly suggests that ASARECA member countries are not establishing CSA networks, alliances and partnerships within their countries.At the global level, the study identified the Global Climate Smart Agriculture Alliance that seeks to improve food nutrition, security and resilience in the context of a changing climate.

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AgriProFocus is an inclusive climate smart agribusiness multi-stakeholder network with memberships in Burundi, Ethiopia, Kenya, Rwanda, Tanzania, Uganda. AgriProFocus facilitates multi-actors to align and boost climate smart agribusiness nationally, regionally and internationally.(CSA Stakeholder, Biovision- Kenya)

At the regional level, CSA alliances have emerged from

GACSA, notably the Africa Climate-Smart Agriculture Alliance (ACSAA) that was formed to leverage policy, technical and financing support for grass root, national and regional level programmes and initiatives that can drive the widespread adoption of CSA practices and technologies across Africa.

At national level, both Kenya and Tanzania have formed a national CSA stakeholder platform with the aim of bringing together diverse district CSA stakeholders from local government officials, NGOs, researchers, universities, farmer organizations, and farmers, to promote the adoption of CSA practices and technologies in the countries.



Figure 2: No. of CSA networks/partnerships/alliances in ASARECA member countries (n=64)

Analysis of the networks/partnerships/alliances shows that their main goal is sharing and exchanging information on: (i) Climate-Smart Agriculture practices and technologies, (ii) policies for adaptation, (iii) building resilience to climate change, (iv) reduction of emissions from GHGs, (v) development in agricultural sector, (vi) financing climate adaptation, (vii) gender equality, equity and social inclusion, and (viii) the youth. On average, each of the networks/partnerships reviewed focused on at least three of the above-mentioned goals.

#### 3.2 National governments embedding CSA in wider climate change and agriculture policies and strategies to scale up CSA

National governments understand that CSA will be sustainable when it raises agricultural production and incomes, enhance adaptive capacity of farmers while reducing GHGs emission. In order to achieve these triple wins, agricultural and climate change policies that address CSA ought to be in place. Within ASARECA member countries, national governments are mainstreaming CSA into long-term policies and strategies with the aim of allowing farmers and other stakeholders to fully adopt and achieve the benefits that can be accrued from CSA practices and technologies.

These benefits include alleviating food insecurities, increasing incomes, and enabling farmers to diversify along value chains (Wekesa et al. 2018; Branca et al. 2011; Nyasimi and Huyer, 2017; Nyasimi et al. 2014). Analysis of 489 CSA initiatives, identified 8 policies and 58 strategies/plans, that directly or indirectly target CSA within ASARECA member countries. TheseCSA policies are found in Burundi (2), Kenya (3), Rwanda (1), Eritrea (1) and Uganda (1).Strategies/plans were reported in Kenya (13), Tanzania (7), Rwanda (7), Uganda (3),

#### **POLICY BRIEF**

Kenya's Climate Smart Agriculture Implementation Framework (KCSAIF) is supporting the adoption andup-scaling of CSA practices and technologies, including policies and value chains across the country. The KCSAIF is complemented by the Multistakeholder platform on CSA (MSP-CSA) that is headed by the climate change unit within the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries supported by Biovision and CCAFS. (CSA Stakeholder, Biovision- Kenya)

Madagascar (2), Ethiopia (4), Republic of Congo (1), South Sudan (2), Sudan (2), DRC (2), and Eritrea (2).

National governments are also mainstreaming CSA into Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) and National Adaptation Plans (NAPs). For instance, all ASARECA countries have integrated CSA or elements of the CSA pillars into their NDCs. With respect to the NAPs, only Sudan, Ethiopia and Kenya have mainstreamed CSA into their NAPs. Therefore, ASARECA member countries can now transition the NDCs and NAPs into CSA actions that can be scaled up from farm to national level.

#### 3.3 Creating linkages from Communities-Sub-National-National-Regional to Global levels

Many CSA initiatives within ASARECA member countries are targeting millions of crop and livestock farmers as well asfishing communities. However, these initiatives are being implemented in isolation, and thus fail to expand their reach. Scaling up these initiatives through local networks is effective only at community level. Therefore, innovative approaches are needed to move these initiatives from community to national andregional levels. Analysis of the CSA initiatives indicates that there are afew CSA initiatives that cut across from farm level to global levels. One such example is the multi-stakeholder Global Alliance for Climate Smart Agriculture (GACSA) that has over 140 partners including national governments, UN bodies, research organizations, farmer associations (Dinesh et al. 2017). From GACSA, the Africa CSA Alliance (ACSAA) was established to drive widespread adoption of CSA practices and technologies throughout Africa and reach 25 million farming households by 2025. The ACSAA comprises of the National CSA alliances that are being established at national level. For instance, Tanzania Climate Smart Agriculture Alliance (TCSAA) is promoting

CSA across the country including the Island of Zanzibar. TCSAA aims to create national and broad-based forum on CSA in Tanzania through effective linkages with key CSA initiatives at regional (Easternand Central Africa), continental andglobal levels.

Multi-stakeholder CSA initiatives such as TCSAA, ACSAA and GASCA are all designed to leveragepolicy, technical and financing support for grassroots, national and regionallevel CSA programmes and initiatives (Mungai et al. 2019). Indeed, the importance of multi-stakeholder partnerships is crucial in achievingmost of the benefits from upscaling CSA practices.Therefore, national governments within ASARECA countries need to emulate the example from Tanzania and establish national CSA alliances that will be linked to ACSAA and GASCA.

Community based partnerships such as: Climate-Smart Villages (CSVs) in Ethiopia, Tanzania, Kenya and Uganda are innovative multi-stakeholder partnershipswhere partners come together at the local level to promote CSA practices and technologies that aresuitable to a particular location. Usually partners in these platforms include farmers and fishing communities (women, youth, men, elderly and people living with disabilities), scientists from national and international research organizations, input suppliers (fertilizers, crop and fish seed, artificial insemination, equipment), policy makers, financial institutions who work together to implement a portfolio of CSA technologies. CSVs are community owned and engage in scaling out technologies through field fairs and field days, women and youth groups and participatory videos (CSA Stakeholder, Addis- Ethiopia)

#### 3.4 Empoweringwomen, youth and indigenous/marginalized people to scale up CSA

To ensure wider reach of CSA amongst rural communities, it is also fundamental that smallholder farmers, particularly women and the youth, have greater engagement in scaling up. However,women and youth have not been accorded due attention in this area. Furthermore, existing networks and platforms seem not focused towards ensuring inclusion of youths and women. Besides, development and implementation of CSA initiatives have been top-down without sufficient inputs of women and youth. As a result, scaling up of CSA practices and technologies has been slow. Therefore, it is essential that national governments and other stakeholders revise their approaches of designing and implementing CSA initiatives to eliminate gender inequalities and social exclusion, and promote involvement of w omen and youth.

Analysis of the CSA initiatives indicates that programs, projects and strategies are now beginning to actively engagewomen and youth in scaling up CSA practices and technologies. This is being done through several ways including;

- Offering targeted capacity building and training to women and youth to enable them to spread knowledge of CSA technologies and accelerate their uptake.
- Strengthening their capacities through training.
- Establishing new or strengthening existing women and youth groups/stakeholder platforms.
- Creating new opportunities for women and youthto develop CSA value chain agribusinesses that address the three pillars of CSA, that is, productivity, adaptation and mitigation (e.g., bio-digesters).
- Disseminating weather, agro-advisory and market information through the communication channels that are most accessible to women and youth, such as radio, television and mobile phone, as well as face-to-face meetings.

Learning and documenting CSA best practices that women, youth and the marginalized people are implementing at farm level, can cascade the contribution of CSA from farm level to global levels.(CSA Stakeholder, Addis-Ethiopia)

## 4. Conclusion

Results of this study shows that there are several multistakeholder platforms and initiatives for scaling up CSA within member countries. However, strategies at national level are even fewer probably due to financial and human resource constrainsexperienced by national governments. It's now clear that the dominant CSA initiatives for scaling up CSA technologies and best practices are majorly networks, partnership and alliances. However, majority of these are still established at regional and global levels. This suggests the need for national governments and other stakeholders to progressively establish networks, partnership and alliances; hubs/platforms and communities of practice to enable scalingup of CSA practices to more farmers. It's anticipated that most CSA multi-stakeholder initiatives that are focused on policies and strategies might have the largest impact in terms ofscaling up CSA within each country.

This is because CSA policies and strategies are quite comprehensive as they address a wider spectrum of practices and technologies that farmers can benefit from. Thus, supporting stakeholder processes that embed CSA within polices and strategies has the potential to reach more farmers and alleviate food insecurity, enhance adaptive capacity and reduce GHG emissions from agriculture. Farmers, especially women, youth and marginalized people should be encouraged to be part of networks, partnerships and alliances;hubs/platforms and communities of practice to enable them to learn, exchange and share information that can enhance their ability to uptake CSA practices and technologies.

# 5. Implications and Recommendations

This policy brief focused on exploring and identifyingmultistakeholder efforts inscaling up CSA within ASARECA member countries.It is guite clear that CSA multistakeholder initiatives such as networks, partnerships, alliances; hubs/ platforms and communities of practice are crucial for scaling up CSA within countries and across the region. However, at national level, there are very few networks, partnerships and alliances; hubs/platforms and communities of practicewhich is likely to constrain efforts to scale up CSA practices and technologies. At the same time, few national policies and strategies have been developed by national governments that incorporate agricultural concerns into climate change and thus presenting opportunities for scaling up CSA. This implies that additional national policies and strategies that target CSA are needed within ASARECA member countries to support wider reach of farmers, pastoralist and fishing communities. Some of the recommendations are:

- Support establishment of more networks, partnerships, alliances, hubs, platforms and CoPs at national levels to facilitateinformation sharing and exchange as well asawareness creationforCSA technologies and practices.
- Facilitate involvement of all stakeholders that can deliver policies, research, finance, inputs and equipment and advocacy in multi-stakeholder platforms, networks, platforms and alliances to increase adoption and scaling up of CSA practices and technologies.
- Support integration of women and youths in multistakeholder platforms and building their capacities so as to scale up CSA adaptation, mitigation and resilience-building technologies

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