

'Climate-Smart' Agriculture: Adaptation of Agro-Ecosystems to Climate Change in Ghana (AAESCC)



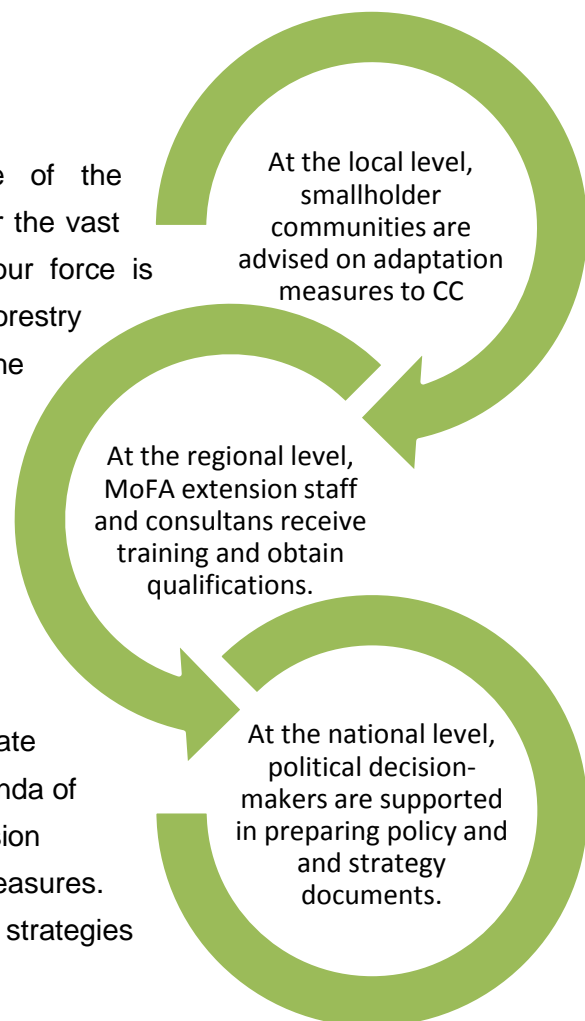
Demonstration field at Bale

"The objective of AAESCC is to reduce climate related yield losses for the farmers and incorporate the results of the activities into agricultural sector policy on adapting land use systems to climate change."

The agricultural sector forms the backbone of the Ghanaian economy and provides a livelihood for the vast majority of the population. 41.6 % of the labour force is employed in the agricultural sector including forestry and fishing, primarily in small family farms. The greater part of production is generated through rain-fed farming, meaning that agricultural production for food and export is highly dependent on climate conditions.

Since several years, the impact of a changing climate is felt and adapting agriculture to climate change is therefore of high priority. However climate change is not yet a high priority on the policy agenda of Ghana. Discussion mainly concentrated on emission reduction, but is now also including adaptation measures. So far there is no clear picture on how adaptation strategies shall look like and be implemented.

The project is integrated into the Market Oriented Agriculture Programme (MOAP) of MoFA-GIZ which aims to promote market-oriented agriculture, thus guaranteeing that the results and experience gained can be absorbed and utilised over the long term.



The duration of the project is 5 ½ years (July 2012 – December 2017). Major partner organisation for the implementation is the Ministry of Food and Agriculture (MoFA) with its Regional and District structures. The field activities of the project are implemented in the Northern Region and in Brong Ahafo. It shall reach 600 farm households in the activities, 300 in each Region.



CLIMATE SMART FARMING SYSTEMS:

Together with farmers' groups, the project develops agricultural practices and adaptation strategies aimed at achieving optimised use of soil, water and seed. To do this, the project applies soil and water management measures in order to utilise the changing level of precipitation resulting from climate change more efficiently. Furthermore, village seed systems are improved, for example by selecting adapted varieties of different crops and improving seed treatment and storage.



CLIMATE SMART EXTENSION SERVICES:

MoFA Extension staff and Agricultural consultants are trained in the adaptation practices and strategies developed in the project. The gained capacity leads to improved private and public extension services and helps the farmers to find smart solutions to adapt their farming systems to climate change.



CLIMATE SMART POLICIES:

Staff members of the Ministry of Food and Agriculture receive support in preparing a sector strategy for adapting to climate change and other policy documents. Experience gained at the local level can thus be fed into the policy and programme development process