

African Union: Climate Change Adaptation in Agriculture

Climate change adaptation in the CAADP process is successfully implemented to strengthen a productive and climate-resilient agricultural sector in Africa.

The challenge

By 2050, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) predicts agricultural yields in sub-Saharan Africa to fall by at least 15% as a result of climate change. At the same time, the African continent will have to feed an estimated 9 billion people. In light of the continent's continued population growth and rising standards of living, food production will have to increase by at least 60% by 2050. Changes in climatic conditions and extreme weather events are already negatively impacting agricultural productivity and food security in many African countries. For this reason, it is essential that climate change is placed at the heart of Africa's agricultural development agenda.

Our approach

The African Union (AU) established the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP) as a strategy which aims to achieve agriculture-based growth and food security on the continent. The technical body of the African Union Commission (AUC), the NEPAD Planning and Coordinating Agency (NPCA) has been mandated to coordinate the implementation of CAADP. GIZ on behalf of the German government supports the AUC and NPCA in mainstreaming CAADP in 55 AU member states.

Our area of work emphasises climate change adaptation in the CAADP process to ensure a productive and climate-resilient agricultural sector for the future. The Climate intervention therefore assists the AUC and NPCA with technical expertise and advisory services to support AU member states in the development of climate-friendly National Agricultural Investment Plans (NAIPs) and the implementation of



Project name	Adaptation to Climate Change in Agricultural Development in Africa (CAADP-Climate)
Commissioned by	German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ)
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Project region	Africa (based in South Africa)
Lead executing agency	African Union Commission (AUC)
Duration	01.01.2017 – 31.12.2019
Financial volume	3.000.000 EUR

climate-smart agricultural measures like soil and water management or agroforestry. In addition, the intervention focuses on strengthening CAADP institutions' climate change capacities and on sharing experiences across the continent.

Under the provisions of the UN Paris Agreement on Climate Change (adopted on 12 December 2015), countries formulated national pledges – referred to as Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) - to address climate change both in terms of mitigation and adaptation. Together with NPCA, the CAADP Climate project supports AU member countries in developing financing and implementation strategies to meet these international climate commitments in agriculture.



Photos (left): Agricultural fields in Burundi © GIZ / Britta Radike

Photo (right): A farmer with his livestock in Namibia © GIZ



Dr. Dorothe Nett
Programme Manager
CAADP Support Programme
Pretoria, South Africa
Email: dorothe.nett@giz.de

Photo (left): A worker waters the plants on a field in Kenya © GIZ

Photo (right): An increasingly arid environment in Mauritania © GIZ / Markus Kirchgessner

Results in figures

- Over **15 African countries** have mainstreamed climate change into their **National Agricultural Investment Plans (NAIPs)** and are implementing climate-relevant measures, for example, soil and water management, agroforestry and improved grazing management.
- The **NEPAD Climate Fund**, being equipped with a volume of EUR 3.6 million, finances **22 projects** across Africa with a focus on either:
 - Implementation of concrete climate change adaptation measures; or
 - Revision of agriculture-related policies and promotion of dialogues in the area of access and benefit sharing (ABS).
- The continental exchange platform '**African Climate Smart Agriculture Alliance**' brings together 30 countries and facilitates regular exchanges on climate change and agriculture.

To sustain the momentum of agriculture in international climate negotiations, the current project phase:

- Facilitates learning opportunities for representatives from Ministries of Agriculture and other relevant stakeholders on how to operationalise the agricultural part of the Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs). The aim is to enable countries to meet their national climate commitments in agriculture.
- Strengthens country capacities** to develop funding proposals for climate-smart agriculture programmes to be submitted to international funds.

... and in stories

The NEPAD Climate Fund provides financial support to projects which teach farmers concrete measures to adapt their agricultural practices to climate change. Esther Mahlangu, a farmer from South Africa, has benefited from such a project:

"The project gave us insights into the relationship between soil, rain and weather-related shocks. This knowledge influences the way I will farm in the future. From now on I will pay more attention to weather forecasts before planting my field."

Esther Mahlangu, Farmer from South Africa

Strengthening the linkages between agriculture and climate change:

By bringing together environmental and agricultural representatives in regular professional meetings, the Climate project fosters dialogue and exchange between the different negotiators involved in international climate talks.

In preparation for the 22nd Climate Change Conference of the Parties (COP22) in Morocco, representatives of African ministries of agriculture were able to re-emphasise the importance of the sector as part of the climate change agenda. These pan-African exchanges strengthen essential cooperation between ministries of agriculture and environment.

As a result, countries are able to develop a strong and united African position at international climate negotiations to obtain maximum opportunities and benefits for the continent.

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Registered office: Dag-Hammarskjöld-Weg 1–5
65760 Eschborn
Germany
T: +49 61 96 -11 475
F +49 61 96 79-11 1 15
Author: Sonja Esche, Sara Jabril
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Addresses of the
BMZ offices: BMZ Bonn
Dahlmannstraße 4
53113 Bonn, Germany
T: +49 228 99 535-0
poststelle@bmz.bund.de
www.bmz.de
BMZ Berlin
Stresemannstraße 92
10963 Berlin, Germany
T +49 30 18 535-0