The Seventh African Higher Education Week and RUFORUM Triennial Conference 2021

CLIMATE SMART AGRICULTURE AWARENESS CREATION, NEED ASSESSMENT AND DEVELOPMENT OF TRAINING MODULES UNDER ACCELERATING IMPACTS OF CGIAR CLIMATE RESEARCH FOR AFRICA (AICCRA) PROGRAMME

CONFERENCE SESSION

Concept Note

Background

Agriculture remains the backbone of the economies of several countries across Africa. However, the sector is dominated by the small-holders farmers who mainly rely on rainfed agriculture. Over decades, however, the per capita crop production has been declining due the rapid population growth and several anthropogenic factors including increased land degradation, pests and diseases and poor land management. The growing impact of climate change on African agriculture and food systems in the last two decades has created also a major threat to food production and food security on the continent. Climate change threatens to derail progress made so far in fighting food insecurity and poverty. Temperature and the frequency of extreme events have increased over the years. Both drought and flooding have become more frequent and severe. This is likely to aggravate the magnitude and extent of land degradation and become a barrier on the economic development of the continent. This is likely to accelerate the depletion of biodiversity, erosion of ecosystem services, and in turn the sustainability of agriculture production.

The adoption of multiple Climate Smart Agriculture (CSA) practices/technologies can help in building sustainable agricultural production systems, particularly in the smallholder farming system, improving farm productivity while adapting and building resilience of communities, landscapes and contribute to the reduction of carbon emission. Although CSA has been widely embraced by most of the African countries as a guiding framework in policies for adaptation and mitigation action for the agricultural sector, its level of adoption of climate change adaptation and particularly CSA has remained very low across the continent. .

Challenges to the adoption of CSA include limited technical capacity, lack of adequate policy and policy coherence, insufficient engagement of private and insufficient access to financial resources. CSA has been wrongly been thought to focus on productivity and food production systems; with less attention in addressing the whole value chain. The uptake of CSA practices/technologies is also hindered by the fact that development practitioners lack evidence, tools and approaches of

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how the CSA innovations (indigenous and modern) can be practically implemented for agricultural systems, policies and institutions to be climate smart. They need to know how farmers can achieve synergies and minimize trade-offs in implementing multiple interventions in their production systems.

Objective of the Scientific Conference

This workshop will bring together leading academic scientists and researchers from across the continent. The major objective of the workshop is to contribute to increase awareness of CSA and Climate Information Service tools used across the continent. Specifically the workshop after the workshop the participants will i) determine the needs for CSA and CIS b) identify the course modules and develop their course content iii) develop a workplan capacity enhancement in CSA and CIS in targeted countries across Africa. This will contribute to the deliver components of the overall Accelerating Impacts of CGIAR Climate Research for Africa (AICCRA) project as stipulated.

Date and Venue

This event will be organized in two phases, the first phase is an virtual meeting on 22nd November 2021, and a face to face workshop to be held from 26th to 29th November 2021, at Azalai Hotel, Benin.

Participants

This workshop is targeting key scientists from the target countries (Zambia, Kenya, Ethiopia, Ghana) who are the primary target countries for AICCRA. However, RUFORUM has extended invitation to other member universities and countries to express interest to participate at various.

Organisation of sessions and Expected Outcome

Two sessions will be organized to deliver activity. A webinar will take place on 22nd November 2021 and a face to face will be organized from 26th to 28th November 2021 in Benin. The first event will be conducted during the meeting with the Dean of the RUFORUM network member Universities.

The expected outcome

- Create awareness on the CSA and CIS tools

- CSA and CIS need assessments;

- Content of training modules identified

- CSA and CIS Training programme developed

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Organisers and Contact

This CSA awareness and need assessment workshop is organised by RUFORUM in collaboration with University of Abomey Calavi, University of Parakou and the National University of Agriculture.

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CSA AWARENESS AND NEED ASSESSMENT SESSIONS

OPENING SESSION

MONDAY 22ND November, 2021	
PLENNARY SESSION 1	
VENUE: Code Conference Room **CHAIR**: Dr. Florence N., Deputy Executive Secretary, RUFORUM **RAPPORTEUR**: Dr. Anthony Egeru, RUFORUM Prof. Majaliwa Mwanjalolo RUFORUM	
Time (Duration)	
10 min	**CSA concept- Majaliwa JGM**
10 min	**CSA and CIS Need assessment, Dr. Anthony Egeru and Prof. Majaliwa JGM**
20 min	**General Discussion**
20 min	**Health Break and Breaking into Parallel sessions**

FACE TO FACE SESSIONS

FRIDAY 26th December, 2021	
DAY 1	
TIME: 9.00-13.00	
THEME: CSA and CIS AWERENSESS AND NEED ASSESSMENT	
VENUE: Code Conference Room **CHAIR**: Dr. Florence N., Deputy Executive Secretary, RUFORUM **RAPPORTEUR**: Dr. Anthony Egeru, RUFORUM Prof. Majaliwa Mwanjalolo RUFORUM	
Time	
9:00 – 9:15	**Recap**

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9:15 – 11:20	Presentation of AICCRA project: Dr. Florence Nakayiwa
9:20 – 11:30	CIS and CSA need assessment Dr. Anthony Egeru/ Prof Majaliwa JGM
11:30 – 13.00	Identification of CSA training modules and their content-**Group work**
	LUNCH BREAK

SATURDAY 27th December, 2021

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DAY 2

TIME: 9.00-17.00

THEME: CSA and CIS AWERENSESS AND NEED ASSESSMENT

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VENUE: Code Conference Room
CHAIR: Dr. Florence N., Deputy Executive Secretary, RUFORUM
RAPPORTEUR: Dr. Anthony Egeru, RUFORUM
            Prof. Majaliwa Mwanjalolo RUFORUM

Time	
9:00 – 9:15	**Recap**
9:15 – 11:30	Review of CIS frameworks – Group work
11:30 – 12:40	Plenary session to share progress
12.40 – 13.00	Review of CIS frameworks – Group work
	LUNCH BREAK
13:00 - 13:30	Plenary presentation
13:30 - 16:20	**Group work**
16:20 - 17:00	Plenary presentation & Closing Remarks by Session Chair

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16:20 - 17:00	Plenary presentation & Closing Remarks by Session Chair

SUNDAY 28th December, 2021	
DAY 3 TIME: 9.00-17.00 THEME: CSA and CIS AWERENSESS AND NEED ASSESSMENT **VENUE:** Code Conference Room **CHAIR**: Dr. Florence N., Deputy Executive Secretary, RUFORUM **RAPPORTEUR**: Dr. Anthony Egeru, RUFORUM Prof. Majaliwa Mwanjalolo RUFORUM	

Time	
9:00 – 9:15	**Recap**
9:15 – 11:30	Details course modules – Group work
11:30 – 12:40	Plenary session to share progress
12.40 – 13.00	Details course modules – Group work
	LUNCH BREAK
13:00 - 13:30	Plenary presentation
13:30 - 16:20	**WAY FORWARDS**
16:20 - 17:00	Closing Remarks by Session Chair

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