



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations

SCALING UP AND STRENGTHENING THE COORDINATION AND GOVERNANCE OF CONSERVATION AGRICULTURE IN SOUTHERN AFRICA

In the Southern Africa region, two major issues negatively affect crops: climate change and unsustainable farming practices. Both of these degrade soil and lead to low levels of productivity and production. Climate-smart agriculture (CSA), implemented through Conservation Agriculture (CA) practices, which address tillage, crop choice and land management, are a way to combat these issues and consequently increase crop production. Although these practices have been introduced in the region, their implementation is rather limited owing partially to the fragmented approach taken to CA promotion. This subprogramme was therefore formulated to strengthen CA partnerships and the coordination of CA programming, and to increase knowledge and experience sharing among existing networks.



WHAT DID THE PROJECT DO?

Through the provision of technical and operational assistance to existing institutions and structures, the subprogramme boosted the adoption of CA practices in the targeted countries. The percentage of farmers implementing CA practices rose from a baseline of 40 percent to an estimated 82 percent thanks to the interventions of the subprogramme. A CA tracking framework was also developed to provide overarching guidance on CA programming in the region.

The number of partners participating in multistakeholder CA platforms increased significantly under the subprogramme, from an initial seven to a final total of 26. Further strengthening coordination among CA partners, the subprogramme also facilitated the development of ten joint action plans for the ten participating National Conservation Agriculture Taskforces (NCATFs). In addition, a series of knowledge products was developed and shared through a network comprising the ten NCATFs, the International Maize and Wheat Improvement Center (CIMMYT) and the Institute of Tropical Agriculture (IITA). Over 35 000 copies of the knowledge products were distributed. These products included geo referenced maps of CA stakeholders and entry points for CA in national and regional developmental frameworks, with the mapping carried out thanks to a partnership with the Food, Agriculture and Natural Resources Policy Analysis Network (FANRPAN). To scale up knowledge sharing, a database of CA resources containing the names of 545 experts in the region was established, and three regional events were organized by the CARWG with FAO support. Training was carried out for 3 321 extension officers and 8 337 farmers through existing extension systems, lead farmers, Farmer Field Schools (FFSs) and Pastoral Field Schools (PFSs), and other country-level networks.

KEY FACTS

Latest Approved Budget
USD 3 000 000

Duration
May 2020–December 2023

Resource Partners
Multilateral, Donors of the Flexible Voluntary Contribution (FVC)

Partners
Academic institutions; African Conservation Tillage Network (ACT); agrodealers; civil society; Ministries of Agriculture; regional and national conservation agriculture taskforces; research organizations; the Food, Agriculture and Natural Resources Policy Analysis Network (FANRPAN); and the private sector

Beneficiaries
Smallholder farmers in Eswatini, Madagascar, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, Lesotho, South Africa, the United Republic of Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe

IMPACT

By promoting the transition to climate-smart and disaster-resilient production systems and landscapes that support the achievement of goals laid out in global and regional frameworks and commitments, the subprogramme ultimately contributed to increased sustainability, productivity, food security and nutrition, reduced poverty and to the recovery and preservation of natural resources.

ACTIVITIES

- A regional CA policy review was carried out, and entry points into regional and national development frameworks were mapped and documented.
- Annual regional policy dialogues on CA were held to bolster increased support for CA policy and programming.
- Advocacy materials on CA were developed for high-level national and regional policy dialogues.
- Women’s participation in the CA agenda at national and regional level was encouraged.
- Contributions of CA platforms to the CSA targets of the Malabo Declaration were supported at the March 2020 COMESA meeting.
- Support was provided for the annual planning, meetings, technical and visibility events of the CARWG and NCATFs.
- Project inception meetings were held at regional and national level, and deliverables, roles and responsibilities were agreed upon.
- An advocacy network of CA champions was established and supported.
- CA-related success stories were shared at global, regional and national events.
- Awareness and advocacy materials, as well as communication and visibility products on CA were developed.



SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS



Project Title
Strengthening Coordination, Scaling Up and Governance of Conservation Agriculture in Southern Africa (SSUGCASA)

Project Code
FAO: FMM/GLO/146/MUL

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