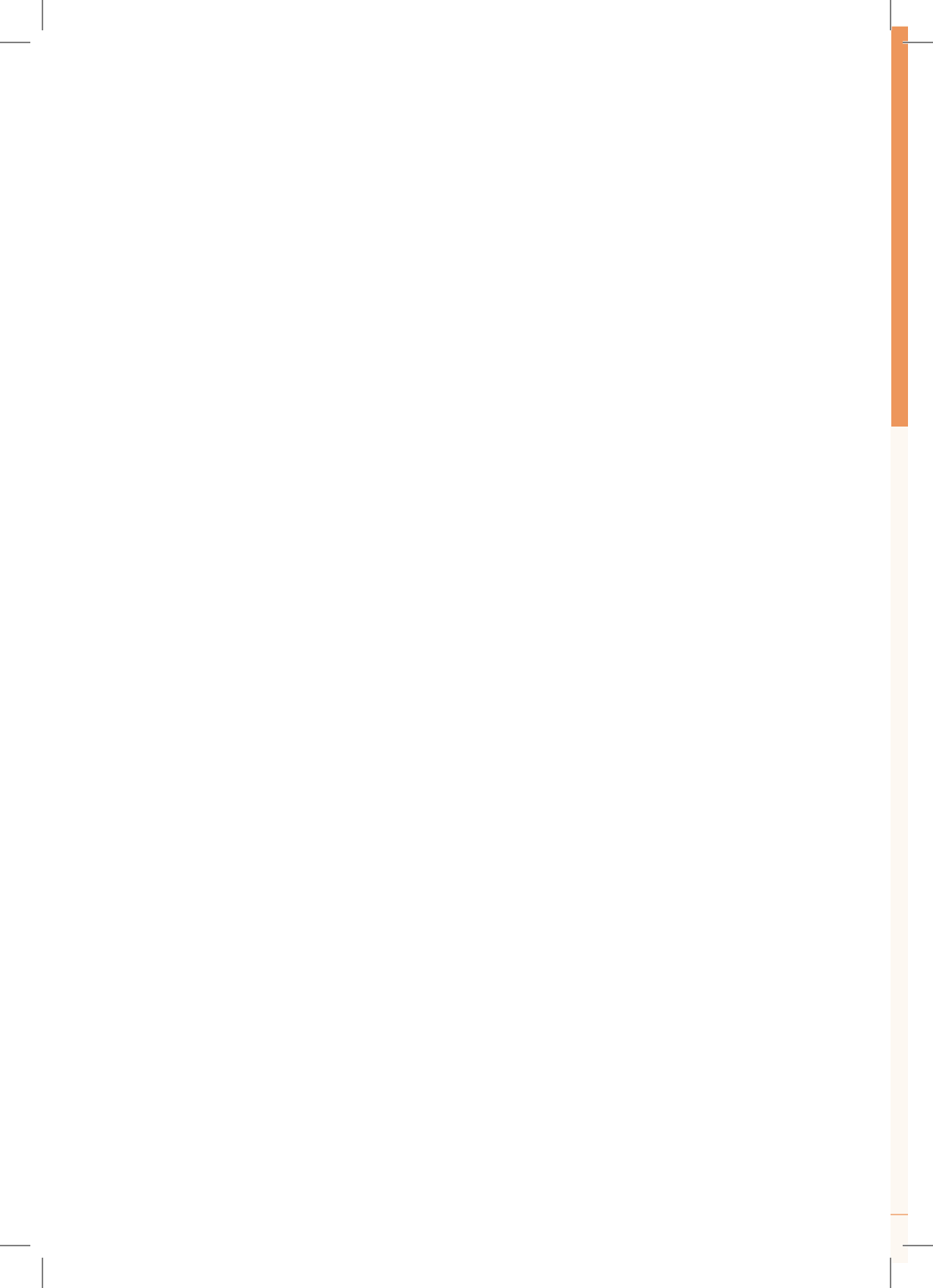


AGRICULTURE SECTOR DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME PHASE 2 (ASDP2)



**IN THE CONTEXT OF CLIMATE CHANGE: THE
GOOD, THE BAD AND THE UGLY**





INTRODUCTION

The Agricultural Sector Development Programme - Phase 1 (ASDP 1) was launched in 2006 with the aim to lead the transformation of agriculture in Tanzania. The overall goal was to reduce poverty and enhance economic development for the vast majority of Tanzanians who depend on agriculture for their livelihood.

On the onset of 2015 the government embarked on the second phase of ASDP. This time, the implementation of the programme takes off in the context of climate change. This brief, therefore, looks at ASDP 2 operationalization in the context of climate change and the strategic position of smallholder farmers.

CONTEXTUALIZING CLIMATE CHANGE

In recent years, there has emerged more institutional coordination and development partners' support on the area of climate change (NCCS, 2012). Under the auspice of the Vice President's Office as well as the Ministry of Agriculture, Food Security and Cooperatives, the National Climate Change Resilience Plan was launched in 2014. The coordinated efforts enabled stakeholders to contribute to the ASDP2 draft document. The draft document outlined an investment plan in seven selected thematic areas as a means towards achieving its own strategic objectives. The main investment areas are:

- i. Irrigation Development, Sustainable Water Resources and Land Use Management;
- ii. Production and Rural Commercialization;
- iii. Rural Infrastructure, Market Access and Trade;
- iv. Private Sector Development;
- v. Food and Nutrition Security;
- vi. Disaster Management, Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation; and
- vii. Policy Reform and Institutional Support

ASDP2 is the utmost source of mandate to *"mobilize private sector investments and partnership by catalyzing large volumes of responsible private investment, targeted at rapid and sustainable agricultural growth, with major benefits for food security, poverty reduction and reduced vulnerability to climate change"* (ASDP Phase 2 working draft, MAFC 2015). Climate change has featured prominently in ASDP2 and has been identified as one of the major issues that affect food security in the country.

POTENTIAL POSITIVE OUTCOMES

Adaptation, Resilience, Nutrition, Research and Irrigation development

Farmers shall witness more climate change considerations in the undertaking of ASDP2 compared to ASDP1. The ASDP2 document has identified extreme temperatures and precipitation as the most common manifestation of Climate Change. It places emphasis on the need to embark on research that would lead to the development of appropriate technologies that would support farmers' ability to mitigate the effects of climate change.

The programme also recognizes the need to build the capacity of extension officers so that they are able to train and serve farmers on climate change mitigation strategies—conservation agriculture, planting of climate change resilient crops, understanding better Tanzania's agro ecological zones and other coping mechanisms. Through ASDP2 field activities, it is anticipated that farmers adaptive capacities will be enhanced.

Another initiative that the government commits itself to undertake which also adds unto the resilience, perhaps indirectly, is the specific commodity value chain development. It is expected that the massive on-going investment under Big Results Now (BRN) and the Southern Agricultural Growth Corridor of Tanzania (SAGCOT) to support smallholder farmers' transformation into commercial producers will lead to higher adoption of improved technologies and access to inputs to enhance productivity. The irrigation development aspect of the ASDP2 intervention is also geared towards increasing resilience to climate change.

Apart from farming, the nutritional component of the climate change resilience efforts is expected to be reflected in practices such as crop diversification and bio-fortified varieties, as well as awareness creation for appropriate dietary requirements whenever possible. This shall be done by institutions with the mandate of nutrition, food and agriculture.

The government has pledged a special attention to research (URT, 2010). Research and development shall be coordinated at national level while the outputs will be integrated in extension systems as appropriate. It is very likely that farmers will benefit from improved climate resilient seed varieties, more diverse techniques of mitigating effects of climate change, and more up-to-date advisory services from extension systems that are in place. In cases where the private sector takes the lead, it is possible that more mutually beneficial and productive-efficient relations will emerge among smallholder farmers and fasten the transformative process into commercial producers (e.g. SAGCOT initiative).

Irrigation development will also be a major initiative in countering the impact of drought and climate change. As most of Tanzania's agriculture is rain-fed, the extreme temperature and dwindling precipitation as a result of Climate Change has the potential to affect agricultural output and the wellbeing of the economy at large (URT, 2007).

Farmers will benefit from the newly established and rehabilitated irrigation schemes countrywide which shall guarantee more than once-a-year cultivation cycle, higher yields, better access to inputs, closer integration to value addition services, access to collective marketing initiatives and better market prices.

POSSIBLE NEGATIVE OUTCOMES

First, with the current private sector taking the lead in agricultural sector transformation, there is a greater threat of smallholder farmers being displaced by large scale farming enterprises (ESRF, 2014).

Second, despite the government's commitment to maintain smallholder farmers as the pillar of Tanzanian agriculture, initiatives such as BRN and SAGCOT have clearly targeted large scale agro-enterprises as the drivers of agricultural sector transformation. The initiatives were assumed to transform small scale farmers through better access to inputs, mechanization, advisory services and market emulating the 'out-growers model'. Outgrowers model has been operational in several areas of mainland Tanzania for more than 40 years mainly in sugarcane and tea plantations, but the model has not necessarily transformed the smallholder farmers into medium or large scale farmers.

Third, it should be noted that BRN, as reaffirmed in the ASDP2, aims to finalize 25 large scale agriculture land deals in three strategic crops (rice, maize and sugarcane) which are of the essence to Tanzania's food security. However, there has been a growing unease from public towards the practice (ActionAid, 2015).

The ASDP2 'Promise'

The programme document a set of specific activities on commodity value chain development. If fully implemented, smallholder farmers will be able to mitigate and adapt to climate change. These activities include:

- Establish district commodity value chain platforms (DCP) which could be useful for dissemination of various climate change related information.
- Farmers empowerment and organizational strengthening
- Encouraging dialogue between stakeholders at local levels (farmers and local authorities)
- Linking farmers with agribusinesses to access inputs for sustainable productivity growth (which could include drought resistant OPV seeds)
- Supporting value chain stakeholders through Agricultural and Business Advisory Service (ABAS) providers and access an Agribusiness Investment Matching Grant (AIMG)
- Encouraging delivery and adoption of demand-driven technologies. The project farmers have the potential to demand for proven technologies and methods which could include oxenisation, access to finance and/or improved OPV seeds

- Bridging technological and economic information to smallholder farmers from research and through advisory services
- Enhancing irrigation agriculture through improved planning, management and infrastructures
- Building capacity of institution to coordinate and evaluate the programme impact
- Supporting agricultural statistics gathering and analysis processes. Such statistics, for example, in weather forecasts could support rural advisor services in providing relevant and specific extension and advisory services to farmers like what to plant, when, etc.
- Supporting livestock development as the means to supplement household farming incomes which can be affected by climate change. Diversification to livestock, horticulture and other aquaculture is seen as one of the strategies that ASDP2 shall shield low income households from production and price fluctuations with respect to climate change.

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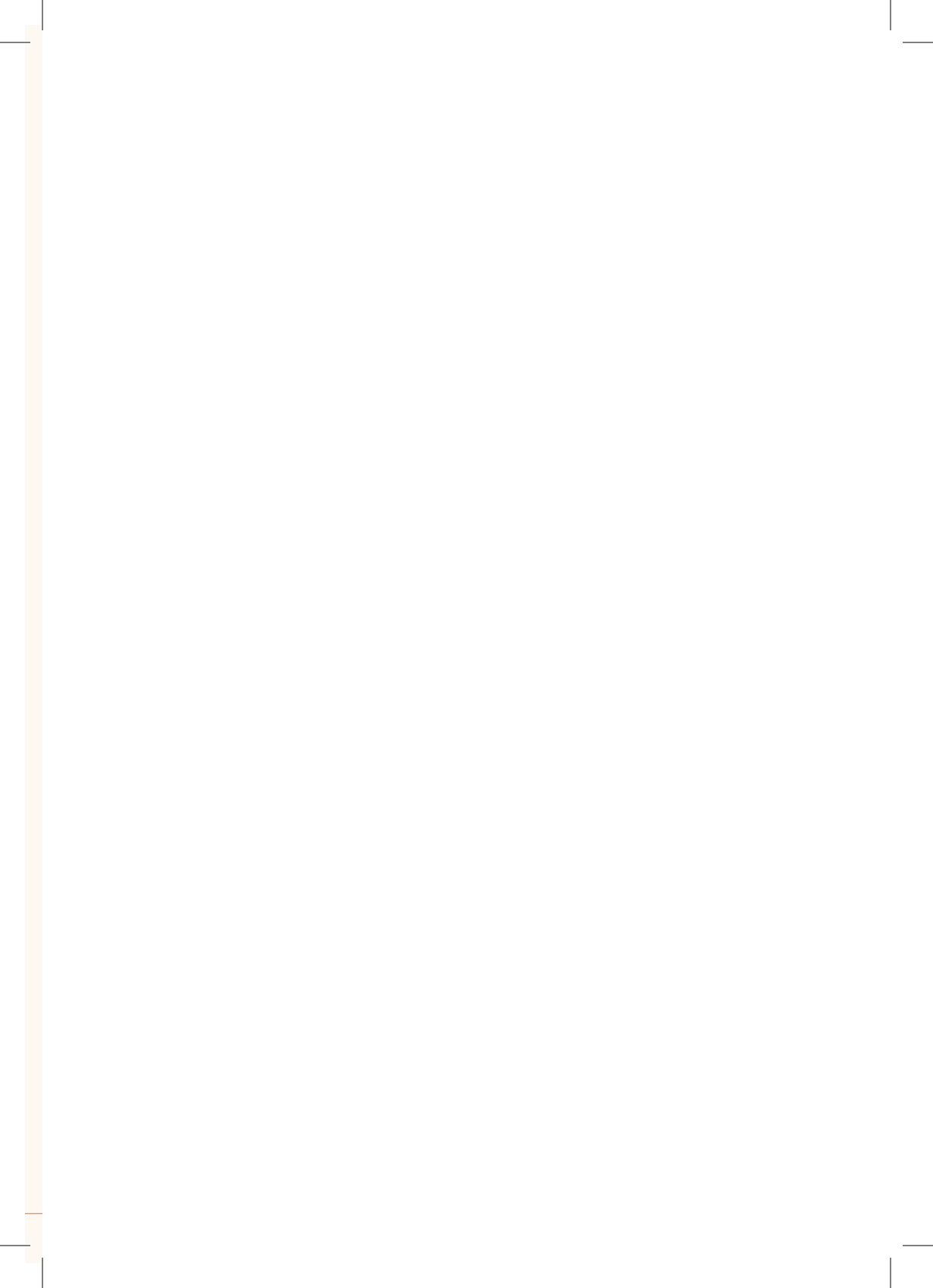
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

This brief is produced by the Agricultural Non State Actors Forum (ANSAF) with financial support from **UKaid** via KPMG. We also recognize the contributions of SDC, Irish Aid, Best Dialogue and Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation.

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