CLIMATE SMART SMALL-SCALE AGRICULTURE

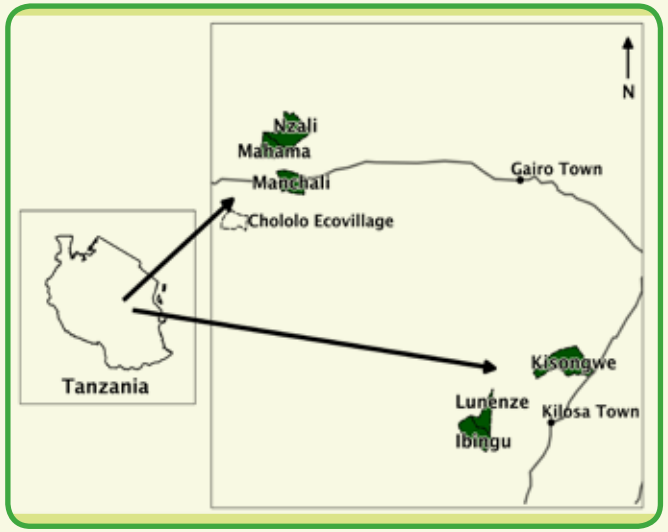
Climate-smart small-scale agriculture includes a range of agricultural practices that enable women and men farmers cultivating less than two hectares, simultaneously to address food security, development and climate change adaptation / mitigation challenges.

A central principle is to improve soil fertility and soil moisture management as well as to encourage farmers to use improved crop varieties and good agricultural practices such as seed spacing, thinning and weeding.

PROJECT LOCATION

Site-based activities are being implemented in six villages in Kilosa and Chamwino Districts in Central Tanzania.

Map of the six project villages in Dodoma and Morogoro Regions



FUNDING

The project is financed by the UK Department for International Development (DfID) and the Danish International Development Agency (DANIDA) through AcT, the Accountability in Tanzania Programme.

PROJECT PARTNERS

The project is a partnership between

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FIND OUT MORE

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Climate change, agriculture and poverty alleviation

Putting small-scale farmers at the heart of agricultural policy and practice

CLIMATE CHANGE AND SMALL-SCALE AGRICULTURE IN TANZANIA

Small-scale farmers should be at the heart of Tanzania's policies to address climate change mitigation and adaptation.

Agriculture is the key to Tanzania's ability to adapt to climate change and to adopt a low carbon development pathway.

Small-scale farmers will be (and are being) hit first and hardest by climate change.

Land use change, particularly deforestation as a result of shifting agriculture, is the largest source of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions in Tanzania.

Investment and agricultural policies and practices are prioritising a shift to more mechanised, fossil fuel dependent, larger scale agriculture with the aim of increasing productivity and commercialising smallholder production. Whilst this approach may increase short-term yields, it risks makng small-scale farmers poorer and more vulnerable to climate change whilst increasing greenhouse gas emissions from increased dependence on fossil fuel based inputs and machinery as well as increased deforestation from displaced small-scale farmers and from new commercial farms.

Tanzania is at risk of entrenching itself on a lose-lose trajectory for climate change adaptation and mitigation in its agriculture sector.

THE PROJECT

Overview

The project is a partnership between five non-governmental organisations. It includes a national level advocacy component plus site based demonstration activities in three dryland villages in Chamwino District and three upland villages in Kilosa District. Funding from AcT has been committed for the period October 2012 to December 2014.

Project Goal

The goal of the climate change, agriculture and poverty alleviation project (CCAP) is that poverty has been reduced amongst small-scale farmers in Tanzania and greenhouse gas emissions from agriculture have been reduced through the widespread adoption of climate resilient, low emission agricultural practices.

Project approach and strategy

The project will achieve its goal by advocating for Tanzania to develop and implement policies and strategies that prioritise support to small-scale farmers to enable them to improve their livelihoods through the adoption of climate smart agriculture and sustainable land and natural resources management.

Strategies that simultaneously increase adaptive capacity, reduce vulnerability and mitigate climate change are likely to present fewer adoption barriers than those with conflicting impacts. For example increasing soil organic matter content can both improve fertility and reduce the impact of drought, improving adaptive capacity, making agriculture less vulnerable to climate change, while also sequestering carbon. **IPCC 2007**

PROJECT OUTPUTS

Output 1: Two national networks of community groups are advocating for climate smart agricultural land management at national and local levels.

Activities: Building the capacity of members and staff of the National Network of Small-Scale Farmers Groups in Tanzania and of the Tanzania Community Forestry Network to collaborate more effectively to advocate for climate smart small-scale agriculture.

Output 2: Information and analysis on the interface between small-scale agriculture and climate change adaptation and mitigation that draws on research from within and beyond Tanzania, is documented and distributed.

Activities: Research to document best practice in climate smart small-scale agriculture in Tanzania.

Output 3: Small-scale farmers in two agro-ecological zones provide a forum for learning and knowledge exchange on best practice in terms of climate-smart agriculture and support for C3S agriculture is integrated in District plans.

Activities: Capacity building for farmers in six villages to adopt and demonstrate climate smart small-scale agriculture. Working closely with local government, the project will provide practical examples of how improved agricultural practices can address climate change adaptation and mitigation.

Output 4: Elected representatives express support for small-scale climate smart agriculture and use their influence to direct support to small-scale farmers to implement climate change adaptation and mitigation strategies.

Activities: under this output include media coverage and engagement with elected representatives to promote the adoption of policies that support climate smart small-scale agriculture.