To What Extent was WAAPP Climate-Smart?

Projects implemented under the West Africa Agriculture Productivity Program (WAAPP) in Benin, Guinea, Niger, Togo, and Chad mainstreamed climate-smart agriculture dimensions at differentiated levels, an assessment has concluded.

The participatory assessment was conducted by the CGIAR Research Program on Climate Change, Agriculture and Food Security (CCAFS).

The CSA Programming and Indicator Tool helps to examine the scope of a given program or intervention through the three-dimensional lenses of CSA (Productivity/Income, Adaptation/resilience, and Mitigation).

This tool applied to WAAPP showed that the program addressed the three pillars of the CSA at differentiated levels in each country. Results showed that the WAAPP is addressing 35 to 47 percent of questions (or outcomes) related to productivity pillar of CSA, 31 to 35 percent to adaptation/resilience, and 26 to 32 percent to mitigation in the five countries.

Other key findings from the assessment are as follows:

Assessing the level of integration of climate-smart Agriculture (CSA) into agricultural projects is needed to optimize interventions towards an increased resilience of rural communities in West Africa.

The CSA programming and indicator tool developed by CCAFS in collaboration with the USAID Feed the Future is a suitable method for assessing the mainstreaming of CSA into development projects.

The five-country WAAPP projects have mainstreamed CSA dimensions at different levels.

The WAAPP is more oriented towards productivity in each country, as reflected in the project title. Although WAAPP was designed to respond to the challenges of increasing agricultural productivity, the implementation of the program has the potential to deal with the other pillars of CSA, such as adaptation/resilience and mitigation.

Building Capacity

CORAF collaborated with three institutions CCAFS, AGRHYMET, and ICRAF, to support countries under the Additional Funding to WAAPP 1C in the use of agro-meteorological information to manage their farming operations.

CCAFS trained 14 collaborators to serve as trainers. They, in turn, coached farmers in CSA.

ICRAF coordinated the establishment of 20 Multi-disciplinary Technical Groups responsible for the formulation of agro-meteorological information to be disseminated to farmers, as well as the production of 30 daily weather reports, two (02) seasonal forecasts, six (06) weekly bulletins which were broadcast by community radios.

AGRHYMET developed the “eAgriMetelectronic Agriculture and meteorology for the dissemination of agrometeorological information to users through the mobile phone.”
The e-AgriMet allows farmers to use their mobile phone to (i) send information to CRA server about the state of the cropping season (soil characteristics and labor, crop conditions, phenology, cultivated species/varieties, seedling dates and densities, fertilizer supply, nature and extent of observed damage, yields, rainfall, and other information on the farm) and (ii) make queries via SMS allowing them to receive in real-time specific hydro-agro-climatic and phytosanitary information (seasonal forecasts, climatic risks, pests, agro-meteorological notice, and advice, etc.).