



# African Gender, Climate Change and Agriculture Support Program (GCCASP)

**Cameroon Workshop Proceeding  
Report**

**A program of the NEPAD Planning and Coordinating Agency in  
collaboration with the Government of Cameroon**

**With the support of the Norwegian Government**

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**PROCEEDINGS OF THE CAMEROON GCCASP PROGRAMMING  
CONSULTATION WORKSHOP  
HOTEL JOUVENCE 2000**

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## ACRONYMS

<b>MINPROFF</b>	Ministry of Women Empowerment and the Family
<b>CAADP</b>	Comprehensive African Agriculture Development Program
<b>NORAD</b>	Norwegian Agency for Development
<b>NEPAD- NPCA</b>	New Partnership for African Development - Planning and Coordinating Agency
<b>GCCASP</b>	Gender, Climate Change and Agriculture Support Programme
<b>ARG</b>	African Resource Group
<b>GeoSAS</b>	Geo-Spatial Analytical Service P.L.C.
<b>EAP</b>	Environmental Action Plan
<b>MINFOF</b>	Ministry of Forests and Wildlife
<b>ANAFOR</b>	The National Forestry Development Agency
<b>REPPACC</b>	The Pan-African Parliamentary Network on Climate Change
<b>PLANOPAC</b>	National Platform of Agro-Civil, Pastoral and Fishery Professional Organization in Cameroon
<b>PRADEC</b>	Pargue Development Centre
<b>MINADER</b>	Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development
<b>MINEP</b>	Ministry of Environment and Protection of Nature
<b>MINEPIA</b>	Ministry of Livestock, Fisheries and Livestock Industries
<b>MINEPDED</b>	Ministry of Environment, Nature Protection and Sustainable Development
<b>MINREX</b>	Ministry of External Relations
<b>MINCOM</b>	Ministry of Communication
<b>WG</b>	Women Groups
<b>TAC</b>	Technical Advisory Committee
<b>REC</b>	Regional Economic Community
<b>CIGs</b>	Common Initiative Groups
<b>PP</b>	Partnership Platforms

## **I. BACKGROUND**

The NEPAD Planning and Coordinating Agency (NPCA) with the financial support of NORAD developed a Gender, Climate Change and Agriculture Support Program (GCCASP). The program was designed following a detailed assessment study in five countries namely Cameroon, Ethiopia, Rwanda, Malawi and Niger. GCCASP will facilitate the implementation of regional and country level interventions to empower rural women and in particular women farmers to enhance their resilience so that they can better cope with potential adverse impacts of climate change.

The program is envisaged to be implemented in the context of NEPAD's Comprehensive African Agriculture Development Program (CAADP) and Environmental Action Plan (EAP) frameworks with clear policy implications for other sectors as well as design and funding of climate programs. The operation of GCCASP is envisaged to involve two phases of activities: inception phase and implementation phase.

The Ministry of Women Empowerment and the Family (MINPROFF) is leading the GCCASP in Cameroon and is entrusted with the overall coordination and the project development and implementation process by ensuring the effective participation of the relevant government organs, C.I.Gs, non-government organizations as well as key development partners.

To this end the Ministry in collaboration with NEPAD and with financial support from NORAD Organised this consultation workshop in Yaoundé from 22<sup>nd</sup> - 24<sup>th</sup> of July, 2014.

## **2. OBJECTIVE**

The objectives of this Gender, Climate Change and Agriculture Support Programme GCCASP - Cameroon National Programming Consultation Workshop was to:

- Update and validate the priority intervention areas identified during the assessment phase;
- Discuss and agree on the institutional arrangements including the establishment of national Partnership Platforms (PPs), identification of key stakeholders and their defined responsibilities during project development and implementation; and
- Create common understanding on the GCCASP work program, (including the program outline, major course of actions, time frame and responsible entities) for the delivery of Cameroon Program document for funding consideration.

### 3. ORGANIZATION

This Cameroon country launch workshop for the inception phase of GCCASP was organized by the Ministry of Women Empowerment and the Family (MINPROFF) of Republic of Cameroon, in collaboration with NEPAD Planning and Coordinating Agency and with closetechnical support of GeoSAS and ARG. Three teams namely; Technical, Communication and Logistics, were organized to steer and facilitate the organization of the workshop. Participants were made up of the civil society representatives, women smallholder farmers, Non-Governmental organizations and government officials.

### 4. OPENING CEREMONY

The workshop commenced with the arrival of the Minister of Women Empowerment and the Family **Prof Marie Therese Obama** at 10:31am. Madam **Moto Francisca**, deputy Director for the promotion of GenderMINPROFF, facilitator of the workshop tuned the national anthem and later on presented the agenda for the day.

#### 4.1. REMARKS AND INTRODUCTION OF WORKSHOP

The introductory remarks of the workshop were made by Madam **Estherine Fotabong**, Director of Programme Implementation and Coordination Directorate, NEPAD AGENCY. She started by acknowledging the privilege in introducing the second workshop of this programme for Cameroon. She highlighted that 2014 is an important year for African Union because of the celebration of the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the CAADP and the year of African food security. This indicates that all stakeholders recognized the role played by women smallholder farmers in Africa.

She applauded the role played by the Cameroon government through the Ministry of Women Empowerment and the Family to implement policies and programs in order to develop agricultural practices. It is time for NEDAP Agency to move from theory to concrete actions at the national level in order to help women farmers face those realities brought about by climate change as seen in the 2012 workshop. Despite micro-economic growth in Africa, poverty being a persistent threat and considering its spillover effects, it is necessary that the various stakeholders contribute at different level in order to overcome this challenge as is the case with NORAD whose first phase input gave the initial financial support to start the inception phase with the five participating countries. The workshop aimed at ensuring current actions reached by the ministry in line with the 2012 workshop, thereby enabling the formulation of a work programme for Cameroon. Considering that the work is immense, collaboration between the ministry and other stakeholders is essential in order to reach an efficient

and effective outcome. NEPAD therefore expects at the end of the day certain sustainable achievements from Cameroon.



Opening remarks by Madam Estherine Fotabong Lisinge, Director of Programme Implementation and Coordination Directorate, NEPAD Agency

Following these introductory remarks on the workshop, the Minister of Women Empowerment and the Family **Prof Marie Therese Obama** made the opening speech. After dispensing with welcome wishes, the minister expressed her gratitude and privilege in presiding over this workshop, and thanked the technical and financial partners most especially the **Norwegian Government** and **Dr IBRAHIM ASSENE MAYAKI** in charge of the Planning and Coordination of NEPAD whose constant support contributes to enhance socio-economic emergence in Cameroon.

The minister pointed out that after the workshop of the 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> of August 2012, it is now time to map the way forward in the programming and implementation of interventions aimed at reinforcing the capacities of rural women. Having underlined the impact of climate change on the environment and its adverse effects as recent studies have proven, she proceeded to add that Women were front line agents for the fight against climate change, since they possess knowledge and significant expertise in what concerns adaptability and the reduction of risk to climate change. Just like the international community holds, there is no sustainable development without the full participation of women.

This workshop was in line with the objective to appreciate the efforts of NEPAD/NORAD in order to integrate gender as fundamental in matters related to Climate Change and sustainable development which can be traced with the signing of the Maputo Declaration of July 2003. A decree from the PM in August 2011 had put in place a support program for gender, Climate Change and Agriculture that reinforces the economic capacity of Cameroonian rural women to combat negative effects of Climate Change.

The minister reiterated certain challenges like vulnerability to climate risk, unequal distribution of rights, power and resources between men and women and mentioned strategies put in place by the government to manage them such as encouraging sustainable initiatives to associations and the Plan of Action adopted in Beijing 1995 emphasizing their active participation in decision making. This work that

is in tandem with the different projects of the government of Cameroon to better the socio-economic conditions of rural women such as the project one woman one tree, one family one tree.



Minister of Women Empowerment and the Family HE Prof Marie Therese Obama making the opening speech

To this effect the minister called on the contribution of every participant to prevail in determining the different challenges and thus reach a consensus after which she declared the Cameroon workshop on Gender, Climate Change and Agriculture Support Program open.

## 5. PRESENTATIONS

Part two of the workshop started with the presentations of different studies carried out aimed at better explaining Climate Change, its effects on the rural women farmer and - see how they could be empowered to face the adverse challenges of Climate Change.

### 5.1. AN OVERVIEW OF GENDER CLIMATE CHANGE AGRICULTURAL SUPPORT PROGRAM

The presentations started with an update of the **GCCASP** presented by Ms. Edna Kalima of the NEPAD Agency. She briefed the participants on what had been accomplished so far through an update of the workshop. She indicated that the programme was launched in 2013 in New York; with NORAD providing financial support to kick start the inception phase of the programme. The programming Consultations started in Ethiopia, Malawi, Niger and then Cameroon and Rwanda.



Ms. Edna Kalima from NEPAD Agency presenting an update of the program

The objective of GCCASP is to;

- Empower smallholder farmers, youths and other vulnerable groups in Africa to cope with adverse effects of climate change variability and climate effect. This is to enhance resilience and adaptive capacity.

Several challenges have been encountered at the governmental level as well as at the grass root levels (affecting women) for example:

- Low level of coordination and synergy amongst existing actors and programmes in the gender, agriculture and climate change area among government as well as non-governmental actors
- The need to organize women in groups in order to strengthen their capacity to negotiate possible assistance and support.

- Lack of technology.
- Women and land acquisition and utilisation problems.
- Access to the market among others.

In a bid to meet the objectives, NPCA intervenes in four domains:

- Closing institutional gaps
- Capacity building of women
- Creation and strengthening of women platforms
- Investment in up-scaling of innovative and successive practices.

The GCCASP will be operationalised in two phases which are the inception phase and implementation phases. NPCA will ensure that participating countries are given technical support in developing a detailed work program for consideration for funding through GCCASP and the implementation phase which is still to be realised in this workshop.

## 5.2. OVERVIEW ON GCCASP CAMEROON BY DR.HELEN NAMONDO FONTEBO

The next presentation came from **Dr Helen Namondo Fontebo** who made a presentation on an overview of GCCASP in Cameroon. She started her presentation by analysing what the small holder woman farmers understand by climate change. According to her, the small holder women farmers may not be able to define Climate Change but understand what it is and can put it in their own words.

Here are some examples she got from the field:

**Pauline Binui**, 63 years old living in Bambili said *“things have changed; at first we used to plant our crops in March and even in May farmers are still planting maize. The way the climate is now confuses us. We knew that mid-March was the time we expected rain and after the rains we could plant our crops but at times rain started earlier... Now we plant our crops and when they start giving shoots, hard sun will come and destroy it and so we are confused about the climate and we don’t know when to plant”*.

According to **Sumelong**, *“the average farmer in Ndop North West Region may not be able to tell you what Climate Change is but they know their yields are dwindling. Their children can’t go to school and they find it difficult to manage the house hold unlike before”*.

In Buea the interlocutor overheard a conversation between two women about the variation of the climate conditions recently. One of them wondered aloud *“I don’t know what the geography*

**teachers will be teaching in school now! What are they going to tell the pupils, would they be able to give their prediction as before about when the dry season starts and ends”**. Such conversations she held are common everywhere and proceeded to see why the issue of the woman is critical in relation to agriculture and climate change. Some reasons why women need to be supported were advanced like:

- Women being the most numbered (52.3%) in poor communities and depend on local natural resources. Being so many, they suffer most and given that their livelihood depends on natural resources like farming land and the weather, women are fundamental instrument of change when we talk of Climate Change
- Changes in the climate mostly affect farming sectors and women are vulnerable as their adaptive capacities are weak.
- Cultural restrictions limiting access to resources(land)and decision-making process.
- Adding that women are key actors in production, agriculture and the management of the environment and health.

The aim of the study was to assess how small farmers and pastoralists are affected by climate change in Cameroon and also identify the coping strategies of the woman and explore possible ways of enhancing their capacities.

The methodology of the study involved key informants from different organizations, the collection of data from case study sites (Muyuka for humid forest and Ndu for the high plateau savannah), focus group discussions and a national consultation workshop.

This study highlighted the different challenges encountered by women in Muyuka and Ndu like droughts, landslides, health risks, and water scarcity. Despite these difficulties, the women still deploy the following strategies to cope.

- **Borrowing money from lenders and social groups:** these women with difficulties in getting loans from well-established financial institutions to boost their farming activities divert to small or local money lenders whose lending conditions are favourable to them. Thus they are assisted to cope with family demands although they default sometimes due to lack
- **Off source income or petty trading:** these women try to diversify their main source of income which is farming to do other activities from which they can make small income to re-invest and likewise meet up with family needs.
- **Management of natural resources:** the rural women manage to store water that can help them during periods of droughts or develop local irrigation schemes. They also construct wells that can help them or where there are no wells they trek for many kilometres to fetch water for washing, drinking and bathing.

The strategies of these women do not come without constraints related to capacity challenges such as:

- Decreasing productivity i.e. ensuring a better output and the capacity to adapt to the constant changing climate was a problem,
- Technology problems; farming is purely manual with rural women and the rugged terrain even worsens the problem.
- Access to financial/material resources is also a major challenge. Rural women face some traditional practices refuses them to own land; they cannot get loans as their husband's approval is needed as collateral security.

The findings of the study revealed why these coping strategies are affected, which include capacity challenges, limited decisions in productive assets like land, limited access to agricultural technologies etc. To this, proposed intervention areas such as policy and institutional gaps were given.

Other challenges to farmer's adaptation to climate change were equally reiterated with regards to issues like financial limitation, information, education and other factors.

Three different areas of intervention were identified to manage these challenges. They include

- Improving access to credit,
- Improving access to information technology
- Access to input and output market.

### **5.3. OVERVIEW ON RELATED ON GOING PROJECTS AND LESSON LEARNT (MINPROFF)**

The third presentation came from Mr. Mamadou Joseph Sub-Director for the follow up of Economic Empowerment of Women (MINPROFF).

It focused on ongoing programs, projects and lessons learnt. The interest here was to see what is being done, challenges and means of improvement. He elaborated on the experiences made by the MINPROFF with groups of women farmers which led to the signing of partnership convention between MINFOF and REPPACC in 2011, thus leading to the launching of the concept: *one woman one tree, one family one tree* in collaboration with MINFOF. He said afforestation campaigns are the most efficient solution in combating climate change. He revealed the measures taken by ANAFOR in addressing climate change challenges, which include site identification, presentation, clearing, digging as well as the buying, transportation, planting and watering of trees. He drew attention to the fact that the sites are provided by the community but owned by the council.

As to the main challenges faced in the implementation of the concept, they include the lack of interest in the program by women groups and community leaders. However, since women are sensitive and vulnerable to climate change, these challenges need to be addressed in order to help them properly play their role as agents of development and this can be done through sensitization campaigns.

#### 5.4. PRESENTATION ON WOMEN ORGANISATIONAL STRUCTURE (MINPROFF)

The last presentation of the first day was given by Mme MOFFAH NEE LUMA LYENGU, Regional Delegate MINPROFF South West. The presentation was on empowering rural women to cope with the effects of climate change in the South West Region. She started by identifying a rural woman and how climate change affects her. The rural woman she said is a grass root woman who does farming for consumption and sales. They are vulnerable as climate change has negative effects on them. They face different problems like

- Water supply: during periods of draught, there is little or no water supply for crops and even piped water is a problem.
- Food security: this concerns the preservation of food and its transformation.
- Energy supply, natural disasters and diseases which limit their productivity and thus demands skills to empower the rural women.

An organisational structure was being reached with the assistance of MINPROFF to help rural women. There is a group known as the “**South West women’s forum**” put in place as well as different networks to regroup rural women easily at regional, divisional and sub-division levels. It comprises of one Regional Forum, six Divisional Forums and 31 Sub Divisional Forums whose activities are coordinated by MINPROFF at all levels. Specific actions are reached by MINPROFF to empower these rural women such as educative programmes through radios done in local languages, planting trees with the slogan “cut one plant five”, workshops on new technological realizations like the “**wonder bag**” in which food is half cooked and put in the bag. This bag is made of a plastic paper which preserves the heat and gets the food ready. With this the rural woman who is too busy or occupied can leave the food and embark on other preoccupations without any stress.

The South-west woman faces challenges such as limited financial resources, poverty, illiteracy, and is sometimes also a negative agent in climate change due to the non-respect of principles, she therefore needs education on these aspects.

To combat these challenges, MINPROFF needs more financial resources to intensify sensitization on environmental education and promote modern and smart technologies etc.

## 6. REFLECTIONS

As to the different presentations reached in the workshop, participants were given the opportunity to express their challenges and also share experiences on how they have managed different situations. The participants tabled different concerns:

## 7.1 PROBLEMS PRESENTED BY FARMERS

- Mme Nayah Lekumze representative of PLANOPAC (National Platform of Agro-Civil, Pastoral and Fishery Professional Organisation in Cameroon) had two issues: *“we are not only looking at plants killed because of the heavy rains”*. Secondly *“in Lebialem (SWR of Cameroon) insects destroy crops and many different crops cannot grow like beans which has always been a considerable source of income since it was exported to different regions in Cameroon but now despite insecticides the insects still destroy the crops”*
- Mrs Taku Maria from MANYU Zion Women GROUP, who presented her issues as follows *“at first we planted egusi (pistachio) from the first week of March and expected rain from the second week of March. But now the rain does not come when we expect it and when the rain comes, it’s so heavy that it destroys the crops and at the end of the day we cannot pay fees for our children”*.
- Mme Nyebe Balbinerepresenting PRADEC *“last year rain started in March and those who planted groundnuts around mid-March did well and in our group 18 bags were harvested. This year rain started in April and we are not sure to harvest 5 bags. Harvest season changes due to climate change.*
- Mme Etoundi Marie from the Central region tabled her problem thus *“ in the 1990’s she had cultivated cassava and the harvest used to be extremely good and her family was doing well but now, she cultivates groundnut, cassava and different crops but yet cannot make it because of insects (ants). She cannot even get “kpwem” (cassava leaves). She proceeded to say that she is 54 years old today and now she is forced to buy cassava which had never been the case. To pay school fees for my children is very difficult”*. The inputs such as fertilizers are urgently needed to combat soil problems.

## 7.2 RESPONSES

Representatives from ministries, experts and civil society brought forth answers to these different worries.

Mme Judy Abong Regional Delegate from the NWR intervened by holding that lessons can be drawn elsewhere to better farming outputs. She highlighted that in the past only Bali Nyonga in the NWR planted corn twice but now different areas in the NWR are practicing this mode of cultivation. This comes to vary the two different seasons which are dry and raining seasons.

MINADER's representative Mme Ekobo Colette brought forth some clarifications in which the laws creating Common Initiative Groups have not been abrogated, so farmers can continue creating groups. MINADER is also carrying out studies to see new irrigation methods or micro irrigation techniques. Dr. Niger-Thomas speaking on behalf of MINPROFF said the ministry is trying to cope with the demands of these women despite the limited nature of its resources. To this effect, workshops are organized to train women in the transformation of agricultural produce in order to avoid wastage and subsequently loss of income. This training is carried out at the regional, divisional and sub-divisional levels, in which those trained were asked to teach others.

Women were also encouraged to listen to the radio regularly on agriculture despite their tight schedules so that the nature of diffusing information should be improved. Information should be taken to popular sites like bus stops schools etc. To this, Mrs Emade Eunice geography teacher exhorted women to be information conscious because there is an agricultural calendar every year which helps women to know when to plant and when not to plant. Finally it was held that women should learn to regroup themselves and that those who have the opportunity to attend seminars should carry the information to others. The SW example in empowering rural women to cope with the effect of Climate Change was seen as an example to emulate.

Dr Helen Linonge equally emphasised on the publication of the final reports so as to ensure public sensitisation and awareness of the program document about Climate Change.

After the different reflections on the workshop, the moderator Dr Niger- Thomas Margaret thanked participants for their time and imminent contributions.

## 7.3 RECAP OF DAY ONE

Day two of the workshop 23/07/2014 commenced at 09:12am, with a recap of day one by the reporter, Ejani Leonard. This was then followed by guidelines on how the group discussions were to be carried out with regards to what was expected from each group given by Mr Solomon Kebede of GeoSAS.

The groups were divided into four.

## 8. GROUP DISCUSSIONS

Four groups were formed to discuss different areas of identified interventions of GCCASP based on the country assessment outcome during the first phase of 2012. Accordingly:

Group I discussed on improved access to credit and associated policy level intervention.

Group II discussed on improved access to appropriate technology and associated policy level intervention.

Group III discussed on improved access to input and output market and associated policy level intervention.

Group IV discussed on Institutional issues and monitoring and evaluation

### 8.1. GROUP: PRIORITY INTERVENTION AREA I: ACCESS TO CREDIT

- Goal: Make microcredit programs accessible to women.
- Objective: efficiently integrate gender in micro credit mechanisms for agriculture programs and actions.



*Group Discussions*

To start with, the group defined credit as a loan we get for a project and this loan is paid with an interest over a period of time. The rural woman has different sources of credits which can be “njangi” houses, micro financial institutions, money lenders, community investment groups, the family etc.

The existence of these different sources of credits is not the problem but rather access to this credit or better still conditions attached to obtaining these credits leaves the rural woman farmer helpless. These challenges are:

- Absence of collateral: rural women, due to some socio-cultural practices (traditions) sometimes do not possess property like land that these creditors need to grant credits. Also women who are not married cannot get credits as their husbands approval is needed and even those who are married, their husbands do not encourage them.
- The interest rate attached to these credits is too high that the rural woman will be discouraged to participate in something that can stress her. Also the deadline given by creditors is sometimes too short and thus discourages the rural women to go for credits or loans.
- Illiteracy is another limitation in getting credits as these creditors at times need concrete projects before they can release credits. Also these women are not aware of the credit system or how these institutions do function. As a result, women farmers shy away credit institutions. Also the rural woman is not aware of the different institutions put in place to assist them in their farming activities.

#### **A. Proposed solutions to improve credit schemes**

- Restructure rural women organization into cooperatives managed by them
- Give out loans at low interest rates
- The government should organize training sessions relating to capacity building of women on getting credit schemes and managing them
- Create a suitable environment between the rural women and Micro financial institutions

#### **B. Create awareness on the benefits of saving and credits services**

- Sensitize women through their groups
- Use of community radio to communicate with women
- Use representatives of women in national/international workshops as focal points of their areas in relaying information
- Use indoor and mouth to ear method of communication

#### **C. Create awareness and build skills on business and agricultural market opportunities and risk management**

- The government should train women on new techniques of production and transformation of agro-pastoral products,
- Training on accounting and cost determination for women framers,
- Women should develop market opportunities such as the provision of particular food stuff during periods of their unavailability in the market (storage facilities)
- Market strategies should be developed to reduce the risk of incurring losses due to transformation cost

- The government should provide at least in remote areas, machines for transformation and preservation of agricultural products to avoid food wastage
- Risk management should be reduced by new methods of packaging and labeling of products.
- Risk management could also be reduced by the creation of marketing boards to arbitrate on the demand and supply of produce, to avoid the exploitation of the rural woman.
- The improvement of farm to market roads to encourage the effort of the rural woman and enable her benefit from the fruit of her activity.

#### **D. Organizing women under cooperatives to easily access knowledge (manage money) and grants**

- The creation of cooperatives for the rural woman helps her get funding for her produce.
- Grant them access to donations, gifts and grants.
- Encourages large scale management as they may decide to: (i) use money to improve on conditions of the underprivileged, (ii) improve on agriculture techniques like fertilizers, machines etc.

## **8.2. GROUP III: PRIORITY INTERVENTION AREA 2: IMPROVE ACCESS TO APPROPRIATE AND EFFECTIVE TECHNOLOGIES FOR WOMEN SMALL HOLDER FARMERS.**

The objective here is to ensure that appropriate technologies get to women farmers in a well-timed and affordable manner.

The discussions of the group were focused on three issues:

#### **A. Support the production and dissemination of irrigation technologies that are affordable to women**

Excessive droughts affect crop productivity and at the same time farmers do not have the necessary equipment to preserve this water to use during periods of droughts. Solutions were proposed such as;

- Creation of trenches in farms to collect rain water to be used in watering plants during dry periods.
- Construction of wells in farms for easy access to water during extreme dry periods.
- Buying of big storage containers to keep in farms for water collection and preservation.
- Construction of bore holes in farms to provide easy access to water

- Construction of dams in farms sited beside rivers to channel water to the various parts of the farm.

## **B. Support the production, and distribution of seed varieties that are acceptable by women**

With the advent of climate change it becomes difficult for women to cultivate only one crop. Women are to diversify cultivation so as to catch up with the persistent change in weather conditions. To this effect, these recommendations were made;

- Women should be trained and empowered on multiplication and conservation of more resistant seed variables.
- They should be trained and empowered on best choice of seed multiplication methods, crossbreeding and resistant seed varieties
- Seed banks should be created for the storing of seeds to facilitate conservation for forthcoming seasons.
- Women should be trained on production and the use of organic fertilizer. They could be encouraged to practice mixed farming that is livestock farming alongside crop farming. This will enable them to use animals' waste as fertilizer for plants. The blending of crops may also be introduced to improve productivity and soil fertility (planting of compatible crops on the same piece of land)
- Women should be provided with improved animal breeds
- There is the need to train them on the proper use of chemical input and on the best practices of animal feed preparation.
- There is the need to promote networking with other advanced institutions through scholarships to women for training on renewable energy and the transfer of state-of-the-art technologies.

## **C. Fund storage facilities that minimize post-harvest loss**

Most crops produced by rural women are perishable and their storage facilities and techniques are too expensive. It is therefore necessary that farmers are helped in order to prevent wastage and loss of profits. Recommendations were thus reached:

- Provide information for women on available facilities from Ministries, delegations, women's empowerment centers and forums, etc.
- Create women-friendly cooperatives and small financials schemes such as provision of credits with interest free or very low interest rate (2%) to enable them develop their structures.
- Train women on food processing and conservation methods to add value to their products;
- Train women on marketing strategies
- Sensitize them on information technologies and create links with wholesalers and other structures that could easily buy the final products;
- Provision of modern energy technologies (solar energy)
- Train women on improved local drying skills (energy ovens, charcoal)

- Train women on sustainable harvesting skills;
- Help open farm to market roads to facilitate the evacuation of agriculture outputs to sales points

**Recommendations:**

Involvement of women in decision-making positions and committees, for instance land, water and soil committees to prompt them to come out with gender-friendly policies.

➤ **Feedback and discussions:**

All the participants agreed on the presentation, and the Programme’s facilitator was very satisfied. He took the floor to highlight that women need to access new facilities to improve on their livelihood. Another observation was the need to include gender-based agriculture training as it is being done in Malawi.

### **8.3. GROUP III: PRIORITY INTERVENTION AREA 3: IMPROVE ACCESS TO INPUTS AND OUTPUT MARKETS AND ASSOCIATED POLICIES**

**Definition of inputs:** Fertilizers, seedlings, pesticides, farm tools

**A. Identification of problems**

- Absence of subsidies; the different support schemes put in place do not benefit the rural woman farmer who essentially depends on herself. This makes her disfavoured in the market due to heavy competition from big competitors.
- Speculation of prices of inputs; the prices of produce are not stable in the market. They vary as to stakes of speculators which downplays the rural woman farmer whose fate is in the hands of speculators.
- Difficult access to information on the availability and use of inputs; the diffusion of information in the rural area is problematic as the woman farmer has no time to listen to the radio, reading the newspapers is also a problem as illiteracy characterizes this segment of women.
- Existence of poor quality inputs in the market;
- Lack of storage facilities;
- Insufficient information on transformation and conservation of products;
- Lack of farm to market roads etc.

## **B. Solutions**

- Encourage the creation of groups such as cooperatives in order to benefit from subsidies
- Capacity building of women on the use of fertilizers, transformation of agricultural products, establishment of linkages and potential markets, modern farming techniques.
- Create a fund for the production of organic fertilizers
- Putting in place centres for distribution of fertilizers
- Design and implement awareness creation programs on gender at community level
- Support added value through the respect of norms, packaging and branding.

## **Recommendations**

### ***To government***

- Improve the supervision of quality control of inputs on the market
- Facilitate the creation of cooperatives for women by simplifying formalities and procedures
- Integrate gender in the formulation, implementation and monitoring/evaluation of agricultural programmes and projects
- Creation of farm to market roads
- Multiplication of multipurpose transformation units.

### ***To women***

- Look for information from zonal extension agents and MINPROFF structures in the field;
- Women should take the initiative to group themselves into cooperatives.

## **8.4 GROUP IV INSTITUTIONAL ISSUES MONITORING AND EVALUATION**

Following the program, it was generally decided that MINPROFF was the proper ministry to pilot the program (GCCASP).

Feedback of the discussion:

#### **A. Identification of existing institutional arrangements**

- MINPROFF, MINEPDED, MINEPIA, MINFOF, MINEP, MINADER etc.
- Endorsement of MINPROFF as the principal organ in charge of the program
- Role of MINPROFF (coordination, implementation, follow up and evaluation )
- Structural organization to be made up of a steering committee
- Project's support partners could include; the civil society, farmer organizations, businessmen, and especially NEPAD.

#### **B. THE PARTNERSHIP PLATFORM (PP)**

Objectives of the partnership platform were formulated and identified. However, it was decided that there was no adequate platform already in place with the relevant capacities needed to pilot the program, since a specific platform had to be designed for the project. Nevertheless, a partnership platform in conformity with the criteria set by the document of the program could be developed for this purpose. It was decided that membership to the platform could include NEPAD, NORAD, MINPROFF and of course all stakeholders with interest in these three sectors

Requirements for membership in the partnership platform

- State: government (MINREX, MINPROFF, MINADER, MINEP)
- Private: NGOs (non-governmental organizations)
- Higher learning institutions: universities, research institutes
- Council representatives, civil society, WG (women groups)

#### **C. STEERING L ADVISORY COMMITTEE (TAC)**

Technical advisory committee is important in that they promote sustainable development. Henceforth, it should be established at a national level to bring expertise and prepare project documents. Its members should include MINPROFF, MINREX, MINEPIA, MINFOF, MINCOM, MINEPDED, MINADER, MINEP etc.

Another institutional mechanism, the Steering Committee, will deal mostly with the definition of policies, evaluation and orientation of the project. Membership criteria are to be defined by MINPROFF through a draft convention to be approved by the Prime Minister, Head of Government. Each partner should be represented in the said committee. The only specification given was that this committee should not be linked to any particular ministerial sub-unit, but rather should be a project linked directly to the ministry

## **D. MONITORING AND EVALUATION**

The frequency of monitoring and evaluation will depend on the in-house policy of the institutions in charge of carrying out the project. But it was generally decided that in order for there to be clarity, effectiveness, their activities should be regulated as follows

- Technical advisory committee meets monthly or when the need arises
- The partnership platform holds once a year
- The external control in charge of the audit meets monthly
- Information dissemination should follow a hierarchical structure, that is from the;
  - Civil society
  - Sub-division
  - Divisions
  - Regions
  - State

It was to go from below to the top in terms of information gathering and from top to bottom in terms of administrative follow-up and proper implementation.

## **9. CLOSING REMARKS**

Closing remarks were given by Madam Estherine Fotabong who thanked the participants for their active participation and constructive contributions in the workshop. She proceeded to say that NEPAD would seriously take the recommendations made by the various groups present, and that following the upcoming workshop in Rwanda, there would be an official launching of the project in 2015. She equally added that there was to be a round table conference with other development partners at the ministry on Thursday the 24<sup>th</sup> of July, 2014 in which they were to discuss on the mobilization of resources. She ended up by once again thanking the participants for their generous participation in the workshop and wished that they should all be there at the formal launching of the project by NEPAD. She wished them journey mercies to their respective destinations.

The workshop was concluded by the moderator, Dr. Niger-Thomas Margareton behalf of the minister, who also thanked the participants at the workshop for their patience and dedication to the success of the workshop. She equally thanked the NEPAD/NORAD for their financial support to improving the lives of the small woman farmer in Cameroon. She equally added that it would be in the interest of the various groups participating in the workshop to be there at the official launching of the project. The moderator then apologized for the communication lapses which had prevented the ministry from getting in touch with the development partners for the round table conference the next day but proceeded to assure the NEPAD/NORAD that after the presentation of these workshop discussions and report to the minister, this roundtable conference would be held with all the partners.

She expressed her gratitude both to the Cameroon participants and the NEPAD/NORAD who had sacrificed a lot in order to be present and wished them a safe trip to their various destinations. Madam Motto Francesca was appreciated for her superb facilitating skills, after which there was a concluding prayer and all participants were then given a little token for their transportation back to their various destinations.

**10. MEETING BETWEEN NEPAD, MINPROFF, GEOSAS AND ARG**

The third day set aside for the development partners was used for a technical meeting between MINPROFF, NEPAD, GeoSAS and ARG. The meeting started at 11:50 am in the Conference Hall of the Ministry of Women’s Empowerment and the Family with a word of thanks from Mme Estherine Fotabong to the Minister and her MINPROFF team on the warm welcome and active participation during the workshop. She further appreciated the role of MINPROFF in inviting the development partners for a round table discussion upon the endorsement of the programme report by the Minister in the days ahead.

Mr Solomon Kebede, GeoSAS representative, appreciated the pragmatic ideas presented by Dr Niger-Thomas Margaret during the workshop and expressed his hope that the Cameroon group will produce a model project that other countries can also learn from.

Dr Niger-Thomas Margaret on behalf of MINPROFF promised working with the local Consultancy Company ARG to ensure success in the program. She also proposed a working plan with the development partners as soon as the programming report is endorsed. Meanwhile a forwarding letter will be sent to the development partners to inform them about the meeting. She equally outlined the need for alignment of the project to ensure proper partnership platform. A partnership agreement will be signed between African Resource Group and the Ministry of Women Empowerment and the Family in the days ahead, to ensure effective implementation of the program.

The Manager of ARG Mr. Edmund Linonge Njoh thanked the representatives of MINPROFF for their technical support and collaboration during the workshop and also wished for a successful networking as the programme unfolds.

The meeting ended at 1:00pm with a closing remark from Mme. Estherine Fotabong, thanking MINPROFF, ARG and GeoSAS representatives for a successful outcome of the workshop.

**10.1 DRAFT ACTION PLAN**

The draft action plan presented and discussed during the final session of the workshop, which is aimed to serve as a road map for the programme development is presented below.

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What Needs to be Done (Activity)	Lead Responsibility	Timeline (End
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		Date)
1. Preparation of workshop proceedings highlighting key action points	<b>ARG Consultancy in consultation with MINPROFF</b>	<b>30<sup>th</sup> July 2014</b>
2. Further engagement with other stakeholders such as the Women Development Groups to enrich content of proposal	<b>MINPROFF, ARG</b>	<b>August , 2014</b>
3. Finalization of ToRs (partnership platforms (PPS), Steering Committee (SC), PP, Project Coordination Unit (PCU), Champions)	<b>ARG</b>	<b>August, 2014</b>
4. Finalization of programme proposal document for Cameroon. Key elements should include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Defined Priority intervention areas for implementation</li> <li>• Implementation arrangements</li> <li>• Coordination Mechanism</li> <li>• Partnership Platform</li> <li>• Women Development Groups Concept</li> <li>• Monitoring and Evaluation with clear indicators</li> <li>• Best practices</li> </ul>	<b>GeoSAS, ARG, MINPROFF,</b>	<b>August, 2014</b>
5. Submission of Cameroon Programme Proposal to NEPAD	<b>GeoSAS</b>	<b>August, 2014</b>
6. Development and Implementation of Resource Mobilization Strategy	<b>NEPAD Agency, MINPROFF</b>	<b>August, 2014</b>
7. Communication Strategy including webpage for programme on MINPROFF website	<b>MINPROFF</b>	<b>September, 2014</b>
8. Creation of website for the programme	<b>NEPAD Agency</b>	<b>September, 2014</b>

## **ANNEXES**

### **ANNEX I: OPENING REMARKS BY THE MINISTER OF THE WOMEN, EMPOWERMENT AND THE FAMILY, MADAM ABENA ONDOA NEE OBAMA MARIE THERES, REPUBLIC OF CAMEROON.**

- Representative of the New Partnership for Africa's Development;
- Representative of the technical and financial partner program (NORAD);
- Head of the Gender Climate Change Agricultural Support programme (GCCASP);
- Ladies and Gentlemen, Representatives of development partners;
- Distinguished Representatives of sectoral ministries;
- Ladies and gentlemen.

It is with great pleasure that I perform the pleasant duty to preside over the opening of this important programming workshop organized in the framework of cooperation between the Planning and Coordination Agency of NEPAD and the Ministry of Women Empowerment and the Family.

On this solemn occasion, allow me to thank Dr. Ibrahim Assane Mayaki, Head of Planning and Coordination Agency of NEPAD for his efforts in preparing this program.

My thanks also go to the Norwegian Government, financial partner for the program and all development partners who have made a decisive contribution to the realization of the program.

Finally, I would be remiss not to express my deep gratitude to all those who, directly or indirectly, spared neither efforts nor their time to make possible this workshop.

#### **Representative of NEPAD;**

After holding the consultative workshop of the Support Programme for Gender, Climate Change and Agriculture in Cameroon in August 2012; organized by the Planning and Coordination Agency of NEPAD, with the support of the Norwegian government, it is a joy to speak once more at this stage of implementation. Strengthening the capacity of rural women and vulnerable communities for better adaptation to the adverse effects of climate change should be magnified. The choice of Cameroon among the five countries selected for the national participatory process to integrate the document a vast African program on gender and mild climate, agriculture is valued at fair value.

The national consultative programming workshop which opens today, which focuses on supporting gender, climate change and agriculture, shows without doubt, the excellent relations of cooperation

between Cameroon and your institution.

As the Chief Ministerial Department, it gives me the opportunity to appreciate the efforts of your institution to integrate gender as fundamental management issues related to climate change and agricultural development. Indeed, since July 2003, Cameroon is a signatory to the Maputo Declaration on Agriculture and Food Security in Africa that African States undertook to implement the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP).

Milestones of the implementation of the CAADP Cameroon are:

- 22 August 2011: creation by the Prime Minister, Head of Government of the Country Team charged with the implementation of the CAADP;
- 13/10/2011: Letter of government engagement with NEPAD;
- 12 July 2012: launch workshop in Yaoundé CAADP.
- April 2013: Launch of the project "Capacity Building of stakeholders CAADP process in Cameroon
- July 17, 2013: Signing of the Covenant in Yaoundé, chaired by the Prime Minister, Head of Government.

The implementation of this kind of support program, climate change and agriculture, provided in the CAADP framework will accelerate progress towards capacity building economic capacity of rural Cameroonian women in building resilience address the adverse impacts of climate change. The international community has recognized that there can be no sustainable development without the full participation of women. This program is to contribute to upgrade women's participation in the formulation, planning and implementation of environmental projects in Cameroon. Women have an important role to play in preserving the environment, natural resources and the promotion of sustainable development. Men and women by their socio-economic activities impact the environment differently. For example, the primary responsibilities to provide for the household burden on women and these largely determine consumer trends. And women have a fundamental role in the adoption of sustainable consumption of natural resources management and sustainable and environmentally sound generation role.

Of the 12 critical areas that require action by governments, the international community and civil society, the Programme of Action adopted by the Fourth World Conference on Women held in Beijing in 1995, emphasizes the need to actively involve women in all levels of decision-making concerning the environment and to integrate a gender perspective into all policies for sustainable development.

In some parts of the country life of the rural population depends largely on natural resources. Environmental degradation mainly affects the most vulnerable and those living in close dependence on the environment. Therefore, it is important to understand the gender disparities in the field of natural resource management, the responsibility of the environmental degradation and participation in decision-making on this issue.

Risks to the environmental degradation affect the quality of life and workload with different effects for men and women. Women are the most affected by the depletion of natural resources. In rural areas they are responsible for the daily use and management of natural resources. They also attend to the needs of the family with food crops, collecting forest products, fetching wood and water. Rampant deforestation and the drying up of water sources lead women to travel distances greater and greater, forcing them to spend a lot more time and more energy to produce and find the necessary food. Their workload is increased tenfold and their margin of spare time significantly reduced. Devote to income-generating activities becomes problematic.

Currently, there is a growing recognition of the need to strengthen the capacity of women to encourage their participation in decision-making. It is therefore important for them to have easier access to information and environmental education.

The Government's strategy in the field of natural resource management is to organize and promote the initiatives of individuals, associations, partners, civil society, etc. ... for a sound and sustainable development environment. It is to implement actions for environmental management of rural activities, management of biodiversity and resource recovery and reforestation and the development of forest plantations.

### **Ladies and gentlemen,**

These works are an extension of the multifaceted actions of empowerment that leads the Government of Cameroon to improve their socio-economic situation.

The government recognizes the adverse effects of climate change on the lives of men and women and it is implementing several projects and programs.

We mention among others:

- The project "one woman, one tree "One "family tree" fruit of the partnership between the Ministry of Women's Empowerment and the Family, and the Network of Parliamentarians of Central Africa on climate change;

- The Green Sahel project, where women lead the activities of nurseries;
- The conservation project and integrated and participatory ecosystem management of mangroves in Cameroon;
- The program of integrated and comprehensive climate change adaptation approaches.

**Dear participants,**

You have been invited to an important step in this program, to contribute to the consideration of the interests of men and women in the challenges posed by climate change. You are not ignoring the worst the country has experienced flooding with it, then by drought; made available your minds that this program helps us to forget these difficult times.

**Dear Organizers,  
Dear participants,  
Ladies and gentlemen,**

I cannot conclude my remarks without stressing once more the interest the Cameroon Head of State, His Excellency Paul Biya, attaches to the advancement of Women and Gender and the increased contribution of Women sustainable development for the emergence of our country in 2035. Wishing you every success in your work, I do not doubt for a moment that they contribute to better equip women in the fight against the effects of climate change. It is on this note of hope that, I declare open the National Programming workshop on Gender, Climate Change and Agricultural Support Programme.

Long live the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD);  
Long live international cooperation;  
Long live Cameroon and our illustrious Leader HE Paul Biya,  
President and Head of State.

Thank you for your kind attention.

## ANNEX II: WORKSHOP PROGRAMME

Time	Program Description	Responsible
<b>TUESDAY 22/07/2014</b>		
<b>8:30-9:00</b>	Registration	MINPROFF & ARG
<b>Opening Session – Chair person</b>		
<b>9:00-9:10</b>	Welcome Address	Mme Motto Francesca (MINPROFF)
<b>9:10-9:20</b>	Remarks and introduction of the Workshop	Mme Estherine Fotabong, Director, Programme Implementation and Coordination, NEPAD Agency
<b>9:20-9:30</b>	GCCASP An Overview	NEPAD Agency, Ms. Edna Kalima
<b>9:30-9:40</b>	Opening Remarks	H.E. Prof Marie Therese Obama, Minister for Women's Empowerment and Family
<b>9:40-10:10</b>	Coffee Break/ Group Photographs	Organizers
<b>Key Plenary Session Presentations – Moderator-Dr Niger-Thomas Margeret</b>		
<b>10:10-11:50</b>	Institutional Arrangement for GCCASP Implementation	NEPAD Agency, Ms. Edna Kalima
<b>11:50-12:30</b>	An Overview of Country GCCASP	Dr Helen Namondo Fontebo
<b>12:30-13:00</b>	An overview of ongoing Programme and projects and lessons Learnt	Mr Mamadou Joseph, (Sub Director Department of Economic Empowerment of The Woman)
<b>13:30-14:10</b>	Reflection on the Presentations	Participants
<b>14:10-15:10</b>	Lunch Break	Organiser
<b>15:10-15:30</b>	Empowering rural women to cope with the effect of CC in the South West Region.	Mme Moffah nee Luma Lyengu Juditha (Regional Delegate MINPROFF South West)
<b>15:30-16:00</b>	Coffee Break	Organiser
<b>16:00-17:00</b>	Reflection on the Presentations	Participants
<b>WEDNESDAY 23/07/2014</b>		
<b>8:30-9:15</b>	Recap of Day one	Rapporteur
<b>9:15-9:20</b>	Guidance on Group formation and discussions	Solomon Kebede, GeoSAS
<b>9:20:30-10:00</b>	Group Discussion on Priority Interventions and Institutional	Participants

	Arrangement	
<b>10:00-10:30</b>	Coffee Break	Organizer
<b>10:30-12:30</b>	Continued Group Discussion and Group Report Preparation	Groups
<b>12:30-13:30</b>	Lunch Break	Organizer
<b>13:30-14:10</b>	Group Report Presentation and Discussion	Groups Rapporteurs
<b>14:10-15:40</b>	Plenary Reflection on Group Presentations	Participants
<b>14:40-16:00</b>	Coffee Break	
<b>16:00-16:15</b>	Summary and Recommendations	Rapporteurs
<b>16:15-16:30</b>	Closing Remark	MINPROFF /NEPAD Agency Representatives
<b>THURSDAY 24/07/2014</b>		
<b>8:30-10:15</b>	Round Table Discussion NEPAD, GeoSAS and ARG	MINPROFF

**ANNEX III: LIST OF PARTICIPANTS.**

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