

Communique/Declaration

The 1st AFRICA CLIMATE SMART AGRICULTURE (CSA) ALLIANCE FORUM

FOSTERING ALIGNMENT AND HARMONISATION IN THE CSA EFFORTS IN AFRICA 13-15 May 2015, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

Preamble

We, the participants at the Forum that served as the launch of the Africa Climate Smart Agriculture (CSA) Alliance, all of whom are working in the area of agriculture and climate change and dedicated to the goal of 25 million farm households practicing CSA by 2025 (CSA 25x25 vision), gathered in Addis Ababa from 13-15 May 2015:

Recalling the decisions of the African Union Heads of State and Government at the 23rd Ordinary Session, June 2014 in Malabo, Equatorial Guinea, including:

- i. The Malabo Declaration on Accelerated Agricultural Growth and Transformation for Shared Prosperity and Improved Livelihoods with firm resolve and commitment to enhancing Resilience of Livelihoods and Production Systems to Climate Variability and Other Related Risks and at the same time endorsing the African Union Vision 25 x 25; and
- ii. The Decision on the High Level Work Programme on Climate Change Action (WPCCAA) in Africa and Preparation for the Global Climate Change Events in 2014, which appreciates the programmatic work of NEPAD Agency in mainstreaming climate change into the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP) national investment plans and requests technical and coordination support to Member States.
- iii. Decision on the Report of the Heads of State and Government Orientation Committee (HSGOC) which requested mainstreaming of climate change into the CAADP national investment Plans and design climate smart agriculture investment programmes.

Understanding that the 25 x 25 Vision will be accomplished within the context of CAADP and the overarching AU-NEPAD Framework on Agriculture-Climate change; and that 2015 has been declared as the Africa Union's year of Women Empowerment and Development, recognize the importance of women smallholder farmers.

Recognize the challenges and opportunities that climate change and climate variability poses to African agriculture and the need for mechanisms to support member states and farmers to respond.

The participants in the 1st Africa CSA Alliance Forum:

- a) Commend the NEPAD Agency and the African Union Commission for convening the 1st Africa CSA Alliance Forum as an open stakeholder driven platform to share and learn.
- b) Recognize the various existing CSA initiatives and programmes already working across sectors, at multiple scales, and using a variety of approaches, that are already contributing towards Vision 25 by 25.
- c) Commend the NEPAD partnership with International NGOs that have aligned with the African CSA Agenda
- d) Recognize the need for a consolidated knowledge base on CSA technologies, practices, and initiatives
- e) Develop mechanisms for sharing and exchanging information with the Alliance on the discussions on agriculture among the Africa Group of Negotiators and in the UNFCCC.

- f) Welcome the Africa CSA Alliance Forum as an open platform to share and learn from each other and collectively examine CSA scaling up opportunities and appreciate the unique value the forum will bring to the efforts to advance CSA in Africa
- g) Also welcome The Forum as a mechanism to foster coherence alignment and harmonisation within and across the various levels and constituencies including governments, Regional Economic Communities, private sector, civil society, research institutions, and other non-state players

We now jointly express our commitment to the principles of:

- a) Alignment and coherence across sectors, institutions, and inter-governmental collaboration, including information sharing at all levels.
- b) Country led and owned process, recognizing the indispensable role and responsibilities of the country level players and stakeholders including governments, farmers, civil society and private sector.
- c) Promote regional approaches, including alliances and programs for scaling up CSA where feasible in each Regional Economic Community.
- d) Strong linkages and partnerships to promote an integrated approach to addressing the challenges posed by climate change.

Hereby collectively commit to a call for action:

- a) Convene the Africa CSA Alliance Forum as a regular event with a focus on facilitating country experiences and lessons in the efforts to accelerate sustainable CSA up-take.
- b) Request that NEPAD, as the secretariat of the Alliance, lead efforts through a consultative process, to further develop the CSA Practical Guide and Toolbox to support country approaches the design of CSA programmes including strengthening the capacity to implement and monitoring progress towards the 25x25 vision.
- c) Promote the financing of CSA at different levels and explore mechanisms for securing needed funds from both public (national and development partners) and private sources including international climate financing
- d) Mainstream gender and youth considerations into new and existing CSA activities across the continent.
- e) Develop mechanisms for Alliance members to track progress on CSA

Done on 14th of May 2015

Addis Ababa, Ethiopia