



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

Pre-Implementation Phase of (GCCASP) –
REC Level/Development Partners Awareness
Raising and Round Table Meeting Lusaka,
Zambia, September 2015

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Pre-Implementation Phase of (GCCASP) – REC Level Development Partners Awareness Raising and Round Table Meeting



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Lusaka, Zambia, 08-09 September 2015**



GENDER CLIMATE CHANGE AND AGRICULTURE SUPPORT PROGRAMME (GCCASP)-EMPOWERING SMALL HOLDER FARMERS TO COPE WITH THE ADVERSE EFFECTS OF CLIMATE CHANGE AND VARIABILITY

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ACRONYMS

AMCEN	African Ministerial Conference on Environment
AU	Africa Union
AUC	Africa Union Commission
CAADP	Comprehensive African Agriculture Development Programme
CCAFS	Change, Agriculture and Food Security
CGIAR	Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research
COMESA	Common Market for East and Southern Africa
CSA	Climate Smart Agriculture
CSO	Civil Society Organizations
EAC	East African Community
ECCAS	Economic Community of Central African States
ECCAS	Economic Community of Central African States
ECOWAS	Economic Community of West African States
EU	European Union
GCCASP	Gender Climate Change Agriculture Support Programme
GIZ	German Development Cooperation
ICPD	International Conference on Population and Development
IGAD	Intergovernmental Authority on Development
IPCC	Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change
IPCC	Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change
MDGs	Millennium Development Goals
MOU	Memorandum of Understanding
NEPAD	New Partnership for African Development
NORAD	Norwegian Development Agency
NPCA	NEPAD Planning and Coordinating Agency
NSA	Non-State Actors
PACJA	Pan African Climate Justice Alliance
PIU	Project Implementation Unit
PPs	Partnership Platforms
RECs	Regional Economic Communities
SADC	Southern African Development Community
UNDAF	United Nations Development Assistant Framework
UNFCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change

1. BACKGROUND AND RATIONALE

There is compelling evidence that climate change is happening and is having negative impacts on societies, economies and environments. Africa, in particular is greatly affected as exposures and vulnerabilities are increasingly high while capacities to respond are very low. Smallholder agriculture is the mainstay of most African countries and it is the sector most vulnerable to climate change. The agriculture sector in Africa is dominated by women farmers who account for over 80% of the continent's food production. Women and youth are highly vulnerable and are most likely to be disproportionately impacted by the adverse effects of climate change. Various reports including those of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) show that climate change will affect agriculture and food security, water, energy, health and also bring about frequent and severe climatic shocks that will disproportionately affect women because of their limited adaptive capacity and high levels of vulnerability.

Recognizing the gender dimension of climate change impacts on African agriculture, the NEPAD Planning and Coordinating Agency (NPCA) with financial support from the Norwegian Government designed a five-year programme known as 'Gender Climate Change and Agriculture Support Programme (GCCASP)'. The goal of the GCCASP is to achieve an effective and equitable participation of African women smallholder farmers, youth and other vulnerable groups in climate-smart agricultural practices. Five countries including Cameroon, Ethiopia, Malawi, Niger and Rwanda participated in the development phase of this programme. Consultations were also conducted with the Regional Economic Communities (RECs) including ECOWAS, ECCAS, COMESA, SADC, and IGAD.

In order to address the observed gaps, four key intervention areas were identified in the countries' GCCASP Programme Document; (i) Closing institutional gaps (ii) Capacity building of women smallholder farmers (iii) Creation and Strengthening of Women Platforms and (iv) investments in up-scaling of successful and innovative practices. These activities are also linked to the African Climate Smart Agriculture Alliance and the 25x25 vision that should reach more than 50% female farmers.

Implementation Modality of GCCASP

The programme is designed to be implemented initially in five countries, representing five of the eight Regional Economic Communities recognized by the African Union Commission, but subsequently to be scaled up from year three through the enrolment of new countries to as many African countries as future resource mobilization may permit.

Implementation of the Programme will involve execution of specific but inter-related activities at three levels: NEPAD Agency, REC and national levels. NEPAD Agency is the executing agency and will serve as the Secretariat of the Programme and ensure appropriate policy engagement at the highest level.

The RECs will play important roles in the implementation of the Programme including:

- Review REC level policies so as to mainstream gender issues into relevant programmes
- Development of tools such as monitoring and evaluation frameworks for climate change related projects, and gender and climate change mainstreaming into member states' policy and strategy documents.
- Mobilize additional resources and upscale the Programme into other member states.
- The harmonization of training material and development of manuals to be used in providing training at the national level. For instance, guidelines for mainstreaming gender in agriculture, climate change and environment policies.
- Organizing and hosting information sharing and advocacy workshops.

At the national level, specific activities include:

- Identifying implementation coordinating Ministry or agencies
- Establishment of Partnership Platforms (PPs) for exchange of ideas, information and best practices for enhanced partnership, ensuring transparency and accountability for enhanced implementation of the GCCASP
- Organize implementation arrangements including the establishment of a Project Management Unit within the selected host government institution
- Develop resource mobilization strategy by looking at all available funding mechanisms at the national and international levels.

In terms of the implementation of the Programme, the GCCASP has so far undergone the design or development Phase and the inception phase. Currently, the programme is on pre-implementation phase where focus is on resource mobilization activities at all levels. In this regard, the NEPAD Agency secured Funding from NORAD to support the pre-implementation phase on multilateral and domestic resource mobilization and putting in place the coordination mechanisms of the programme.

Financing the GCCASP

The GCCASP has so far been developed with funds and technical support from NORAD. During the Programme development phase while undertaking extensive consultations at the national, REC and continental levels, it has become evident that there are various government programmes as well as Development Partner supported projects that are contributing to Gender, Climate Change and Agriculture issues. Harmonization of such programmes would increase the impact of the interventions by ensuring efficient use of the available resources and avoiding duplication in some cases.

To ensure accountability and transparency appropriate resource mobilization as well as financial management of the resources will need to be established. NEPAD has setup a Trust Pool Fund for the funds that are mobilized at NEPAD level. These funds will be used to beef up what is left at country level.

A key success factor in the implementation of GCCASP will be the ability to align the programme with government led priorities and effective use of resources. RECs will be involved in policy advocacy by coordinating donors, forging development partnerships, and building fundraising activities. At national level, focus will be on resource mobilization activities through donor/partner meetings. Member states will

also ensure national coordination by establishing partnership platforms that are useful for knowledge and experience sharing of best practices. It is in against the above backdrop that the REC Level meeting of the GCCASP was organized.

2. OBJECTIVES OF THE MEETING

The main objective of the REC level meeting was to increase awareness of the GCCASP to development partners, RECs and other stakeholders and to discuss their involvement in the programme.

Specifically, the objectives of the meetings were:

- Increase awareness of the GCCASP by Development Partners and other stakeholders
- Update Participants on the status of the programme at all levels
- Enhance partnerships and support of the GCCASP by various stakeholder
- Discuss and agree on partnership arrangements in implementing the GCCASP at REC level

3. MEETING ORGANIZATION

The Meeting was scheduled for two days. The first day was dedicated for the creation of awareness about the programme, while most of the second day was devoted for partnership. The meeting was hosted by one of participating RECs, Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA), whereas invitation letters were sent by the NEPAD Agency.

Methodologically, the workshop was conceived based on a well thought concept note that provided background, established its rationale and set clear objectives. The meeting used a mix of oral descriptive overviews, round table discussion, power point presentations on existing projects or programmes and possible areas of collaboration related to GCCASP; plenary discussions recap and wrap up sessions. Welcoming and introductory speeches and closing remarks were also part of the meeting proceedings. Both English and French languages were used as medium of communication throughout the meeting.

The Meeting took place in Lusaka, Zambia, at Intercontinental Hotel from 8th to 9th of September 2015.

4. PARTICIPANTS OF THE MEETING

The REC level meeting brought together 32 participants drawn from Development Partners those who support Agriculture, Gender and Climate Change issues and regional approach to Development; as well as RECs, including COMESA, ECCAS and ECOWAS; GCCASP implementing countries namely, Cameroon, Ethiopia, Malawi and Niger. In addition, invited participants from non-pilot countries, namely, Mauritius Uganda and Zambia, as well as representatives of civil society and journalists were attending the meeting.

5. OUTCOMES OF THE MEETING

The meeting successfully achieved its objectives, including the following outcomes:

- Awareness was created about the GCCASP among RECs, Development Partners and other stakeholders
- Areas of future collaboration were identified and consensus was reached for further deepening of the partnerships to support the implementation of the programme in various ways
- Recommendations and proposals were made for collaborative actions among and between RECs, participating countries, NEPAD and other stakeholders

SESSION I: OPENING SESSION –MODERATED BY MS. EDNA KALIMA

6. OPENING SESSION

This session was moderated by Ms. Edna Kalima of NEPAD Agency. Ms. Kalima welcomed all participants to a two day meeting, expressed her appreciation for all support made available by the government of Zambia; and invited a representative of the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Gender and Child Development of Zambia to make a welcoming address.

6.1. Welcome Address of Permanent Secretary of Ministry of Gender and Child Development of Zambia

The welcome Address was conveyed by the representative of Permanent Secretary (PS) of the Ministry of Gender and Child Development, Mr. Victor Mbumwae- the Directory of Planning and implementation of the Ministry of Gender and Child Development (MGCD) of the Republic of Zambia. He expressed his gratitude in welcoming all participants to Zambia and conveyed the wishes and messages of the PS, Ms Daisy Nkhata Ngambi to the success of the meeting.

In conveying the PS's welcoming address, Mr. Victor Mbumwae noted the following:

- Climate change, agriculture and gender are critically important issues of concern for the MGCD, as indicated in the revised national gender policy of 2014. The vision of government is to achieve full participation of women and men in the development process at all levels in order to ensure sustainable development and attain equity and equality between sexes.



Mr. Victor

- The government is therefore committed to putting in place specific measures across the agricultural sector so that women and men participate and equally benefit from the sector.
- Agriculture plays an important role to the economy especially in reducing poverty amongst the poor citizens who are mostly women and children.
- He pin-pointed that despite the statistical data proving that women small scale farmers in Zambia account for the production of more than 60% of the food consumed at household level, government efforts to ensure a 50/50 equity between male and female has not yet been met and requires a lot of efforts.
- MGCD is committed to ensuring that all important government programmes take into consideration the needs of women and men at all levels.
- He concluded his speech by wishing the meeting fruitful deliberations.

6.2. Key Note Remarks by NEPAD Representative

Mr. Mohamed Abdisalam Head of Programme Implementation at the NEPAD Agency:



MR. MOHAMED ABDISALAM

- Extended the greeting of Dr. Ibrahim Assane Mayaki, Chief Executive Officer of NEPAD Agency and Mrs. Estherine Lisinge-Fotabong, Director of Programme Implementation and Coordination Directorate.
- Indicated four institutional dimensions of the programme, which include national, regional, continental and global level dimensions.
- Further pointed out that the programme is multi-sectoral, multidisciplinary and simultaneously addresses different dimensions of developmental constraints that requires multi-stakeholders and institutional participation. He said that evidence indicates that the continent loses around 70 billion USD, which is around 4.5 % of GDP of Africa because of lack of gender mainstreaming or gender gap.
- Further elaborated the linkage of the programme with the other continental initiatives such as vision 25X25, which aims to reach at least 25 million small scale farmers. Similarly, the continental 2063 initiative major focuses are gender, youth and agriculture, so he emphasized that this programme is not implemented in isolation.
 - Highlighted the crucial role of RECs in the GCCASP. RECs will play an important role in mobilizing resources and we need to use RECs as a platform to share resources and experiences.

6.3. Remarks by the Representative of the Secretary General for COMESA

Ms. Mekia Mohamed Redi – Representative of COMESA, made remarks on behalf of the Secretary General for COMESA. In her remarks, she;

- Noted that the 18th Conference of the Parties to the UNFCCC adopted a decision for “Promoting gender balance and improving the participation of women in UNFCCC negotiations and in the representation of Parties in bodies established pursuant to the Convention or the Kyoto Protocol,” and further highlighted similar continental initiatives aimed at improving the role of women in agriculture.
- Underscored that the severity of the effects of climate change and variability continues to negatively affect performance of critical economic sectors of Africa and affecting progress towards poverty reduction. She further said that climate change is particularly affecting resource-poor households who are unable to invest in or take advantage of alternative income sources or new agricultural strategies.
- Mentioned various activities, including organizing meetings, roundtables, capacity building and trainings undertaken by COMESA related to gender, climate change and agriculture.



Emphasized the vision of the GCCASP earmarked to achieve an effective and more equitable participation of African women smallholder farmers, youth and other vulnerable groups also strongly corresponds to the objectives of sustainable development goals.

Concluded that it is only through increased and concerted efforts that we can deliver a programmes that will enable our partner/member states and region to meet the challenges and exploit the opportunities that climate change presents, by supporting member states in promoting participation of women and youth towards inclusive sustainable development.

6.4. Remarks by Representative Counselor (Governance) of Royal Norwegian Embassy to Zambia

Ms. Kari Thorsen, NORAD- Representative, Counsellor (Governance) of Royal Norwegian Embassy to Zambia:

- Pointed out that Gender, climate change and agriculture are high priorities of Norway, Norway is thus proud to have supported NEPAD in the GCCASP development process.
- Expressed her appreciation of high degree of participation at all levels. Noted that the program responds well to the new Sustainable Development Goals soon to be adopted – notably to end hunger, achieve food security, improve nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture, and to combat climate change and its impacts.
- Called on for the RECs commitment in taking a leading role in following-up actions and mobilizing resources, and countries for further commitment to action through the strengthening of national coordination and implementation arrangements and domestic resource mobilization.



MS. KARI THORSEN

6.5. Remarks by General Manager of GeoSAS Consulting Plc.



**MR. SITOTAW
BIRHANU**

Mr. Sitotaw Birhanu, General Manager of GeoSAS expressed his appreciation for the opportunity given to render technical support to this critical and timely initiative. In his remarks, he;

- Briefed the participants on the process and approach employed in the programme development phases, which goes from assessment to inception/design and now to pre-implementation phase, which is focusing on resources mobilization.
- Explained on the participatory nature of the GCCASP and that the beneficiaries, small holder women farmers in participating countries, government agencies and civil societies' representative were involved throughout the programme development.
- Noted the critical role of sectoral ministries specifically, agriculture, natural resources and environment and cooperative agencies and other non-state actors and development partners.
- Pointed out that a number of actors responsible for the implementation of specific activities/interventions would mean GCCASP requires a special coordination effort to avoid duplication and enhance collaboration among partners.
- Thanked NEPAD and participating host institutions in the countries for the support given throughout undertaking the assignment.

7. MAJOR PRESENTATIONS

This Session was moderated by Dr. Ayalneh Bogale, representative of AUC/GIZ. The following are the summaries of key presentations.

7.1 Ms. Edna Kalima from NEPAD -GCCASP - An Overview for awareness of the programme

Ms. Kalima started her presentation by indicating that women produce between 60 to 80% of food, also do a lot of household chores and are facing disproportional threats by climate change and variability. The NEPAD Agency in recognition of these threats that small holder women farmers are facing designed a five year programme - Gender Climate Change Agriculture Support Programme (GCCASP) with financial support from NORAD. The major purpose of the GCCASP is to strengthen the capacity of African women smallholder farmers.

She revealed that the programme has undergone two phases, namely; design/development Phase – where data collection and consultations were conducted. This was culminated by identifying major challenges including, among others, access to land, credit, farm inputs, agricultural extension services, technologies and markets. Ms. Kalima then went on elaborating on the Inception Phase, which aimed at validating the findings of the assessments and soliciting ideas to design bankable programme and articulating appropriate implementation arrangements. Ms. Edna Kalima further highlighted main components of the Programme, and outlined the key role of RECs, including advocacy and information sharing, mobilization of resources, inventory of best practices and dissemination, and review and revision of REC level policies. Talking of the required budget, she indicated that the total amount of programme budget requirement is estimated at USD 83 Million for five years of implementation, out of which about USD 11 million is estimated for activities to be undertaken at RECs level.



Ms. EDNA KALIMA

She also reflected on key lessons learnt so far and went on explaining the main objective of the current phase, Pre-Implementation Phase (Bridging Phase). She pointed out that At NEPAD Level a number of partners are being approached and partner's working groups was established and negotiation is going on for resource mobilization. NEPAD also established Multilateral Trust Fund (MTF), as a trust fund managed by NEPAD. Noting on the present meeting, she said that the purpose of the REC Level Meeting is to increase awareness of the GCCASP to Development Partners, RECs and other stakeholders and to discuss their involvement in the programme. Ms. Kalima further explained the Pre-implementation/bridging Phase

by elaborating on approaches being used in resource mobilisation at Global, REC and National levels. Finally, she concluded her presentation by calling on all development partners to start sharing information and best practices, and provision of technical and financial resources to join force to turnaround the situation of the plight of our women farmers and ensure they move into the path of economic growth and development through the GCCASP as this was in line with 2015 being the African Union's Year of Women Empowerment and Development.

After the presentation some quick interventions were raised including the following:

- What are the works done so far with RECs?
- Is there a start up budget for participating countries and RECs for GCCASP implementation?
- How does this programme extend to other non-piloting member states?
- What is being done to ensure that women have access to climate smart technologies?

Key Responses:

Regarding the role of the RECs, they will play an important role in linking GCCASP to the regional development plans and also to find way to out scale or extend the programme to other members' states in their respective regions (RECs). This can be done by supporting and monitoring GCCASP participating member states and documenting the best practices to replicate in other member states. RECs involvement is mandatory and the RECs need to work with AU Member States and cover the continent. We also give high importance to other countries such as Mauritius, Seychelles and Madagascar, which are high impact countries because of their vulnerability. With regard to budget, we have two issues, one is we do not have enough resources to cover the whole continent at the same time, hence domestic resources mobilization is important. Secondly, NEPAD would like to work on pilot and step by step basis to learn more about the impact of this programme for eventual outreach in all African countries.

In terms of access to technologies, it was said that we need financial support to access climate smart agricultural technologies required to improve productivity and build climate resilience capacity of vulnerable smallholder women farmers. These elements are well addressed within the intervention areas of GCCASP under the capacity building component. Regarding availing start up budget for the programme implementation, it was pointed out that the countries are expected to mobilize resources domestically, for the programme implementation while NEPAD will pursue its fund soliciting effort at global level. Funds generated through NPCA will be made available to countries by filling the gap between what is mobilized domestically and total budget requirement for country level GCCASP implementation.

7.2 Presentations by RECs (COMESA, ECOWAS and ECCAS)

Brief presentations were made by representatives of COMESA, ECOWAS and ECCAS; Ms. Maria Phiri, Ms. Bolanle Akandea and Ms. Isabelle Boukinda Nzaou, respectively. Their presentations were focused on key activities they are undertaking related to gender, agriculture and climate change.



Ms. Maria Phiri- COMESA, Ms. Bolanle Akandea- ECOWAS, Ms. Isabelle Boukinda- ECCAS

The key points of the REC presentations are outlined hereunder:

- It was pointed out that the RECs are working on the issues of gender, climate change agriculture and environment at regional, member states and AU levels. Accordingly, the representatives outlined the following as major RECs actions related to Climate Change, Agriculture and Gender:
 - Development of REC and member state levels agricultural policies and regional agricultural investment programs, which are designed to implement the policy,
 - RECs are working to ensure that gender issues are reflected in regional and member states agricultural plans. The Agricultural investment programmes have goals of promotion of strategic products conducive to food security, promotion of global environment conducive to regional environment and reduction of vulnerability and promotion of peoples' sustainable access to food,
 - Support in mobilizing resources to support Member States for the development of their national agricultural investment plans and programmes and also ensuring that women issues are mainstreamed in these plans,
 - Involved in the design of various strategic programmes for reduction of vulnerability and adaptation to climate change in collaboration with partners. In the development of the strategic programmes Gender Departments at RECs work towards ensuring that women and youth issues are addressed.
 - In collaboration with FAO, Some RECs are currently developing Gender responsive national and regional agricultural investment plans to meet the goal of zero hunger. The goal of the plan is to actualize agricultural transformation and attain growth that truly benefits and empowers women farmers and youth in line with the Malabo Declaration, CADDP, Africa agenda 2063,
 - Facilitate the implementation of "Supplementary acts" which is recently endorsed by Heads of States which aims at ensuring equality of men and women to sustainable development. This act covers environment, gender, climate change, water and sanitation,

agriculture, sustainable access to land and water, women participation in decision making and protection against impact of climate change,

- Providing policy guidance and participating and supporting Africa Group of Negotiators (AGN) by provision of submissions for UNFCCC negotiation on issues related to gender and climate change agendas,
- Work towards ensuring the mainstreaming of climate change and gender across programmes, policies and activities within the RECs
- Assisting member countries in proposal preparation on preparedness on accessing available climate finance from UN financing structure,
- Providing training for small scale farmers and youth in collaboration with partners,
- Assist Member States in the development of gender responsive CSA investment plans/programmes,
- Support the participation of member states at regional and international fora
- At the level of AMCEN strongly support African position on environment which will be reinforced within African Union.
- Work very closely with Africa Climate Policy Centre (AU-ACPC) which supports and consolidates effort on climate change and development in the region. Also work with AU-ACPC in supporting the African working group on Climate change, developing country program and preparation of investment plan on CSA,
- Developed policy guidance on gender, agriculture and environment and aspects of African position on gender and agriculture and African strategy to address climate change to mainstream gender,
- Facilitate development of policy in the Member States by assisting the inculcation and mainstreaming of gender concerns and in realizing their global and continental commitments,
- Work in awareness creation about gender and climate change work with private sector; CSOs, Academia, Media, etc.
- Involved in monitoring and evaluation of different programmes,

ECCAS is working on MOU for working with NEPAD,

7.3 Country briefs on GCCASP status of GCCASP (Cameroon, Ethiopia, Malawi, Niger)



Representatives of GCCASP participating countries drawn from Cameroon, Ethiopia, Malawi, and Niger gave an overview and updates of their respective country's GCCASP focusing on:

i. An overview of the programme

- **Goal:** aims at strengthening the adaptive capacity of smallholder women farmers and other vulnerable groups
- **Target and Budget:**

Countries	No. of Direct Beneficiaries	Geographic coverage	Estimated Budget (USD)
Cameroon	36,000 direct beneficiaries	Five administrative regions of the country	13,216,212
Ethiopia	36,000 direct beneficiaries	Six Regional States of the country.	14,113,835
Malawi	50,000 beneficiaries	Six pilot districts in the country	13,298,281
Niger	36,000 direct beneficiaries	Five administrative regions of the country	13, 123,122

- **Sub-programms:** The major GCCASP sub programmes are categorized into four. These are; closing policy and institutional gaps, capacity building of smallholder women farmers, creation and strengthening of women-led platforms and up scaling of innovative and best practices.

ii. Key undertakings

Key activities carried out so far by the GCCASP participating countries during Pre-implementation phase include:

▪ INSTITUTIONAL ARRANGEMENT:

Host institutions, responsible for Gender (women empowerment) are designated for coordination of the National GCCASP implementation in all four countries, accordingly:

- Framework guide for institutional arrangement, that define the roles of various actors was prepared,
- Roles and structure of national GCCASP Steering (coordination) Committee were defined, members were identified and awaiting formalization of the GCCASP to be operational. It was said that such formalization will be effected upon the signing of an MOU between NEPAD and the governments of participating countries.
- Technical advisory committee roles and structures were defined, members identified among relevant institutions. However, there is still need to be formalized, based on the signing of the Protocol of Understanding between the government and NEPAD and subsequent launching of the programme and work agreements with host institutions.
- Staffing proposal for Program Implementation Unit for planning, management and coordination of GCCASP activities in all participating countries was done. However, the Units have not been formalized and made operational.
- Partners roundtable meeting was conducted in Cameroon, Malawi, Cameroon and Niger and National partnership Platforms established. During the country consultation, Rwanda stated to use the existing Gender Cluster Forum to serve as a Platform. The Development Partner Round Table Meeting Communique” or “A Call for Action” was made, in which the development partners expressed their commitments to provide both technical/financial support in GCCASP implementation. In Ethiopia, it was reported that this process is scheduled to be undertaken in the near future for which the arrangement is underway.

lil) Resources mobilization and related activities

- Country level resources mobilization strategy was prepared,
- Awareness creation activity about the GCCASP was conducted during the workshop and Programme documents were sent to a number of development partners in the respective GCCASP participating countries.
- Mini survey for development partners mapping was conducted and report produced- In Ethiopia attempt was initiated to secure technical and financial support from Climdev Special Fund (CDSF) of AfDB, a proposal is submitted to this effect and negotiation is being underway.
- Effort was made to include GCCASP in the budgetary allocation of 2016 financial year of Cameroon, in the national investment plan and in ensuring financial allocation from national budget.
- The Ethiopian government incorporated issues related to climate and women empowerment in its 2nd Growth and Transformational Plan [GTP].

- In Malawi, a bank account for GCCASP was opened at First Merchant Bank (FMB) with a hope that some prior financial commitment from concerned parties would come through. In terms of technical support some partners, such as UN Women have shown willingness to give support for capacity building activities. In addition, GCCASP country Plan Matrix for the first year was developed for submission to NEPAD Agency. Furthermore, the Ministry is pursuing the inclusion of the programming in the National Investment Plan and ensuring financial allocation from national budget.

i. KEY EXPECTATIONS OF THE GCCASP PARTICIPATING COUNTRIES FROM REC LEVEL ENGAGEMENT

The following are identified as a key expectations from RECs for enhanced implementation of the GCCASP.

- Integrate GCCASP activities in their respective program,
- Work in promoting the GCCASP in garnering high level recognitions and political support among countries and Heads of States,
- Contribute in engaging some development partners in the sub regions to support this pilot program,
- Help in organizing some sub regional meetings for capacity building especially tailored smallholder women farmers in line with GCCASP,
- Arrange Regional forums/workshops for Training of Trainers (TOT), and exchange of best practices in the domain of gender, climate change, and climate smart agriculture, etc.
- Undertake inventory of gender responsive and climate smart agricultural best practices for up scaling and dissemination to pilot countries by arranging & facilitating experience sharing visit.
- Provide technical oversight and backstopping to the pilot countries
- Allocation of start-up budget /capital from NEPAD

ii. PROBLEMS ENCOUNTERED

The key problem identified and suggestions made were:

- Difficulty of mobilization of development partners in the absence of prior financial commitment from NEPAD
- The delay in having a MOU between NEPAD Agency and the host Ministry has led to the delays
- Slow progress in fund mobilization.

iii. THE WAY FORWARD

Regarding the way forward, it was suggested that:

- MOU should be signed as soon as possible between NEPAD and the concerned government bodies in the respective participating countries for commencement of the programme,
- Further engaging development partners and high level political champions and key ministries to create an enabling environment for the implementation of GCCASP,
- Make practical all the planned institutional arrangements to implement GCCASP, and
- Further ensure effective engagement of RECs

All in all the countries presentation revealed that they were somehow at similar level of efforts with few particularities in terms of efforts in resource mobilization.

7.4 Plenary Discussion



PARTIAL VIEW OF PLENARY SESSION

After the GCCASP participating countries presentations the following key issues, questions were raised and responses made.

- The very problem of small scale women is mostly accessing credit. This problem is associated with borrowers' request for high interest rate. In case of Cameroon what strategy have you planned to pursue to overcome this challenge?
- As it is highlighted by many participating country presenters, there was a mention of a need for having startup finance for the project. This project started in 2012 but so many years have elapsed before the commencement. In addition, many of the approached partners would like to know the amount available fund so far in order for them to commit earmarked budget to the financial basket.
- The Ugandan participant indicated that the mandate of dealing with climate change is housed with the Ministry of Water and Environment. He further noted that Gender Desk officer is responsible to work on gender mainstreaming. He asked the merit of hosting GCCASP institutional arrangement, where programme of such nature that deals with climate change is housed under the Ministry of Gender in the participating countries?
- Even though NEPAD says that this programme is going to be implemented under CADDP overarching framework, some countries even did not make reference to it. How will it be possible to link GCCASP with CADDP?

Responses:

- Regarding overcoming high interest rates of borrowers in Cameroon, it was pointed out that the low capacity of women to access credit is actually a challenge. In Cameroon, there is money available at the Ministry, which will be used by the communities. It was said that the range of interest is between 12 and 25 % depending on the conditions of the community.
- As to the request on startup budget- It was pointed out that we need to act as fast as possible to mobilize resources to overcome the impending impacts of climate change. It was further emphasized that there is a lot of money going on in the areas of REDD+ and green climate finance. We need to look beyond this programme to mobilize resources for this programme and we need to maximize the resources.
- Regarding housing GCCASP under Gender Ministry, it was said that in Malawi and other participating countries we have also a separate Ministry dealing with climate change. In the GCCASP, the arrangements are made in such a way that the Ministry of Gender will be responsible for overall coordination while the actual tasks related to climate change and agriculture will be executed by concerned Ministries. Thus, activities that relates to climate change and agriculture will go to the respective Ministries. The Gender Ministry will also work in partnership with key sector institutions for maximum technical soundness and impacts of GCCASP among target groups. What is especial is now the gender Ministry will hold a financial leverage to ensure the respective sectors works towards benefiting the target vulnerable groups, women small holder farmers.

SESSION III. SECOND ROUND OF MAJOR PRESENTATION MODRATED BY MS. MARIA PHIRI OF COMESA.**7.1. An Overview and Institutional Aarangement, by Ms. Edna Kalima, NEPAD Agency**

Ms. Edna Kalima's presentation was focused on roles and responsibilities of NEPAD Agency, RECs and National level actors with active participation of key stakeholders in the respective participating countries, who look at issues on climate change, agriculture and gender. She briefed the participants about the planning process using Results Based Approach of Program Cycle Management Scheme, whereby she explained how the initiation, planning, and programme development was being undertaken with the central role of key stakeholders participation.

Ms. Kalima further elaborated that at the continental level, good governance, African ownership and partnership were the key principles to be adhered to in the implementation of the programme. She also explained the governance arrangement at the continental level. At NEPAD level advocacy, resource mobilization, administration of pool fund, advocacy and monitoring of key results and report to Heads of States was outlined as the key functions of NEPAD.

At national level through the PIU, the designated host institutions will coordinate the programme. In addition, countries are responsible for domestic resource mobilization, monitoring of key results, advocate the GCCASP through the Partnership Platform.

On the other hand, Ms. Edna Kalima indicated that the RECs have a role to align GCCASP with their respective regional investment plans, advocacy and mobilizing resources, as well as up scaling this programme among their respective regional non GCCASP member states. They will also play critical role in monitoring of key results of GCCASP and come up with regional monitoring framework, develop tools like gender mainstreaming guidelines and manuals for enhanced implementation of the GCCASP. Ms. Kalima further underscored that the RECs will be responsible to serve as a regional platform for exchange of experience and information about programme and organize study tour at regional level, establishing regional center of excellence for training and incubating best practices.

QUESTION and COMMENTS:

- In many of multilateral and international organizations funding, civil society groups are represented in different forms such as by being a member of a steering committee or an observer (or instance in Climdev Special Fund (CDSF) of AfDB). Civil Society groups are also instrumental in playing advocacy role of the many programmes. In the same line, the need for active involvement of civil societies in the three governance arrangements of CGGASP namely, advisory committee, board and platforms is recommended as an immediate action to be taken than bringing them at a later stage.
- It was asked that given the critical role of RECs, what is the strategy RECs put in place to work with countries in order to facilitate and support the implementation of GCCASP including in the current pre-implementation phase?

Responses/ reflections:

- We (NEPAD) do not bring civil societies as observer, but as active and equal partners in all NEPAD's work. We recognize their importance and ensure their representation because they have a lot of information; similarly it was underscored that we welcome the participation of private sector.
- It was also emphasized that NEPAD Agency reports to Heads of States. They are ambitious to see more or all countries in Africa covered and benefitting from this programme, rather than being limited selected countries. As a result we want to accelerate this program in other countries; but this task can only be done by RECs, they are a multiplier of such initiatives.
- Regarding involvement of RECs, it was said that NEPAD Agency had not done much except involving them in the workshops held in the past. NEPAD will further work with RECs to articulate activities that will be undertaken with RECs by working hand in hand with RECs. With respect to the role or modality of engagement of RECs, the representatives of RECs said that:
 - In the presentation some roles such as advocacy and monitoring evaluation have been given to NEPAD, RECs and national level players, as this may lead to duplication and confusion, we need to come up with clear implementation modalities and that specify roles at different levels,
 - It was also stated that RECs are well placed to work directly with members' states and to bring the issues to the attention of Heads of States so that they implement their commitment regarding GCCASP. As a result, it was suggested that in order to avoid

confusion and duplication of efforts NEPAD is required to delegate to RECs the implementation and monitoring activities of GCCASP in their respective regions.

- As RECs we can also help in capacity building through provision of technical support for countries, in establishing regional knowledge forums, conducting assessment or some evidence based research,
- RECs will also play important role in resources mobilization, creation of linkage to international market, and
- Ensuring linking the GCCASP to priorities of the region and the countries and supportlinking to issues of sustainable development, creation of impacts and ensuring the sustainability of the benefits,

7.1.1. Reflections of Non-participating Countries

The representatives of non-participating countries indicated that some GCCASP related activities are part of national programme related to women empowerment. They informed the participants that they developed policy frameworks including mainstreaming of gender issues into agriculture and climate change related country initiatives.

The non-pilot countries also indicated that they took note of important GCCASP related experiences/lessons and expressed their wishes to engage the concerned Ministries when they returned to their countries. They also appreciated the approach that the Gender Ministry plays a role in coordinating such a multi-sectoral and multi stakeholder initiative. Finally, they expressed their desire to be part of the GCCASP and called upon NEPAD Agency and RECs to out scale the programme into their countries.

SESSION IV. THIRD ROUND OF MAJOR PRESENTATION MODERATED BY DR. NIGER THOMAS MARGARET

7.2. RECAP of Day One

The recap of day one was prepared by the rapporteurs of the workshop Mr. Sitotaw Berhanu and Mr.



Mr. Cornelius Magara

Solomon Kebede of GeoSAS Consulting Services Plc., and presented by Mr. Cornelius Magara, a representative from the Ministry of Gender, Uganda.

Mr. Magara captured the key messages of the opening session, which included welcome address by the representative of Permanent Secretary of the MGCD, Mr Victor Mbumwae;; key note speech and remarks by representatives of NEPAD and COMESA, NORAD and GeoSAS-Mr Mohamed Abdisalam, Ms. Mekia Mohamed Redi and Ms. Kari Thorsen and Mr. Sitotaw Birhanu, respectively. In addition, the recap also included summary of:

- An Overview about GCCASP a presentation by Ms. Edna Kamila, NEPAD Agency
- Presentations by RECs (COMESA, ECOWAS and ECCAS)- which focused on key undertakings related to Gender, Climate Change and Agriculture,
- Country briefs on GCCASP status (Cameroon, Ethiopia, Malawi, Niger)
- An overview and institutional arrangement for the implementation of REC Level GCCASP, by Ms. Edna Kalima, NEPAD Agency,
- Non pilot countries' reflections (Zambia, Mauritius and Uganda), and
- Key Issues/reflections of Plenary Discussions.

7.3. Partner's Presentations

The key partners who presented and shared their works related to GCCASP were UN Women, UNFPA, CGIR and PACJA. The following are the summaries of their presentations.

i. UN Women

The UN Women Regional Office for Eastern and Southern Africa's presentation was about its work on Gender and Climate Smart Agriculture, and it was presented by Dr. Asa Torkelsson, Economic Empowerment advisor. Dr. Torkelsson said that UN Women works primarily the global programme agenda to move in the direction of gender equality and women's empowerment; it also supports regional bodies and member countries.

The presentation provided information about the work of UN Women including:

- The upcoming MOU with COMESA and SADC, which focuses both on bridging policy and institutional gaps, in knowledge transfer and capacity building in integrating gender in climate change and environment agendas
- Regional study on Cost of the Gender Gap in Agriculture
- Preparation of policy/advocacy and technical briefs on gender and rural technologies on the need to reduce taxation on post-harvest technologies, on gender and renewable energy, gender and climate mainstreaming in development planning
- Support gender integration in climate change negotiations, including support on capacity building,
- Preparation of Documentaries on Climate Smart Agriculture, ICT.

With respect to works with countries, examples of UN Women work in Tanzania, South Africa, Mozambique and Kenya were presented. These works included:

- Provision of training to women in renewable energy with a view to tackle climate change under Women Light up Africa' initiatives;
- Hosting an exhibition and multi-stakeholder policy dialogues on the role of renewable energy technologies and innovations in improving women's lives;
- Making available data and information to guide planning, resource allocation and monitoring of gender equality commitments in relation to climate change adaptation.
- Strengthening capacity of women small holder farmers in climate smart and drought resilience agricultural approaches.

In terms of capacity building, at Regional level UN Women provides technical support; gender **and agribusiness** training; and carries out **Educational Initiative (with FAO and IFAD)**, which covers **topics such as** gender mainstreaming to address post-harvest losses, aflatoxin and access to land. It was also

indicated that UN Women was involved in the organization of forum on scaling-up of rural technology innovations.

ii. UNFPA

Ms. Chinwe Ogbanna, representative of UNFPA made a very brief presentation on what UNFPA does and its future areas of cooperation. Her presentation focused on an overarching goal of UNFPA stretched over 2014 to 2017, which is to achieve universal access to sexual and reproductive health, promote reproductive rights, reduce maternal mortality and accelerate progress on the ICPD agenda and MDG5, improve maternal health, target 5A&B (5A- reduce maternal mortality & 5B -universal access to reproductive health). She pointed out that UNFPA focuses on two groups, namely women and young including adolescents. As a factor of enabling this she pointed out population dynamics, gender equality and human rights.

Furthermore, Ms. Ogbanna explained the four specific focus areas of UNFPA, namely:

- Integrated Sexual Reproductive Health Service – this includes access to family planning, increasing access to reproductive health commodities, HIV & AIDS, maternal health including humanitarian setting.
- Adolescents and Youth – focusing on youth leadership, comprehensive sexual education (CSE), reaching marginalized adolescent girls, especially addressing issues of adolescent pregnancy and child marriage.

For two enabling issues UNFPA Focuses on:

- Gender Equality and Human right focusing on prevention of Gender based Violence and harmful practice
- Population Dynamics - look at evidence generation, analysis and use

She said that GCCASP is commendable in identifying key challenges of women such as limited access to land, credit, agricultural inputs and technologies, etc. However, Ms. Ogbanna underscored that the key prerequisite for smallholder women farmers' agricultural productivity is ensuring the health of a women. She said that if women are not healthy and exposed to various sexual and physical violence their contribution to the sector will really be limited. It is therefore compulsory to ensure women access to family planning and reproductive health to link their time, resources and energy to their economic empowerment. It is also equally important for women to be productive to get support and protection from gender based violence and harmful practices and have access to HIV/AIDS prevention and testing services.

Finally Ms. Chinwe Ogbanna pointed out that UNFPA will collaborate with the programme in capacity building efforts, because the health of women is critical for women to contribute to their own economic empowerment, their community's growth and country's development.

iii. CGIAR

The presenter, Mr James Kanyangi, started by introducing Climate Change, Agriculture and Food Security (CCAFS) as a research collaboration between the CGIAR and the global climate change community. CCAFS being a global research partnership on smallholder agriculture under climate change works on several thematic areas which aim to contribute to increase the incomes and well-being of millions of poor people dependent on rural livelihoods, contribute to a reduction in hunger, and contribute to climate change

mitigation by enhancing carbon storage and/or reducing greenhouse gas emissions. He pointed out that the three most relevant programmatic areas that would interface with GCCASP include long term adaptation - Climate and impact models future farming regions, low emission agriculture - Low-carbon development pathways, and climate risk management - Solutions for mitigation in smallholder systems.

With regard to global coverage, the presenter indicated that CCAFS works in five regions of the world including East and West Africa, South and Southeast Asia and Latin America. He then briefly introduced CGIARs work in the five regions and highlighted its research activities in East Africa. Here he said that CCAFS researches are conducted in the 6 sites namely; Kenya, Uganda Tanzania, and Ethiopia. He indicated most of the work in East Africa is in participatory action level. CCAFS's portfolio in East Africa constitutes aspects of Climate-smart agriculture climate information services and safety net, low emissions agriculture, policies and institutions. The outputs from this research are relevant to the wider region. Over 50 different research projects on a wide range of topics are underway, and around 120 partners are engaged. He revealed that most of the research outputs are accessible freely and are posted online at www.ccafs.cgiar.org from the websites. The outputs and results from our research is available for use in the form of publications including journal articles, policy briefs, climate smart agricultural practices and technologies briefs, reports, info notes and outcome cases.

The presenter also gave a brief overview on the outcome focused approach adopted in CCAFS' research process describing the pathways to defined impacts, outcome, the nature of project outputs and activities are to be designed to arrive at that desired outcome and particular impact.

Concerning the areas of collaboration he pointed out that there are three areas to work together with the objective of achieving CCAFS development which are also central areas of GCCASP interventions as follows.

- I. Gender-equitable control of productive assets and resources
 - Designing, on-farm testing, evaluation and validation of transformative and up-scalable gender-sensitive and specific CSA options
 - Addressing barriers to and understanding enablers for adoption taking into consideration gender and social inclusion
 - Identifying CSA practices and portfolios that have positive impacts on the control of productive assets and resources within communities
- II. 2. Areas of climate services
 - Improve access to financial services increasing the benefits of Female Households (FHH) and women in Male Households (MHH) of improved access to financial and other services
 - Working on how to develop methods to identify and meet gender-specific climate service needs
- III. 3. Improved food and nutrition security for health
 - Working with women on practicing CSA and improving their households food and nutrition security
 - Effects on women and youth incorporated into good practice guidelines, monitoring and evaluation of climate policy processes, and capacity strengthening
 - Development of climate finance mechanisms and models incorporate women and youth

In summary, the presenter indicated the areas of collaboration by identifying two stages, one at country /project level within the GCCASP participating countries and the other at programmatic level as follows.

At project level:

- a) Technologies and practices - Identifying CSA practices and portfolios
- b) Control of productive assets and investment for women - Identifying CSA practices and portfolios that have positive impacts on the control of productive assets and resources within communities
- c) Effects on women and youth incorporated into good practice guidelines, monitoring and evaluation of climate policy processes, and capacity strengthening
- d) Development of climate finance mechanisms and models incorporate women and youth

At programmatic level:

- a) Gender-equitable control of productive assets and resources
- b) Improved capacity of women and youth to participate in decision making

iv. Pan African Climate Justice Alliance

Mr. Samuel Ogallah started his presentation by introducing Pan African Climate Justice Alliance (PACJA). He said that PACJA was founded in 2008. PACJA is a continental coalition of Civil Society Organizations from diverse backgrounds in Africa. The Alliance is a Civil Society platform in climate change and sustainable development and brings together Faith-based Organizations, Community-based organizations, Non-Governmental organizations, Trusts, Foundations, Farmers and Pastoralists' Groups among other sectors, with a membership of more than 1000 organizations and networks in 45 African countries.

The higher decision organ is the General assembly and continental executive committee elected every two years. The memberships of continental executive committee which are drawn from five sub regions in Africa consisting of 15 members in Southern Africa, Central Africa, Western Africa, Northern Africa and Eastern Africa. The Alliance is headed by the Secretary General and the secretariat is located in Nairobi, Kenya.

He pointed out that PACJA aims to be an effective African CSO's platform that shares information, strategizes jointly and coordinates engagement with African governments and other relevant stakeholders regionally and internationally.

He then outlined the approach used in the Alliance undertakings which includes:

- Information sharing through actively sharing and documenting the experiences of past efforts on advocacy on climate related policies.
- Technical and financial support -provision of technical updates to alliance members on emerging issues on climate change, advocacy and activism skills as well as provision of seed grants support minimally for the activities of its members with financial contributions.
- Networking and linkages through building linkages with other coalitions with similar goals at regional and global levels and encouraging and supporting networking among partners and
- Documentation through identifying and documenting case studies that support global call for action against climate change.

He underscored that the Alliance's role is mainly policy advocacy through participation in Regional and Global Climate Change discourses through encouraging and, where possible, facilitating partners to participate in key UNFCCC meetings such as COPs, AWG, SBSTA , AMCEN, AU, CAHOSOCC, AGN.

With regard to partnership, the presenter outlined that PACJA works closely with key stakeholders including African continental, regional and global organizations, African governments, UN Agencies, International NGOs, Civil Society Organizations and other relevant bodies regionally and internationally.

The presenter also gave an overview of some of the achievements registered over the past years as a result of the Alliance's undertakings across the continent and also internationally. Here, he noted the contributions made in the areas of climate change policies, action plans and related negotiations through information and knowledge sharing and advocacy as well as the challenges related to capacity to manage and handle the ever increasing demands of its members and other stakeholders that remain to be addressed.

As regards to plan for the future, Mr. Samson Samuel Ogallah highlighted that the Alliance plans for the future are as follows:

- Increased membership and presence in the 54 countries in Africa from the current 45 countries
- More partners on board in supporting PACJA's work technically and financially
- Retaining the current funding partners and raising their level of support to the Alliance
- Sustainable network that would support most of its activities without grants
- The crafting of the Alliance New 2016-2020 Strategic Plan – in progress

Finally, he presented and outlined the potential areas of cooperation with AU NEPAD GCCASP as follows:

- Regional coordination and engagement of CSOs in the GCCASP –buy-in/sustainability issues
- Advisory role on GCCASP Advisory Board
- Sharing information – Regional-Sub regional – National level
- Strategize jointly – Policy advocacy on mainstreaming of GCCASP into Regional/sub-region and national development Strategies.
- Coordinates engagement with African governments and other relevant stakeholders regionally and internationally.
- Assist in the monitoring and evaluation of the programme at the Regional/Sub-Regional/National levels
- National chapters participation in GCCASP project implementation with national implementing Ministries and or member of PIU advisory member
- Assist in the resource mobilization for the programme when/where possible
- Promotion and creating visibility for GCCASP – among CSOs, media, development partners, global CSOs, policy makers, etc.

Comments:

A number of issues were raised revolving around working with partners. The key concerns/messages can be summarized as follows:

- We need to find modalities to take the engagement to a higher level on how well we involve the development partners to support the implementation of GCCASP
- As NEPAD, Country and REC we need to act proactively to effectively engage development partners
- Development partners were requested to act proactively towards establishing partnership and joining efforts to kick start the actual implementation of the programme.

SESSION V. AREA OF COOPERATION MODERATED BY MR. SAMUEL OGALLAH

8. POSSIBLE AREAS OF COOPERATION BY DEVELOPMENT PARTNERS

Various areas of cooperation were identified by the development partners in order to promote the GCCASP implementation. Presentation on key areas of collaboration and moderation of this session was made by Mr. Samuel Ogallah as summarized hereunder.

UN-WOMEN

UN women identified the following as possible areas of cooperation:

- Commitment to partner in the Africa Women in Technologies: membership in the Alliance which will imply experience-sharing, platform liaison, possibility for supporting country-level start-ups/pilots (www.empowerwomen.org/cop/awit),
- Contribution to development of policy/advocacy briefs on gender and technology up scaling for gender and climate smart agriculture (both policy and programming) – participation in sharing best practices both on effective gender-responsive policies and programming
- Sharing regional study on Cost of the Gender Gap in Agriculture for countries to use findings to drive evidence-based change, and use this for further similar studies, replicating initiative
- Collaborate with Africa Center for Transformational Leadership (ACTIL) in Nairobi (UN women with Kenyatta University)
- Provision of Technical advice, solutions on gender in many sectors, joint programming formulation and policy support

PACJA

As civil society group the possible collaboration identified include:

- Regional coordination and engagement of CSOs in the GCCASP –buy-in to sustainability issues,
- Advisory role on GCCASP Advisory Board,
- Share information –Regional, Sub regional, National levels

- Strategize jointly – Policy advocacy on mainstreaming of GCCASP into Regional/ sub-region and national development Strategies,
- Coordinate engagement with African governments and other relevant stakeholders regionally and internationally,
- Assist in the monitoring and evaluation of the programme at the Reg./Sub-Regional/National levels,
- National chapters participation in GCCASP project implementation with national implementing ministries and or member of PIU advisory member,
- Assist in the resource mobilization for the programme when/where possible, and
- Promotion and creating visibility for GCCASP among CSOs, Media, Development partners, Global CSOs, policy makers etc.

CGIAR

CGIAR outlined the possible areas of cooperation at regional and country levels.

At regional Level, cooperation identified included:

- Innovations to support gender equitable control of productive assets, and
- Capacity building for women and youth to participate in decision making

At project level (country level) cooperation focuses on:

- Designing, testing, evaluating and validating transformative up-scaling of gender sensitive climate smart agricultural innovations,
- Document and incorporate good practices and guidelines for monitoring and evaluation of climate policy process that mainstream impacts on women and youth
- Development of climate finance mechanisms and models that incorporate women and youth

UNFPA

- Capacity building for women smallholder farmers on linkages between productive health and economic empowerment
- Linking women smallholder farmers to:
 - Family planning services
 - Protection services including Gender Based Violence (GBV) services
 - HIV prevention and treatment services

Key Reflections

Related to the presentation on possible areas of cooperation the following key issues of concerns were identified:

- It was said that the various areas of cooperation suggested by partners are required to align or contextualize to the GCCASP goal, objective, key intervention areas and even activities,
- The need to further elaborate and specify the identified areas of collaboration was emphasized, and in this regard it was pointed out that NEPAD and partners should deal with the matter bilaterally,

- It was also suggested to clearly identify the role of civil society in the GCCASP with a view to make use of the proposed collaboration. Similarly, the need to define the role of media was raised,
- The need to define the role of partners in monitoring and evaluation of GCCASP was recommended
- It was underscored that partners should work together to avoid duplication of efforts at country and REC level,
- Making effort to fitting collaborative suggestions related to women access to reproductive health services and protection from Gender and sex based violence into GCCASP context was pointed out,
- The need to identify and define level of collaboration was underlined

The need to further explore the identified potential areas of cooperation by closely working with partners and civil society groups at all levels was emphasized.

It was also suggested that NEPAD synthesize areas of collaboration and modalities of cooperation considering the following discussion points by engaging partners who have shown interest in the GCCASP implementation.

Modalities of cooperation:

A number of issues were raised and extensive discussion was made on the modalities of cooperation. The following is a summarized outcome of the discussion.

The modalities of cooperation were envisaged at Continental, RECs and countries levels.

It was suggested that the modalities of cooperation and work should be based on a signed MOU. It was also suggested that such agreement should be done between NEPAD and responsible government bodies as it is a common government requirement to formalize the programme. Furthermore, it was pointed out that such agreement must be done at all levels and among key actors and stakeholders including RECs, partners, sectors, civil societies and NGOs.

At country level, there are established government procedures for formal agreements on programmes. For UN Agencies in many countries, UNDAF determine and areas and modalities of cooperation with governments. Such agreements need to be done with mandated government institutions, such as Ministry of Finance and Economic Cooperation. Thus, modalities of cooperation with partners need to follow or consider country specific procedure. However, it is desirous to create awareness on GCCASP among partners and the responsibility to establish effective cooperation and taking a leadership role to engage development partners lies with government and host institutions in the respective participating countries.

At REC level, it was suggested to work on the existing collaboration and also to make effective communication with focal persons. Furthermore, it was pointed out that RECs must act proactively to mobilize political will of Heads of States and countries in their respective regions. Further engagement with NEPAD Agency to explore enhanced modalities of cooperation was proposed. Further, arrangement for a meeting between NEPAD and RECs was suggested and agreed upon.

Finally a question was posed to NEPAD to reflect on issues of the need for MOU, and strengthening linkage with RECs.

It was pointed out by NEPAD that implementation is not a linear process. NEPAD needs countries to put in place agile institutional arrangements and procedures that reduce transaction cost; and also understand the sense of urgency of implementing the programme. Furthermore, he said that member states need to drive the process while NEPAD, RECs and Development Partners are here to support.

9. CLOSING REMARKS

Mr. Mohamed Abdisalam, Head of Programme Implementation from NEPAD Agency in his brief closing remark indicated to have taken note of the points and promised to have a robust discussion with the leaders at NEPAD Agency. He said that this is the beginning of a long journey, and encouraged everyone to work together and serve our continent. He then thanked COMESA and the host country, Zambia and its people for creation of a wonderful and conducive environment for the meeting. Mr. Abdisalam concluded his remark by wishing the participants a safe journey back home.

Ms. Maria Phiri on behalf of COMESA Secretary General extended her thanks and appreciation to participating countries and RECs for showing partnership in this meeting. She also indicated that the meeting was successful in that together we identified GCCASP implementation gaps and the way forward. She emphasized that COMESA will work together with NEPAD Agency to see a successful implementation of the programme in the participating countries. Lastly, she expressed her wish for participants to have a safe travel to their respective destinations.

10. STRATEGIC MEETING AND OUTCOMES – NPCA, RECS AND PARTICIPATING COUNTRIES REPRESENTATIVES

10.1 Highlights of Brief Strategic Meeting of NEPAD and RECs

Following the closing of the workshop, a short meeting was held among NEPAD, RECs and GeoSAS representatives to discuss on the way forward on strategic issues reflected in the workshop mainly focusing on the envisaged working arrangement among NEPAD Agency, RECs and participating countries.

The meeting was chaired by Mr. Abdisalam and the discussion started by a question on the next step of the programme implementation.

Mr. Abdisalam responded to this question by saying that, having submitted the programme document, NPCA is now at the stage of resource mobilization. He revealed that negotiation is on-going by engaging potential development partners namely, NORAD, GIZ, Netherlands, European Union etc. He further noted

his expectation that by the end of 2015, NPCA will have a clear picture of the amount of resources committed and hopefully implementation will start at the beginning of 2016. He also indicated that countries are expected to mobilize resources as cofunding.

The meeting went on discussing on questions raised by RECs and suggestions on the way forward, key points of which are summarized hereunder.

i. How can we build our engagement with NEPAD? What options do we have:

Two options were forwarded and discussed.

- a. NPCA to meet individual RECs for holding discussions on the roles and modalities of engagement
- b. NPCA to organize an exclusive meeting with RECs for one or two days with the view to identify actions for RECs in terms of the role it would play in programme implementation and deliberate relevant issues.

The second option was considered as feasible by NPCA and is scheduled to be materialized in November 2015 during the Conference for Women in Agribusiness.

ii. Other suggestions/understanding reached during the meeting include:

- The need to build RECs ownership of the programme is underscored incognizant of the critical role in the implementation.
- The need to strengthen the relations between NPCA and RECs is well recognized to address the capacity challenge in programme implementation
- It was noted that the GCCASP process has taken long time and the programme is already validated by countries and at continental level and hence major change is not anticipated in the short time.
- It was also pointed that GCCASP is not a rigid programme and is subject to adjustment through learning in the implementation process depending on the objectives and reality on the ground.
- It is suggested to start with what is defined in the programme document while recognizing that there would be a leeway to address any observed critical gaps in the in the implementation process.
- A concern was raised that the budget allocated for RECs is too little since 90% is earmarked for establishing Centre of Excellence. In this connection it was noted that review such issues can be addressed and once the finance is secured.
- It was also pointed out that RECs can also mobilize resources for up scaling GCCASP to other countries

iii. The way forward

- NEPAD will meet ECCAS and discuss on their engagement.
- A one day session was planned to be organized with RECs in November 2015 in Durban along with the Conference for Agribusiness Women to discuss on RECs engagement including budgetary matters with the view to clearly define institutional roles and responsibilities and define common position /agreed strategy on the next course of actions.
- There is a need to improve communication between NPCA and RECs
- The programme document should be shared with the RECs for their review and come up with their comments during the Durban meeting.

10.2 Highlights of GCCASP Participating Countries Strategic Meeting

This meeting was chaired by Dr. Niger-Thomas Margaret a focal person for Cameroon GCCASP.

The objective of the meeting was to share best experience, information and approaches that countries are pursuing in GCCASP implementation.

The discussion agenda revolved around areas of institutional arrangements, resources mobilization, modalities of engagements of partners and stakeholders, budgetary issues and detailed planning.

The key issues raised included the following:

i. Institutional arrangements

- Partnership platform and PIU were established or designated for most of the countries but its operationalization is pending subject to availability of funds for the programme
- Some host institutions will use staff to constitute PIU and currently work as inter institutional committee. The need for designation of focal person is considered useful for ease of communication with NEPAD.
- The roles given to Partnership Platform (PP) in the countries GCCASP document is now agreed to become the role of the national steering or coordinating committee. Thus, it was agreed that PP is a forum to be organized at least once in a year by the respective host institution for exchange of ideas, knowledge and information. It is an open ended forum for public sectors, NGOs, Donors, etc. It was agreed then that the countries GCCASP document should be revised accordingly.
- Regarding steering committee, it was explained that it is a high level body chaired by the head of the host institution and its members include, high level decision making personalities, who are drawn from key relevant public institutions such as agriculture, climate change and environment, finance and economic cooperation, energy. In addition, it was proposed that key development partners and representative of umbrella NGOs (Broad based NGOs) can be involved as a member. The main task is to give strategic guidance to the proper implementation of the GCCASP.
- Taking the Ethiopian experience it was also suggested that countries may wish to establish “joint programme for gender equality and empowerment”, where donors become members and take part in the planning and monitoring of the programme. Such approach is said to be instrumental to

help mobilize resources and build confidence among development partners since planning and execution of the programme will be done jointly. In the case of Ethiopian experience, it was pointed out that the joint programme has steering and technical committees that provide strategic and technical support respectively to the implementation of the joint programme.

ii. Resources mobilization

- Regarding resource mobilization, countries wanted to follow what Ethiopia did in terms of engaging AfDB to access resources from ClimDEv fund.
- The countries need to further pursue engaging development partners in their respective countries to mobilize resources domestically. It was also emphasized that efforts should be made to sensitize heads of host institutions to work with heads of Ministries of Finance and Economic Cooperation to engage development partners for mobilizing resources. Thus political will is a critical success factor for GCCASP implementation.
- The need for inclusion of the GCCASP in the countries' short and medium term investment programme frameworks was considered an important step to further concretize national ownership and government commitment.

iii. Budget issues

- It was pointed out that GCCASP proposal document should be amended to include the country's contribution as well as any co-finance expected from development partners.
- It was also noted that the country contribution can be in kind and from budgetary allocations. The contribution in kind can be converted into financial terms and reflected in the programme cost. The need for registering the GCCASP in the national development plan is indicated as a necessary strategic measure to ensure budgetary commitment of certain proportion of the programme cost from the national treasury. This will also facilitate the engagement of the Finance Ministries of participating countries towards soliciting funds from the development partners.

iv. Preparing detailed plans

- The host institutions need to prepare detailed annual activity and financial plan, especially for the first year of the programme implementation should be prepared in consultation with the concerned stakeholders at local levels.
- Detailed implementation modalities within participation countries i.e. roles and responsibilities of host institutions, key sectoral ministries, regional/provincial/ district, local/community levels as well as development partners needs to be worked out.
- Modalities of communication/reporting, monitoring and evaluation arrangements must be clearly described, and
- Memorandum of understanding and work agreements should also be prepared and signed between and among the key stake holders for the coordinated and effective implementation of GCCASP.

ANNEXES

ANNEX 1: Workshop Programme/Schedule

Pre-Implementation Phase of GCCASP – REC Level Development Partners Awareness Raising and Round Table Meeting

Organized by NEPAD Agency in Collaboration with Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA), 08 to 09 September 2015, Intercontinental Lusaka, Zambia

DAY One: Awareness of the GCCASP		
Programme	Description	Responsible
08:30 – 09:00	Registration	NEPAD/COMESA
SESSION I: Awareness of GCCASP Moderators: Selected from the participants Rapporteurs: Mr. Sitotaw Berhanu, Mr. Solomon Kebede-GeoSAS Consulting Services Plc.		
09: 00 – 09:10	Welcome Address	Ms Yunike Zulu-Mutale, Assistant Director, Ministry of Gender and Child Development
09:10 – 09:20	Key Note Speech	Mr Mohamed Abdisalam – NEPAD Agency
09:20 – 09:30	Remarks by COMESA	Ms Mekia Mohammed Redi
09:30 – 09:40	Remarks by NORAD Development partner	Ms. Kari Thorsen, NORAD-Representative, Counsellor (Governance) of Royal Norwegian Embassy to Zambia
09:40 – 09:50	Remarks by GeoSAS	Mr. Sitotaw Berhanu, General Manager of GeoSAS
09:50 – 10:20	Group Photo and Press Interview, Coffee Break & Networking	COMESA; NEPAD Participants
10:20 – 10:40	GCCASP - An Overview for awareness of the programme	Ms. Edna Kalima, NEPAD Planning and Coordination Agency
10:40 – 11:00	COMESA Presentation on projects related to Gender, Climate Change and Agriculture	COMESA representative
11:00 – 12:00	GCCASP for the Countries. Country briefs and Status (Cameroon, Ethiopia, Malawi, Niger and Rwanda) -Focus on activity log frame -Highlighting areas of resource mobilization -Partners already on board	Country Representatives from Ministries
12:00 – 13:00	Plenary Discussions	Participants
13:00 - 14:00	Lunch Break & networking	Organizer

DAY One: Awareness of the GCCASP		
Programme	Description	Responsible
14:00 – 14:20 14:20- 14:40	GCCASP REC Level - An overview and Institutional arrangement for the implementation of REC Level GCCASP	NEPAD
14:40 – 15:40	Plenary Discussions	Moderator
15:40 – 16:00	Non pilot countries presentations on existing projects or programmes related to GCCASP	Moderator
16:00 – 16:30	Coffee Break and Networking	Participants
16:30 – 17:30	Meeting to review the work of day one and planning for day two	NEPAD; COMESA & GeoSAS
Day Two : Round Table Discussions		
09:00 – 09:10	Recap of Day one	Rapporteurs
09:10 – 10:30	Partner presentations of projects and programmes related to GCCASP (Un Women, UNFPA, CGIR, AFDB, PACJA, etc)	Moderator
10:30 – 10:45	Coffee break & networking	
10:45 – 11:45	Partners Round Table: Reflections on how to support and collaborate in the implementation of the GCCASP	Two to three groups
11:45 – 13:00	Partners Round Table: Report back on the reflections on how to support and collaborate in the implementation of the GCCASP	Participants
13:00 – 14:00	Lunch Break	Organiser
14:00 – 14:15	Summary of possible areas of support with partners	Moderator
14:15 – 15:00	Wrap up, way forward & Closing	NEPAD; COMESA
15:00 – 16:00	Strategic Meeting	COMESA; NEPAD; GeoSAS Team.

ANNEX 2: WELCOME REMARKS by THE PERMANENT SECRETARY OF THE MINISTRY OF GENDER AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT, MRS. DAISY NKHATA NG'AMBI AS PRESENTED BY HER REPRESENTATIVE, MR. VICTOR MBUMWAE

GOVERNMENT REPRESENTATIVES

THE COMESA DIRECTOR FOR GENDER AND SOCIAL AFFAIRS

STAFF FROM COMESA

ALL RECS REPRESENTED

DEVELOPMENT PARTNERS

REPRESENTATIVES OF THE CIVIL SOCIETY/NGOS

REPRESENTATIVES OF ACADEMIA

DISTINGUISHED LADIES AND GENTLEMEN

It is with gratification that I am here this morning to represent the permanent secretary of the Ministry of Gender and Child Development, Mrs. Daisy Nkhata Ng'ambi who could not be here due to other equally important national duties.

DISTINGUISHED LADIES AND GENTLEMEN

According to the revised national gender policy of 2014, the vision of government is to achieve full participation of women and men in the development process at all levels in order to ensure sustainable development and attain equity and equality between sexes. The government is therefore committed to putting in place specific measures across the agricultural sector so that women and men participate and equally benefit from the sector.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

When it comes to poverty reduction and food security at both national and international level, the agricultural sector becomes the most practical and strategic sector in accelerating a number of important gender responsive policy measures. This is because agriculture plays an important role to the economy especially in reducing poverty amongst the poor citizens who are mostly women and children.

It is within the overall recognition of the centrality of the agriculture sector to Zambia's social economic development that the government through the Ministry of Gender and Child Development Evaluated the Farmer Input Support Programme (FTSP).

Of the findings, it was clear that the FISP programme has not fully met the national and regional benchmarks on gender such as the SADC protocol requirement of 50/50 women's and men's participation in social, political and economic spheres of development.

This is despite the statistical data proving that women small scale farmers in Zambia account for the production of more than 60% of the food consumed at household level.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

Despite the increasing resource commitments to the FISP programme, indications still show that access to farmer input is still dominated by male headed households. The FISP study further indicated that insecurities associated to customary land tenure for rural women have also contributed to low crop production by women in rural areas.

The Ministry of gender and child development is committed to ensuring that all important government programmes take into consideration the needs of women and men at all levels. With these few remarks, I would like to welcome you to Zambia and I am wishing you fruitful deliberations.

I THANK YOU

**ANNEX 3: REMARKS BY THE DIRECTOR, GENDER AND SOCIAL AFFAIRS, MRS. BEATRICE HAMUSONDE,
ON BEHALF OF THE SECRETARY GENERAL FOR THE COMMON MARKET FOR EASTERN AND
SOUTHERN AFRICA (COMESA) AS PRESENTED BY MS MEKIA MOHAMMED REDI**



STATEMENT

**BY THE
DIRECTOR, GENDER AND SOCIAL AFFAIRS, MRS. BEATRICE HAMUSONDE, ON BEHALF OF THE SECRETARY
GENERAL FOR THE COMMON MARKET FOR EASTERN AND SOUTHERN AFRICA (COMESA)**

**AT THE PRE-IMPLEMENTATION PHASE OF THE GENDER, CLIMATE CHANGE AND AGRICULTURE SUPPORT
PROGRAMME (GCCASP)**

**8 – 9 SEPTEMBER, 2015
LUSAKA, ZAMBIA**

Representatives from Government Ministries and Departments of Member States

Representatives from Cooperative Partners and other stake holders

Partners from the civil society Organisations

Distinguished Delegates &

Ladies and Gentlemen

On behalf of the Secretary General for COMESA and indeed on my own behalf, I wish to take this opportunity to welcome you all to Lusaka, Zambia and to the Pre-Implementation Phase of the Gender, Climate Change and Agriculture Support Programme (GCCASP). I would like to salute and congratulate all participants for taking time off their busy schedules to come and attend the meeting. Your presence and contributions will certainly greatly enrich the discussions towards realizing the goal of the meeting. Furthermore, I would be failing in my duties if I do not pay special tribute to the Government of Republic of Zambia, for hosting the meeting I also want to acknowledge the presence of the representatives from UN NEPAD Agency in South Africa for the continued efforts to strengthen engagement of the Regional Economic Communities (RECs) in the NEPAD Gender, Agriculture and Climate Change Support Programme. We look forward to increased and meaningful collaboration in future with you all.

Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen:

You may wish to know that, the 18th Conference of the Parties (COP-18) to the **United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change** (UNFCCC) held in Doha, Qatar adopted a decision for *“Promoting gender balance and improving the participation of women in UNFCCC negotiations and in the representation of Parties in bodies established pursuant to the Convention or the Kyoto Protocol,”* which aims at increasing the number of female delegates and ensuring all processes on adaptation and mitigation are gender responsive.

The UN Framework Convention on Climate Change’s (UNFCCC) decision is also a major milestone towards the achievement of Millennium Development Goal 3 (MDG), ***Promote Gender Equality and Empower Women.***

Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen:

The severity of the effects of climate change and variability continues to negatively affect performance of critical economic sectors of Africa. Climate change is undermining Africa's economic and sustainable development efforts, but most importantly, its impacts will be felt by the poor and vulnerable in societies who do not have climate risk management strategies.

Several studies show that agriculture, energy and forestry, sectors that majority of Africa population depend upon for their livelihoods have been negatively impacted upon by climate change. For example, severe droughts, high temperatures and flooding have reduced yields of staple crops, diminished livestock productivity and led to loss of arable land deforestation and forest degradation.

Climate change alone is estimated to increase the number of undernourished people to between 40 million and 170 million, although impacts may be mitigated by socio-economic development. Climate change will also affect progress towards several of the Development Goals including poverty reduction, sanitization, environmental sustainability, and access to water. Climate change is again expected to particularly affect resource-poor households unable to invest in or take advantage of alternative income sources or new agricultural strategies, and less able to recover following droughts, floods, diseases or other shocks. Resource-poor households and communities in marginal areas dependent on rain fed agriculture will be particularly affected by the effects of climate change and variability.

Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen:

To increase and forge a common position on issues relating to gender and climate change, the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA) in partnership with other regional organizations has organized series of Regional Meeting on Gender and Climate Change; roundtables on submissions gender responsive actions on adaptation and mitigation; capacity building training on negotiators of gender experts, farmers and youths; elements of a gender responsive approach to upscaling Climate Smart Agriculture (CSA); and integration gender in CSA Investment Plans (CSAIFs); constituted Africa Working Group on Gender and Climate Change (AWGGCC) to coordinate and provide leadership for Africa's engagement in the regional and global gender and climate change processes. The Working Group has since

participated in several meeting at the regional and internal levels relating to gender and climate change and the formulation of sustainable development goals (SDGs).

In furthering the work of COMESA and other regional, national initiatives on gender, the African Heads of States and Governments at its Assembly of the Union's Twenty-third Ordinary Session in Malabo in June 2014, through the Committee of African Heads of State and Governments on Climate Change (CAHOSCC) agreed to develop a CAHOSCC Women and Gender Programme on Climate Change (CWGPCC) to engage women and gender in climate change related actions. This position was further reinforced by the decisions made at the fifteenth session of the African Ministerial Conference on Environment (15th Session of AMCEN) held in Cairo, Egypt on 2-6 March 2015.

Gender and climate change has taken a centre-stage in the UNFCCC process. At the twentieth Conference of the Parties (COP20) held in Lima, Peru, in December 2014, Parties agreed on the Lima Programme of Work on Gender, decision 18/CP.20, which further facilitates the implementation of decision 23/CP.18. The secretariat further requested to organize an in-session workshop on gender-responsive climate policy with a focus on mitigation action and technology development and transfer.

In response to the invitation to make submissions on the implementation of the said COP decision COMESA prepared a submission on gender and climate change, which was submitted, to the UNFCCC. Parties have since agreed that gender and climate change will be a standing agenda item under the COP.

In order to advance the implementation of the CAADP National Agriculture Investment Plans and address gender issues in agriculture, COMESA is working on developing a "*Regional Framework*" to enhance gender inclusion in the CAADP implementation processes. The proposed Regional Framework aims at institutionalizing and consolidating Gender within the CAADP implementation functions (policy, frameworks, regulations, implementation, and monitoring and evaluation plans) for improved role of women and youth in agricultural productivity.

Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen:

It is therefore imperative that an array of programs across many regions in Africa should be aimed at building women's resilience and long-term adaptation to climate change effects. Climate change responses

should be comprehensive and cover areas such as training and capacity-building, improving livelihoods, providing for social protection and basic essential services and infrastructure.

The vision of the Gender, Climate Change and Agriculture Support Programme (GCCASP) earmarked to achieve an effective and more equitable participation of African women smallholder farmers, youth and other vulnerable groups also strongly corresponds to the objectives of sustainable development goals. In relation to the purpose, it is imperative that various programmes are gender responsive, especially in critical sectors of agriculture and climate change. These should be strive to strengthen the capacity of different segments of societies in participating countries to derive more benefits from engaging in climate-smart agricultural practices and capacitate them to better cope with climate variability and climate change.

It is only through concerted effort at national and regional levels aimed at promoting the recognition of the specific vulnerability of men, women and other marginalized groups to climate change impacts, and promotes policies and programs to reduce these vulnerabilities.

Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen:

COMESA through the Gender and Social Affairs Division promotes the mainstreaming of gender in different programmes and initiatives in order to increase participation of communities and especially empower women to mitigate problems caused by climate change. Besides it strongly believes that, it is only through increased and concerted efforts that we can deliver a programmes that will enable our partner/member states and region to meet the challenges and exploit the opportunities that climate change presents, by promoting gender responsive country that increase participation of women and youth towards inclusive sustainable development.

With these remarks, it is now my honour and pleasure to wish you fruitful deliberations.

Thank you for your attention

ANNEX 4: Remarks by NORAD - Ms. Kari Thorsen, NORAD- Representative, Counsellor (Governance) of
Royal Norwegian Embassy to Zambia

NORWAY'S REMARKS

TO REC LEVEL MEETING ON THE GENDER, CLIMATE CHANGE AND AGRICULTURE SUPPORT PROGRAM IN
LUSAKA 8-9 SEP 2015

By Kari Thorsen

Counsellor governance, Norwegian Embassy in Lusaka

Gender, climate change and agriculture are high priorities of Norway, and of the Norwegian embassy in Lusaka through our support to partners like: EFSP, PAM, CFU, COMACO.

As a cooperating partner, **Norway** is proud to have supported NEPAD in the planning of this program on **gender, climate change and agriculture**. The design started back in 2011. Funding from Norway supports the pre-implementation phase on resource mobilization and putting in place coordination mechanisms for the program.

Seen from the perspective of a development partner, we especially appreciate the high degree of **participation** in the design phase of the program, including local, national and regional stakeholders. I have been informed that the **analytical** work is now done, that there are **structures** in the 5 start-up countries (Ethiopia, Malawi, Niger, Rwanda, Cameroon), and that the host-institutions in these countries are now eager to start **implementing** the program.

Estimates tell that the **demand for food** will increase by as much as 50% by 2030 compared to the current needs. **All** human resources are therefore needed to meet the increased critical challenge of food security, climate change and economic development that Africa will face in the coming years – including the human resources that the **female farmers** represent!

The program responds well to the suggested new **SDGs** soon to be adopted – especially SDG no 2 (To end hunger, achieve food security, improve nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture), and SDG no 13 (To combat climate change and its impacts).

I believe we all may agree – We do have sufficient evidence and international recognition of the fact:

- That smallholder **agriculture** is the mainstay of most African countries.
- That this sector is highly dominated by **women farmers**.
- That it is the most vulnerable sector to **climate change**.
- And that impacts of climate change **affects** women, children and youth the most!

To get more **participation of African women smallholder farmers** in agriculture and climate-smart agricultural practices – which is the overall **goal** of the program - is therefore highly relevant and accurate.

To reach this goal we agree that there is **need**:

- To mainstream gender into **national policies**
- For women to **access** resources, inputs and infrastructure
- And there is need for more **capacity** among female farmers and relevant public institutions to cope with the effects of climate change.

This **REC level** meeting is meant:

- To increase the **awareness** of the program
- To establish **partnerships** to support the implementation of the program
- And to identify concrete **follow-up actions** for COMESA and NEPAD

We do hope and believe these are **feasible** outcomes of the meeting:

- Without the RECs commitment in taking a leading role in following-up actions and mobilizing resources,
-
- Without **aligning** the overall program with national governments priorities, national coordination, implementation arrangements and financial resources,-

We will continue to be **talking**
Good intentions alone will **NOT** tackle
these evidence based and highly recognized complex challenges.

We therefore do hope this meeting shows the ability and courage to agree on a way forward in this crucial stage of the program –

That is –
moving from nice plans and good intentions
to commitment to **ACTION!**

THANK YOU!

ANNEX 5: Remarks by GeoSAS Mr. Sitotaw Birhanu, General Manager of GeoSAS, Ethiopia.

- Representatives from Government Agencies
- Representatives from the NEPAD Agency
- Representatives from the RECs
- NORAD Representative
- Representatives of development partners
- Ladies and Gentlemen

First of all, I would like to express my sincere gratitude for the opportunity given to me to make a statement to this momentous meeting, on behalf of GeoSAS. As most of you might know, GeoSAS is an Ethiopian based private consulting firm commissioned by NEPAD Agency for rendering technical services for the development of Gender Climate Change and Agriculture Programme (**GCCASP**). This has created an opportunity to use our network of African experts across the five participating countries namely, Cameroon, Ethiopia, Malawi, Niger and Rwanda.

Distinguished ladies and gentlemen,

Allow me to express our gratefulness as an African expert for being associated with this big picture, timely and most relevant continental initiative focusing at building the resilient capacity of most vulnerable section of African people namely smallholder women farmers.

I wish to take you in retrospect to the two stages that we have passed through in the process of the programme development. The initial stage is known as the assessment/design phase. During this phase, country level case studies were carried out involving grassroots communities and local institutions in the five Participating countries. Consultation at REC level was also undertaken in Addis Ababa by involving participants drawn from RECs and national stakeholders in GCCASP participating countries. The end product of the exercise was a **Continental GCCASP Framework Programme Document**.

This was followed by the Inception Phase during which **bankable programme documents** were produced for each country. The programme development was based on **GCCASP programming consultative workshops** conducted at national and REC levels that critically reviewed, validated and enriched the findings of the assessment phase report. Accordingly, the programme was developed by garnering inputs important to ensuring its alignment with the national priorities, strategies and programmes of the participating countries.

Generally speaking, GCCASP is a result of highly consultative and inclusive process. The programme is an outcome of grassroots consultations with case studies, inputs from representatives of national entities, regional and continental experts, and contributions by development partners, NGOs, CSO and private sector.

Distinguished ladies and gentlemen,

GCCASP is by design a programme with the overall objective of fostering the economic empowerment of smallholder women farmers vulnerable to the effects of climate change. The programme is designed to be coordinated by NEPAD Agency at continental level and Gender Ministries in each of the participating countries, at national level. At regional levels, REC will also have a critical role to play in the areas of mobilization of resources, development of tools, knowledge products on best practices, harmonization of policies and advocacy of the programme among member states and the like.

The critical role of sectoral ministries specifically, agriculture, natural resources and environment and cooperative agencies and other non-state actors and development partners is well recognized and addressed in the institutional arrangement of the programme. A number of actors responsible for the implementation of specific activities/interventions would mean GCCASP requires a special coordination effort to avoid duplication and enhance collaboration among partners. This has been well understood and articulated in the institutional mechanism of the Programme design.

During the current - pre-implementation phase, issues related to collaboration of efforts and partnership arrangements have been well discussed among the stakeholders and development partners in each participating country. The present REC level meeting is therefore believed to build on the outcome of the country's meetings. To this effect, the two days deliberations will be a platform to enhance awareness of the status of GCCASP by the development partners and further define partnership arrangements among RECs, NEPAD Agency, participating countries and other development partners.

Distinguished ladies and gentlemen,

We are genuinely pleased and gratified that together with NEPAD Agency, host institutions of participating countries, partners and colleagues, we have been able to provide technical support systematically through the use of national and African experts. We believe that this approach is pioneering and allows linking and engaging existing African expertise to address national and continental challenges and thus will contribute to ensuring ownership, sustainability and accountability in the spirit of pan Africanism.

So together we have reached here. Now is the time to build further to realize the implementation of the programme. It is our conviction that all the activities of GCCASP should be undertaken in the spirit of enhanced partnership, with framework of continuous consultation and collaboration among the partners.

At continental level, we know that NEPAD Agency is playing a significant role in soliciting finance and is well placed to identify opportunities for effective collaboration between RECs, and participating countries and other development partners.

This REC level meeting is therefore an important step to towards operationalization of the programme through fostering enhanced and effective partnership in fund mobilization and subsequent implementation of the programme.

Distinguished ladies and gentlemen,

Once again, let me take this opportunity to express my deepest gratitude and appreciation to NEPAD Agency for commissioning African professionals and the excellent cooperation and strategic guidance given to us throughout this process. Our thanks also go to NORAD for supporting the programme development processes by providing the required financial resources.

I would also like to extend my sincere appreciation for high level cooperation given by the officials and staff members of the host ministries of participating countries, some of who are here with us. Their presence signifies their commitment and gives opportunity for continued learning from each other towards effective implementation of GCCASP.

Finally, I would like to urge all of us to actively participate in the discussions and contribute to the attainment of the workshop objectives.

Thank you very much for your attention!!

REC Level Meeting on the Gender, Climate Change and Agriculture Support Programme (GCCASP)

Lusaka, Zambia

08-09 September 2015

NAME AND SURNAME	ORGANIZATION	FULL ADDRESS	TELEPHONE & FAX	EMAIL
ESHETU MEBRATU	MINISTRY OF WOMEN, CHILDREN AND YOUTH AFFAIRS	ADDIS ABABA	+251911476403	mebratu27@yahoo.com
GEBREMESKEL GIZAW HAILU		ADDIS ABABA	+251 911 830904	gizawhailu14@yahoo.com
ISABELLE BOUKINDA NZAOU	CEEAC	SECRETARIAT GENERAL DE LA CEEAC BP 2112 LIBREVILLE	+241 042 54285	boukinda_isabelle@yahoo.fr
SOLOMON KEBEDE				solomonk@geosas.net
BOLANLE DETOUN	ECOWAS	ECOWAS COMMISSION-ASOLCORO-	+234 803 623 9081	badetoun@yahoo.com

NAME AND SURNAME	ORGANIZATION	FULL ADDRESS	TELEPHONE & FAX	EMAIL
		ABUJA, NIGERIA		
MAGARA CORNELIUS	MINISTRY OF GENDER	BOX 7136 KLA-UGANDA	+256 705 666944	magaracorn@yahoo.com
MARIA PHIRI	COMESA	LUSAKA	+260229725	mphiri@comesa.int
Niger-Thomas Margaret	MINPROFF	MINISTRY OF WOMEN EMPOWERMENT & THE FAMILY, CAMEROON	237 675 245 388 +237 222222830	nigerm@yahoo.com
Mr Mamadou Joseph	MINPROFF	MINISTRY OF WOMEN EMPOWERMENT & THE FAMILY, CAMEROON	237 6968 3334	josmamadou@yahoo.com
Joseph Kazima	MINISTRY OF GENDER	PRIVATE BAG 330 LILONGWE 3	+265 882 11 7968	jkazima@gmail.com
Fred Ica Simwaka	MINISTRY OF GENDER	PRIVATE BAG 330 LILONGWE 3	265 (0) 888403590	fsimwaka@yahoo.co.uk
AYALNEH BOGALE	AUC/GIZ	ADDIS ABABA	+251931312236	ayalnehb@africa-union.org
MOHINI BALI	MINISTRY OF GENDER	MAURITIUS		shashi1810@yahoo.com
SAMSON SAMUEL OGALLAH	PAN AFRICAN CLIMATE JUSTICE	NAIROBI	+25407360842628	ogalahs7@yahoo.com

NAME AND SURNAME	ORGANIZATION	FULL ADDRESS	TELEPHONE & FAX	EMAIL
	ALLIANCE (PACJA)			
SITOTAW BERHANU	GEOSAS	ETHIOPIA		sitotawba@geosas.net
CHINEW OGBANNA	UNFPA	UN HOUSE AHCK NKHATA ROAD	+2609696423404	ogbanna@unfpa.org
ASA TORKELSSON	UN WOMEN		+254 719 47 4004	asa.torkelsson@unwomen.org
ZOUMARI ISSA KALLEKOYE	MP/PF/PE/NIGER	SECRETARIATE GENERAL	00227 97448485	izoumari@yahoo.fr
MARTHA LUNGU	MGCD MINISTRY OF GENDER AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT		0979 2785 80	mwitumwa.martha@gmail.com
ALIEL TEMBO	GENDER		0965 884 465	
AZAUDOU SEYDOU	MP/PF/PE NIGER	DIRECTURE GENERALE	00227 968 94 315	inoussaazrat@yahoo.fr
KARI THORSEN	NORWEGIAN EMBASSY		+260 9777 91 425	kmt@nfa.no
DOREEN NAWA	ZAMBIA DILY MAIL	BOX 31421, LUSAKA	+260 977 224 174	dorkel2005@yahoo.com
LOLIWE JERE	COMESA	30051,LUSAKA	+260 9737 95126	ijere@comesa.int
MEKIA N. REDI	COMESA	30051,LUSAKA	00260 977 623 659	mredi@comesa.int
JAMES KINYAYI	CCAFS	BOX 30709, NAIROBI	+254 710 749 139	j.kinyangi@cgiar.org

NAME AND SURNAME	ORGANIZATION	FULL ADDRESS	TELEPHONE & FAX	EMAIL
ANDFOUZA	COMESA	30051,LUSAKA	+260 9711 95251	aandfouza@comesa.int
VICTOR MBUMWAE	MINISTRY OF GENDER & CHILD DEVELOPMENT	BOX 30719, GOVT COMPLEX		
LUSAKO JOE SICHALI	MINISTRY OF GENDER AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT	30099 LUSAKA 65/10 MANCHINCHI ROAD, NORTHMEAD	0966 250031	lusakas@hotmail.com
PRECIOUS ZANDONDA	UNFPA	UN HOUSE, ALOCK NKHATA ROAD	097 5570 404	zandonda@unfpa.org
SITEMBILE SIWAWA	DAILY MAIL	LONGO LONGO ROAD	0979 018 288	ssiwawa@daily-mail.co.zm



Happy Women's month

As we celebrate Women's month in South Africa, we recognize the important contribution of women to the struggle, the well-being of their families and in sustaining the economy.