



SUPPORTING FOOD SECURITY FOR SMALLHOLDERS IN SOUTHERN AFRICA THROUGH INTEGRATED ADAPTATION PLANNING AND IMPLEMENTATION

Owing to its strong reliance on rain-fed agriculture for food production, the subregion of southern Africa is extremely vulnerable to the effects of climate change. Many people there are subsistence farmers, livestock herders or small-scale fishers working within agricultural production systems that are relatively undiversified and have poor infrastructure.

This project was designed to provide technical support to the Governments of Malawi, Mozambique and Zambia to increase the implementation of climate change adaptation (CCA) strategies to build resilience and support food security among the communities that rely on rain fed agriculture.

The project focused on filling gaps in capacity, increasing climate data and information on vulnerability and risks for informed decision-making, using evidence to support CAA and climate-smart agriculture (CSA) strategies and spreading knowledge on good adaptation practices.



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WHAT DID THE PROJECT DO?

Overall, the project successfully increased technical and institutional capacities to develop, promote and adopt CSA practices. Through FAO's Farmer Field School (FFS) approach, targeted communities tested and implemented CCA practices.

A major focus of the project was increasing the availability of data for risk and vulnerability assessments, which was achieved by strengthening climate information systems (CIS) and improving officials' abilities to analyse and assess the impacts of climate change in agriculture and the resulting risks and vulnerabilities brought about by these effects.

The project developed guidelines and communication products on crop system diversification. Policy dialogues were held on the topic to ensure the integration of CSA practices at national level. These dialogues also created the possibility for potential access to climate financing through the development of concept notes.

In Malawi, national and subnational governmental staff benefited from capacity-development activities on livelihood diversification and community adaptation. The development of related models were tried, tested and implemented through FFSs.

In Zambia, a partnership was created between farmers, extension camp officers, government staff and the Zambia Agricultural Research Institute (ZARI) for interdepartmental collaboration and the provision of capacity-development activities and demonstrations for farmers.

In Mozambique, agencies at national and local level worked together with focal points from partner organizations to ensure the alignment of project activities with district and local adaptation plans. Capacity-development activities on the interpretation of climate information products, conservation agriculture (CA) and seed production and conservation were conducted in partnership with other FAO projects operating in the targeted district and province. Men and women farmers benefitted from adaptation demonstrations on drought resilient crops, forage banks and water harvesting systems. The adaptation models developed in Mabalane district of Gaza province were showcased by the local Government as an example to be replicated in other areas of the country.

KEY FACTS

Latest Approved Budget
USD 3 936 999

Duration
June 2016-March 2022

Resource Partner
The Flanders Corporation

Beneficiaries
Malawi: Staff of the DCCMS and DLRC of the MoAIWD; technical staff from the Department of Extension Workers; tertiary institutions; and members of Farmer Field Schools (FFSs).
Mozambique: Technicians from public-sector institutions, INAM and MADER; and 3 000 farming families.
Zambia: Staff of the MoA and MFL; district and field-level staff in the targeted districts; subject matter specialists; block and camp extension officers; non-governmental organizations (NGOs); and members of FFSs.

IMPACT

The results of the project are expected to increase the ability of national and local stakeholders to manage climate risks, reduce the vulnerabilities associated with climate variability and build the resilience of smallholders in the targeted countries, thereby ensuring food security.



SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

ACTIVITIES

- Networks were established in the targeted countries to analyse and monitor hydro meteorological variables.
- Interdepartmental collaboration and communication were facilitated to promote the production and dissemination of information on weather and climate .
- Communication products on the project’s outcomes were developed for stakeholders.
- Policy briefs were developed, and dialogues were conducted in all three countries to promote the scaling up of successful adaptation models.
- Adaptation models were tested and implemented in all three countries by engaging farmers through FFSS.



Implementing Partners

Malawi: Department of Climate Change and Meteorological Services (DCCMS); Department of Land Resources and Conservation (DLRC); Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation and Water Development (MoAIWD).

Mozambique: Instituto Nacional de Meteorologia (INAM, National Institute of Meteorology); Ministério da Agricultura e Desenvolvimento Rural (MADER, Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development).

Zambia: Indaba Agricultural Policy Research Institute (IAPRI); Ministry of Agriculture (MoA); Ministry of Fisheries and Livestock (MFL); National Remote Sensing Centre, Department of Meteorology; Zambia Agriculture Research Institute (ZARI).

Project Title

Strengthening integrated adaptation planning and implementation in Southern Africa smallholder agricultural systems to support food security

Project Code

FAO: GDCP/SFS/001/FLA

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