



Scaling up Climate Smart Agriculture for inclusive development

Johannesburg, November 28, 2017 - Every day that passes, we are learning and getting more convinced on the inevitability of ensuring our agricultural systems are climate smart. Climate-smart agriculture is the reform to ensure the way agriculture is practiced remains compatible with man-made climate changes, securing short-and-long-term resilience in productive capacity of the agricultural systems.

This was the sentiment at the 4th Global Science Conference on Climate Smart Agriculture, convened in Johannesburg, South Africa, on 28 November.

In his opening remarks, Dr Ibrahim Mayaki, CEO of the NEPAD Agency, highlighted the importance of climate smart agriculture towards inclusive development. “The Global Science Conference on Climate Smart Agriculture is for the first time being held in Africa. This is an extraordinary moment for Africa and the world at large, [as it is about what] goes to the core of the efforts to attain the inclusive development goals set in both Africa’s Agenda 2063 and the global SDGs,” said Dr Mayaki.

At the centre of the efforts for development in this context, are the following three issues: Firstly, important under the theme of the conference is the challenge presented to science and policies, in terms of how to bring the science-policy nexus to directly bear on accelerating and expanding the evolution, adaptation and up-take of farming practices that are climate smart. Secondly, is the issue of science and what this means with regard to innovations and advancing the locally adapted climate smart farming and food systems practices. Thirdly, the context of fostering implementation calls for the conversation to be among all practitioners, policy makers, business interests as well as academia and civil society.

Dr Phil Mjwara, Director General of the Department of Science and Technology in South Africa, reiterated the importance of upscaling climate smart agriculture, adding that food security, adaptation and mitigation are referred to as the “triple win” of climate-smart agriculture.

During the opening session of the conference, Martin Bwalya, NEPAD Agency’s Head of Programme Development pointed out that, “Climate Smart Agriculture can only be a success if it is a success globally, since food systems and climate variability do not have boundaries.”

Also speaking at the conference, Prof Diran Makinde, Senior Advisor in the NEPAD Industrialisation, Science, Technology and Innovation Hub, remarked that NEPAD Agency is leading on research that includes precision agriculture for increased impact and results.

Practicing Climate Smart Agriculture will directly impact on:

- Sustainably increasing agricultural productivity and incomes in order to meet national food security and development goals
- Building resilience and the capacity of agricultural and food systems to adapt to climate change;
- Ensuring that agriculture contributes to mitigate emissions of greenhouse gases or increase carbon sequestration.

Convening partners of the 4th Global Science Conference on Climate Smart Agriculture include the NEPAD Agency, South Africa's Department of Science and Technology, Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, GIZ, CIRAD, IRD, CTA, Wageningen University, CGIAR, CCAFS, AGRA, CCARDESA, Forum for Agricultural Research on Africa, and the African Capacity Building Foundation.



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