



CRAFT Regional Learning Event
Private Sector-oriented
Climate-Smart Agriculture
for Smallholder Farmer
Resilience: The CRAFT
Experience.

📅 24th - 26th September
 ⌚ All Day
 📍 Nairobi, Kenya

The Climate Resilient Agribusiness for Tomorrow (CRAFT) Project REGIONAL LEARNING EVENT

Summary Report



Our donors and implementing partners



About The Learning Event

The CRAFT Learning Event brings together key stakeholders to reflect on the Climate Resilient Agribusiness for Tomorrow (CRAFT) project which is implemented in Kenya, Tanzania, and Uganda by SNV and its implementing partners. Supported by the Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the project promotes climate-smart agriculture (CSA) through a private sector-led approach, aiming to enhance climate resilience among smallholder farmers.

Since its inception in 2018, CRAFT has worked with 56 agribusinesses and over 266,000 farmers to increase the adoption of climate-smart practices in value chains covering pulses, potatoes, oilseeds, and cereals. The project focuses on creating scalable business cases that drive climate resilience, increase agricultural productivity, and boost farmer incomes.

The learning event sought to explore the following key areas:

- Adoption of climate-smart practices and technologies among smallholder farmers, agribusinesses, and cooperatives.
- Enhanced business performance through climate investments and access to innovative climate finance.
- Policy and regulatory frameworks enabling large-scale implementation of CSA practices.
- Gender equality and social inclusion in CSA, with a focus on youth and women.

The Expected Outcomes were:

- Insights into what drives or hinders CSA adoption
- Lessons learnt from CSA interventions
- Future strategies for CSA programming
- Opportunities for networking and collaboration in the CSA space

Acronyms

CRAFT	Climate Resilient Agribusiness for Tomorrow
SHF	Small Holder Farmers
CIIF	Climate Innovation and Investment Facility
SME	Small and Medium-sized Enterprise
CSA	Climate Smart Agriculture
GESI	Gender Equality and Social Inclusion
KARLO	Kenya Agricultural and Livestock Research Organization.
KMD	Kenya Meteorological Department
MESPT	Micro Enterprise Support Programme Trust
KIRDI	Kenya Industrial Research and Development Institute
MoALD	Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock Development
ASTGS	Agricultural Sector Transformation and Growth Strategy
MSP	Multi-stakeholder Platform
LISTEN	Laikipia, Isiolo and Samburu Transforming the Environment through Nexus
IWRM	Integrated Water Resource Management
AMCOS	Agricultural Marketing Cooperative Society
CIS	Climate Information Services
NARO	The National Agricultural Research Organization
DFCD	Dutch Fund for Climate and Development
IGPAC	Intergovernmental Policy Advisory Committee
GALS	Gender Action Learning System
AICCRA	Accelerating Impacts of CGIAR Climate Research for Africa

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Networking session at the CRAFT learning event

Executive Summary

The Climate Resilient Agribusiness for Tomorrow (CRAFT) project, is a regional private sector-led Climate Smart Agriculture (CSA) Initiative led by SNV and other implementing partners. CRAFT hosted a three-day regional learning event to reflect on the achievements and lessons learned during its 6 years of implementation, share knowledge and understand opportunities for scaling Climate-Smart Agriculture in East Africa. The event brought together diverse stakeholders, including government representatives, private-sector actors, SACCOs, cooperatives, smallholder farmers (SHF), and development partners.

The event celebrated the CRAFT project's tangible outcomes, which include training over 266,000

farmers in CSA practices, of whom 213,000 adopted at least 2 CSA technologies or practices that led to increased productivity for 147,000 farmers and improved incomes for 168,000 farmers. Policy influence and market access were also key achievements, with cooperatives and product aggregation playing a pivotal role in connecting farmers to stable and premium markets. The hybrid extension system, which integrates digital tools with traditional methods, proved effective in disseminating CSA knowledge. Additionally, localized climate information services helped translate scientific data into practical agro-weather information that farmers could easily understand and use.

Participants explored strategies and challenges in building resilient agricultural systems in Kenya, Tanzania, and Uganda. They explored key themes on; digitalization of Agri-SMEs Cooperatives and SHFs' operations along value chains, gender equality in CSA, private-sector engagement, and value chain development, providing insights into innovative approaches and sustainable solutions to advance climate-resilient farming.

The Chief Guest, Dr. Kiprono Ronoh, the Principal Secretary of the State Department of Agriculture in Kenya's Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock Development, was represented by Mr. Douglas Kangi, the Director of Crops in the same ministry. Mr. Kangi reaffirmed the government's commitment to Climate-Smart Agriculture (CSA) through transformative policies, including the Agricultural Sector Transformation and Growth Strategy (ASTGS).

The importance of integrating water resource management with agriculture for diversification and resilience was highlighted, as exemplified by the Laikipia, Isiolo, Samburu Transforming the Environment Through Nexus (LISTEN) project. In Tanzania the potato value chain demonstrated big potential where cooperatives like Isowelu AMCOS played a vital role in driving market access and resilience for Agri SMEs and SHF.

CRAFT mobilized over €12 million in private sector co-financing through the Climate Innovation and Investment Facility (CIIF) which enabled the critical role of Business Champions (BCs) in supporting SHF with inputs, markets, and financing to enhance adoption of CSA practices.

Discussions during the panel sessions provided deeper insights into the challenges and opportunities facing SHF. Key topics included the profitability of CSA practices in East Africa, the role of digital tools in improving access to climate information and financing, and the importance of integrating indigenous knowledge with modern technologies. The panels also highlighted the persistent challenge of market inconsistencies and the critical need for gender-sensitive approaches and community-led solutions to advance climate resilience.

The 2024 Gender Equality and Social Inclusion (GESI) assessment, highlighted significant barriers,

including limited access to credit and entrenched gender norms, reinforcing the need for targeted interventions to empower women and youth in agriculture.

A key achievement of the event was the launch of the CRAFT/KARLO Agro-Weather Advisory Platform. This platform provides localized weather information, enabling farmers to make better-informed decisions that will enhance their resilience to weather related perils.

Despite the success of the CRAFT project, there remains challenges to fully unlocking the potential of CSA to enhance the climate resilience of SHF. These include limited availability of certified seeds, gaps in financial literacy among farmers, logistical barriers to market access, and the prevalence of counterfeit inputs.

The event outlined several actionable steps to address these challenges and sustain the project's gains. These include: scaling public-private partnerships to mobilize resources and ensure long-term sustainability, strengthening markets and value chains through digital platforms, aggregation centres, and cooperative-driven market linkages, scaling technological advancements like localized climate tools, and integrating indigenous knowledge with modern technologies.

Targeted interventions for women and youth, including tailored financial products and leadership training, were also emphasized alongside efforts to address gender norms through community sensitization. Participants suggested embedding CSA into national and regional policies as a key strategy, urging the integration of streamlined regulatory frameworks and resilience strategies into agricultural systems.

The CRAFT project has established a solid foundation for addressing climate challenges in agriculture through its private-sector-driven model, innovative financing, and inclusivity. The regional learning event underscored the transformative potential of CSA in driving agricultural resilience and emphasized the need for sustained collaboration and investment. By implementing the outlined recommendations, stakeholders can scale CSA practices across East Africa, ensuring sustainable agricultural systems, and resilient livelihoods for SHF.



Introduction

Over the course of 3 days, the Climate Resilient Agribusiness for Tomorrow (CRAFT) Project Regional learning event brought together participants to reflect on the project's impact. The event showcased how the project has advanced Climate-Smart Agriculture (CSA), fostering resilience among smallholder farmers and agricultural SMEs in the East African region. Participants shared insights, lessons learned, and celebrated key achievements of the CRAFT project.

To set the stage, participants were asked to identify the biggest barrier to the adoption of CSA practices. The majority ranked access to finances as the greatest challenge. Additionally, most participants agreed that climate-resilient seeds have the greatest impact on smallholder farmers, helping to build resilience and improve agricultural outcomes in the region.

Participants at the CRAFT learning event.

Speakers' Opening Remarks



Harold Mate
Project Manager
CRAFT Kenya

Harold Mate highlighted the significant achievements of the CRAFT project in promoting Climate-Smart Agriculture (CSA) in East Africa. The project successfully incentivized private sector investment in CSA through its Climate Innovation and Investment Facility (CIIF), attracting over €12 million in co-funding from Kenya (€4,478,221), Tanzania (€3,087,100), and Uganda (€4,478,946).

CRAFT provided €1,029,800 in own contributions and facilitated 14 Business Champions to secure loans worth €1,063,576 from private financial institutions. These investments led to substantial improvements in the livelihoods of smallholder farmers, including increased incomes, productivity, and adoption of climate-smart practices.

Harold noted the key learnings from the project which will be valuable for future efforts to promote climate-resilient agriculture in the region. These are:

- The commercial benefits of CSA extension services for Small and Medium-sized Enterprises and farmer cooperatives.
- The need to address the shortage of improved seed varieties.
- The importance of a holistic farming systems approach.
- The need for gender and youth inclusion in CSA programs.
- The challenges associated with crop insurance and irrigation services.

He concluded that CRAFT's success is attributed to three key aspects:

- The science-based approach
- The private sector-led model, and
- Strong partnerships with various stakeholders.



Rebecca Hallam
Country Director SNV
Kenya and Burundi

Rebecca Hallam expressed SNV'S commitment to sustainable agriculture. She highlighted CRAFT's success in building climate-resilient farming systems across East Africa. Hallam emphasized the importance of a landscape approach to tackle agricultural challenges.

She cited one such example in SNV's Laikipia, Isiolo and Samburu Transforming the Environment through Nexus (LISTEN) project. The LISTEN project focuses on integrating water resource management and agriculture to diversify farmers' income that has yielded positive impact.

Hallam encouraged participants at the CRAFT regional learning event to share their experiences and lessons learned to inform future programming. She concluded by emphasizing the need for both policy-level actions and practical, on-the-ground practices to ensure sustainable resource management.



Michael McGrath
Country Director SNV
Tanzania

Michael McGrath highlighted the significant impact on Tanzania's potato value chain through partnerships with SMEs and cooperatives. He emphasized that the Isowelu Agricultural Marketing Cooperative Society (AMCOS), which was named the best cooperative of 2022, is a clear example of this success.

McGrath emphasized the significance of the CRAFT project in demonstrating the potential of climate change research and securing private-sector funding for climate adaptation. He outlined SNV's evolving focus on the entire agrifood ecosystem and commitment to sustainability, inclusivity, and equity in the water sector. McGrath underscored the importance of climate change, gender equity, and effective engagement with governments, the private sector, and communities in achieving sustained change.



Douglas Kangi
The Director of
Crops in the Ministry
of Agriculture and
Livestock Development
in Kenya

Mr. Douglas Kangi stood in for the Chief Guest, Dr. Kipronoh Rono, the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock Development, Kenya. Kangi noted that while Kenya possesses over 200 value chains, the Ministry of Agriculture's current capacity is limited to five priority crops. He proposed a strategic approach involving intersectoral collaboration and regional partnerships with countries like Uganda and Tanzania to work together as a strong regional block.

Dr. Kipronoh Rono's speech, emphasized the crucial role of climate-smart agriculture in addressing the challenges posed by climate change. These challenges include unpredictable weather patterns, extreme events, pests and diseases. He noted that these challenges disproportionately affect smallholder farmers and agribusinesses, affecting their productivity and livelihoods.

He highlighted the importance of collaboration between the government, private sector, and smallholder farmers in implementing effective climate-smart practices and technologies. Dr. Rono reaffirmed the government's commitment to supporting these initiatives through policies, strategies, and investments, such as the Agricultural Sector Transformation and Growth Strategy (ASTGS).

Dr. Rono also acknowledged the significant contributions of the CRAFT project in promoting climate-smart agriculture and supporting smallholder farmers and agribusinesses. He commended the project's achievements in training farmers, facilitating partnerships between farmers and private sector actors, and providing access to climate-smart technologies and innovations.



Participants following the proceedings at the CRAFT learning event



Dr. Timmo Gaasbeek

Senior Policy Officer
Food Security at
the Netherlands
Ministry of Foreign
Affairs

Dr Timmo emphasized the significance of the learning event for sharing experiences and lessons on climate-resilient agriculture.

He acknowledged the challenges faced by smallholder farmers due to climate change and highlighted the need for collaboration among stakeholders.

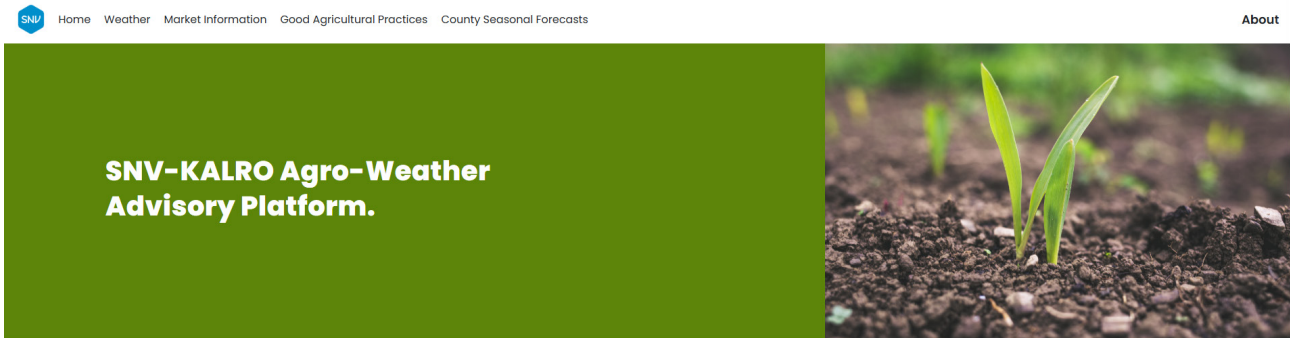
Dr Timmo emphasized how the CRAFT project addresses these challenges by prioritizing climate-smart agriculture and private-sector participation. He stressed the importance of sustaining the improvements achieved through the project and ensuring long-term resilience for smallholder farmers. Finally, he encouraged participants to reflect the lessons learned and explore ways to improve future programming and partnerships.

Actionable Items from Speakers' Speech

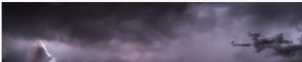


SPEAKER	ACTIONABLE ITEMS
Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock Development, Kenya	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Support the Agricultural Sector Transformation and Growth Strategy (ASTGS). ● Promote collaboration between the government, private sector, and smallholder farmers.
Senior Policy Officer Food Security at the Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Continue to address challenges faced by smallholder farmers due to climate change. ● Prioritize climate-smart agriculture and private-sector participation. ● Sustain the improvements achieved through the CRAFT project and ensure long-term resilience.
Country Director SNV Kenya and Burundi	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Promote policy discussions and sustainable resource management. ● Learn from the success of the LISTEN project in integrating water resource management and agriculture.
Country Director SNV Tanzania	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● SNV to continue to focus on the entire agrifood ecosystem and prioritize sustainability, inclusivity, and equity in the water sector. ● Advocate for climate change adaptation, gender equity, and strong partnerships with governments, the private sector, and communities.
Project Manager CRAFT Kenya	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Promote commercial benefits of CSA extension services for SMEs and cooperatives. ● Address the shortage of improved seed varieties and adopt a holistic farming systems approach. ● Prioritize gender and youth inclusion in CSA programs. ● Develop strategies to mitigate challenges associated with crop insurance and irrigation services.

Launch of CRAFT/KARLO Agro-Weather Advisory Platform

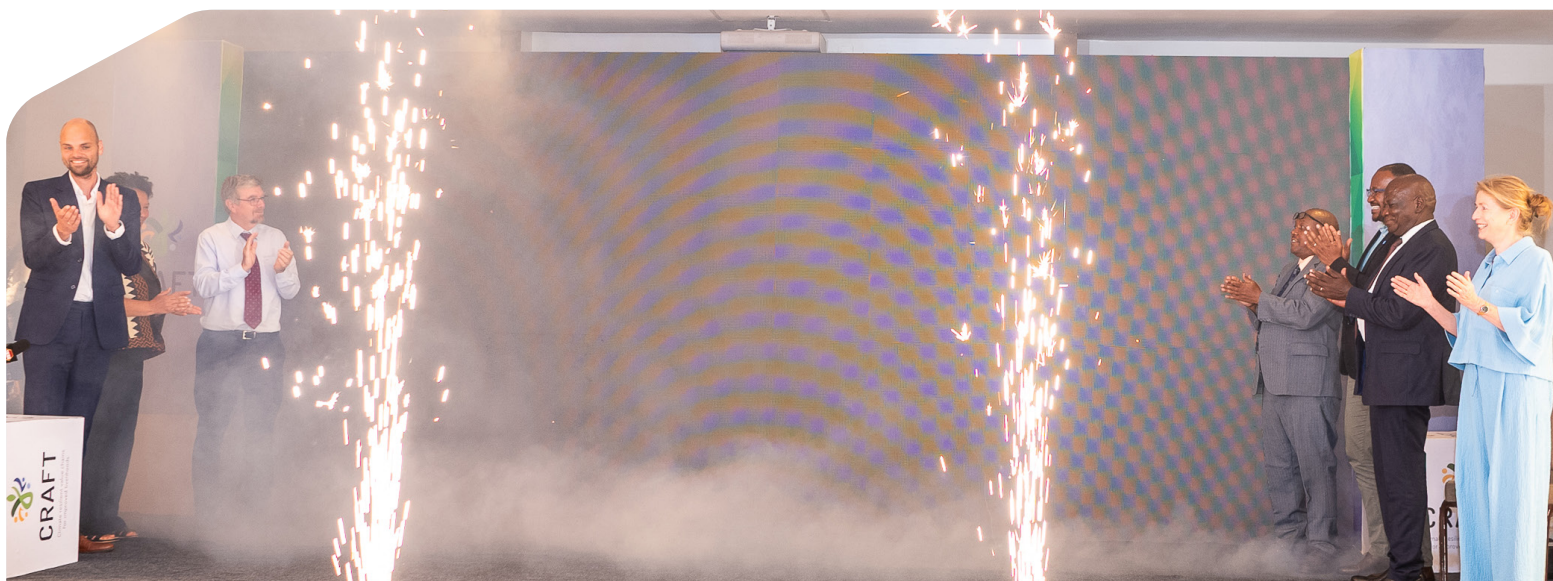
CRAFT/KARLO launched an online platform <https://snv.kalro.org/>



Themes

<p>Weather</p> <p>Weather has a significant impact on the prevalence of pests and diseases, the availability of water, and the amount of fertilizer needed to grow crops. Farmers rely on climate patterns and weather forecasting in agriculture to determine which crops to cultivate and when to sow them</p> 	<p>Market</p> <p>Get Up-to-date information on prices and other market factors to enable one to negotiate with traders and also facilitates spatial distribution of products from rural areas to towns and between markets.</p> 	<p>Good Agricultural Practices</p> <p>Certification system for agriculture, specifying procedures that must be implemented to create food for consumers or further processing that is safe and wholesome, using sustainable methods.</p> 
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The platform provides Kenyan farmers with critical weather information, empowering them to adapt to climate change and build resilient agricultural systems. By making informed decisions, farmers can mitigate risks, optimize their agricultural practices, and anticipate potential challenges. This leads to increased productivity and more sustainable farming operations.



(Left front to back) Mr. Stijn van Geel, Regional Manager for East Africa at Agriterro; Rebecca Hallam, Country Director, SNV Kenya and Burundi; Michael McGrath, Country Director, SNV Tanzania.
(Right front to back) Dr. Annemarie Groot, Team Lead, Climate Resilience, Wageningen University of Research; Charles Otieno Mugah, Deputy Director, Aeronautical Meteorological Services; Harold Mate, Project Manager, CRAFT Kenya; Douglas Kangi, Director of Crops in the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock Development Kenya.

CRAFT Impact-Plenary Presentations



James Githuku, Regional Monitoring and Evaluation Advisor, CRAFT-SNV Kenya

a) CRAFT Regional Learning Event: Key Results and Outcomes

Mr. James Githuku, CRAFT Regional MEL Advisor, presented an overview of the CRAFT project results and outcomes. He highlighted the significant achievements of the project in promoting climate-smart agriculture (CSA) and improving the livelihoods of smallholder farmers in East Africa.

Key Outcomes

- ✓ **Increased adoption of CSA practices:** CRAFT trained over 266,000 smallholder farmers in climate-smart agriculture practices and technologies.
- ✓ **Enhanced productivity and income:** 147,000 SHFs increased their productivity, and 168,000 SHFs reported increased incomes.
- ✓ **Resilient farming systems:** 213,000 SHFs adopted two or more climate-smart agricultural practices, enhancing their resilience and productivity.
- ✓ **Private sector investment:** The project attracted over €12 million in co-funding through the CIIF, including €1,029,800 in own contributions and €1,063,576 in loans secured by 14 Business Champions.



- ✓ **Enabling Environment:** CRAFT provided support in the development of policies and frameworks for climate-smart agriculture. CRAFT played a role in shaping policy frameworks for climate-smart agriculture.
- ✓ **Knowledge sharing and learning:** CRAFT learning event facilitated knowledge exchange and learning among stakeholders.
- ✓ **Climate Information Services and Index-Based Insurance:** A significant number of farmers used climate/weather information services and index-based insurance products. Access to these services varied across the three countries, with Kenya and Uganda having higher levels of access.

b) Cooperatives as Drivers for CSA-Agriterra

Mr. Stijin van Geel, the Regional Manager for East Africa at Agriterra, provided an overview of the pivotal role cooperatives play in driving climate-smart agriculture (CSA) practices within the CRAFT project. He shared examples from the Rift Cooperative Union, Ltd. (RIVACU) LTD in Tanzania and Starlight Farmers' Cooperative Society Ltd., in Kenya, highlighting their contributions to enhancing agricultural resilience and improving the livelihoods of smallholder farmers.

Both Starlight and RIVACU demonstrated a commitment to providing a wide range of services to their members. Starlight empowered farmers and increased productivity by strengthening internal capacities, promoting local seed multiplication, expanding service offerings, and facilitating financial inclusion. Similarly, RIVACU contributed to sustainable agricultural practices through comprehensive rural service delivery model, internal capital strategies, and focus on quality seeds and block farming.

Mr. Stijin emphasized that cooperatives are essential vehicles for implementing CSA practices at the farm level. Effective governance, strong financial management, and improved data literacy are crucial for their success.

Documented strategic business planning ensures sustainable service operations and long-term viability, while internal capital commitment from

members is vital for cooperatives to thrive. Access to finance at both the farm and cooperative levels is key to supporting cooperatives and their members.

The CRAFT project highlighted that the cooperatives involved faced significant challenges including:

- **Smaller Size:** Cooperatives are relatively small, with a limited number of members and resources.
- **Less Organization:** Cooperatives may lack strong organizational structures, efficient management, and clear governance systems.
- **Limited Financial Capacity:** Cooperatives may have limited access to capital, making it difficult to invest in infrastructure, technology, and working capital.

However, the CRAFT project's investment facility played a key role in addressing these challenges by providing targeted financial support. Cooperatives have the potential to drive climate-smart agriculture practices, improve the livelihoods of smallholder farmers, and enhance agricultural resilience in the East Africa region. As a recommendation, future initiatives should focus on developing tailored financing products, such as loans with affordable interest rates and flexible repayment terms, to further empower cooperatives and encourage their adoption of climate-smart agricultural practices. Providing these resources and support will strengthen the resilience of smallholder farmers and contribute to sustainable agricultural development.

c) Climate Information for decision-making in CSA

Dr. Annemarie Groot, Team Lead, Climate Resilience, Wageningen University of Research, highlighted the critical role of climate information services (CIS) in supporting adaptation to climate change. She emphasized that CIS should adopt a comprehensive



Dr. Annemarie Groot, Team Lead, Climate Resilience at Wageningen University & Research

approach, incorporating data from multiple sources to provide a more accurate and nuanced understanding of climate change impacts.

Farmers and stakeholders with access to comprehensive climate information can make informed decisions and adapt strategies to mitigate climate risks. Dr. Annemarie explained that tailoring climate information to different time scales is crucial for the corresponding relevant stakeholders. By providing relevant climate information, stakeholders can make informed decisions and adapt to changing climate conditions.

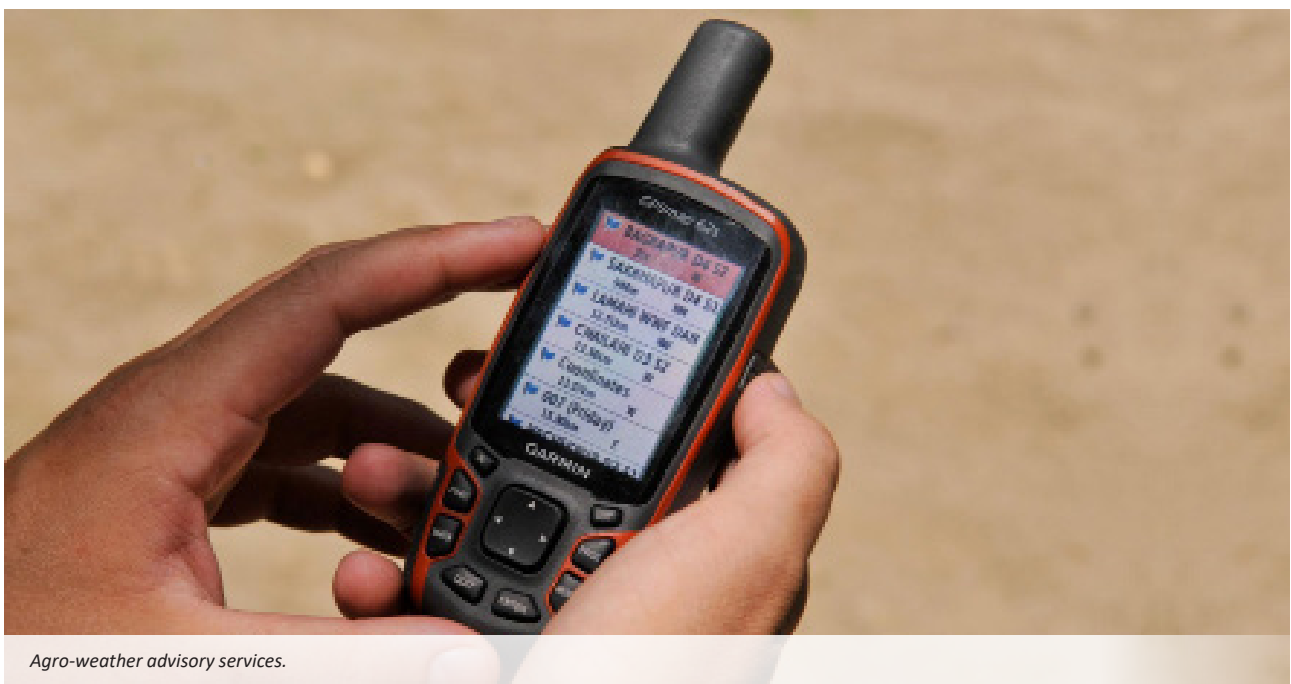
Climate Information Services and User

CLIMATE INFORMATION	RELEVANT STAKEHOLDER
Daily/ Weekly weather predictions	Farmers
Seasonal forecasts	Farmer, Extension services, input supplies
Decadal predictions	Policymakers, Financial institutions, Research institutions
Long -term climate change projections	Policymakers, Researchers, Planners

Initially, the CRAFT project focused on long-term weather predictions. However, after understanding the needs of their stakeholders, the project changed to short-term predictions. CRAFT facilitated provision of Agro-weather advisory to farmers, that was customized to climate information daily, weekly, monthly, and annually. The project also developed climate information services with a long-term focus (the 2050s) projecting changes in rainfall and growing seasons for sunflower production in Tanzania. Some regions, particularly the western and central sunflower growing areas, are expected to experience shorter growing spells, making them more vulnerable to climate change impacts.

The information is used to raise awareness about climate risks, inform policy decisions, and guide agricultural planning efforts. By understanding the expected changes in rainfall and growing seasons, stakeholders can take proactive steps to adapt their farming practices and ensure the resilience of the sunflower value chain in Tanzania.

Dr. Annemarie emphasized the importance of tailoring climate information services to the specific needs and context of users. She recommended a user-centred approach to design these services to ensure their relevance and effectiveness. By involving users in the development process, co-creation can guarantee that the information meets the users' specific requirements. Additionally, combining climate information with contextual and domain-related data helps users understand the implications of climate change for their specific circumstances. This holistic approach provides a more comprehensive understanding of climate impacts and adaptation options. She added that by offering assessments of the feasibility and effects of adaptation measures, climate information services can support informed decision-making. These actionable insights enable users to identify practical and effective strategies to adapt to climate change.



Agro-weather advisory services.

Participants' Reflections

- 1** Climate information is often in complex scientific language, yet many smallholder farmers have limited literacy levels. To effectively reach these farmers with climate information, addressing the language barrier and tailoring the information to their specific needs and context is important. One way this can be done is by employing participatory approaches and using the local languages of farmers. CRAFT project initially focused on long-term climate predictions but adapted to facilitate the provision of climate information services to farmers in response to participatory workshops held where small-scale farmers were identified as CRAFT's key stakeholders.
- 2** The CRAFT project's success in Kenya highlights the potential impact of strategic crop selection on project outcomes. While market access was a crucial factor in the three countries, the choice of crops in Kenya, which were likely more commercially viable, may have contributed to greater success. Further investigation is needed to determine whether these crops had more readily available markets compared to those in Tanzania.
- 3** The multi-purpose nature of cooperatives in Tanzania could have presented challenges in focusing on specific value chains promoted by CRAFT. This suggests the need for careful crop selection, considering existing market structures and cooperative functions for successful replication across regions.
- 4** Both Kenya and Tanzania highlight the success of the Training of Trainers (TOT) approach within cooperatives. It enabled cooperatives to cascade knowledge to farmers and ensure skills and practices are sustained beyond the CRAFT program's lifespan.
- 5** CRAFT's collaboration with KEPHIS in Kenya to certify seeds is a valuable strategy. Ensuring the quality and availability of certified seeds through established institutions seems to be a crucial factor for sustainable agricultural development.
- 6** The CRAFT project's collaboration with government entities and stakeholders across the value chain is a testament to the importance of strong partnerships in driving climate resilience. The partnership with SNV and the meteorological department in Nakuru and Meru is a prime example of this collaborative approach. Through participatory scenario planning, farmers received scaled-down climate information that they could understand and was relevant to their needs. Also, through training, meteorologists were equipped to provide accurate and accessible climate information to farmers.
- 7** There is a gap in monetizing adaptation benefits for households. It is possible to make adaptation more financially attractive by; conducting cost-benefit analyses, exploring market-based mechanisms, implementing community-based initiatives, and providing policy incentives.
- 8** The proliferation of smartphones and the increasing availability of weather prediction apps on both Android and iPhone platforms offer significant potential for improving access to climate information for smallholder farmers. While these apps have become increasingly accurate over time, their effectiveness in providing reliable and actionable information for farmers depends on other factors.
- 9** There is need to combine the use of Indigenous knowledge with modern technology. This can improve the acceptance and usefulness of weather predictions for farmers and develop accurate and context-specific information for them. Traditional farming practices often incorporate centuries of accumulated wisdom about local weather patterns, which can complement and enhance the insights provided by modern technology.
- 10** Embedding mitigation strategies within weather information services can provide farmers with actionable recommendations for adapting their agricultural practices to changing climate conditions. This can include advice on planting dates, crop selection, water management, and pest control.
- 11** There is a need for co-creation processes that actively involve farmers in the development and refinement of climate information services so that information is relevant and useful. By incorporating local knowledge and experiences, farmers can help validate and improve the accuracy of weather predictions and ensure that the information is presented in a way that is understandable and actionable.

CRAFT's Approach to Climate Resilient Value Chains: Private Sector-Led Smallholder Farmers' Resilience

Mr. James Kebirungi, Agribusiness Advisor SNV-CRAFT Uganda, commenced his presentation by outlining the CRAFT project's private sector-led approach to delivering climate-smart agriculture services to smallholder farmers (SHFs). He emphasized that the private sector plays a pivotal role in this endeavor, acting as a vehicle for CSA service delivery.

He delved into the selection and definition of "Business Champions (BC)," as actors with established climate-smart agri-business models capable of driving climate-smart innovations and practices among SHFs. Three categories of Business Champions were identified:

- Agri-business SMEs
- Cooperatives
- Climate Smart Agriculture service providers.

CRAFT collaborated with the Wageningen University Research (WUR) and the Accelerating Impacts of CGIAR Climate Research for Africa (AICCRA), with support from government ministries and agencies to conduct climate risk assessments and crop modeling. This analysis led to the identification and selection of climate-resilient value chains as entry points for project implementation.

The key climate-resilient value chains identified included soybeans, sesame, potatoes, green grams, sorghum, common beans, and sunflower. These served as the basis for CSA trainings provided by Business Champions to SHFs. A deliberate

integration of the farming system was a game-changer, focusing on landscape management, rainwater harvesting, scaling, and productivity. This approach led to higher yields, diversified household food sources, and increased resilience for SHFs, agri-SMEs, and cooperatives.

Kebirungi explained that the aim of the CRAFT project was to promote viable business cases that were climate-smart, inclusive, scalable, and had a clear value proposition for all stakeholders. The key achievements include increased productivity through the provision of reliable markets, access to climate-smart inputs, and CSA training. With CRAFT's guidance, Business Champions supported SHFs in planning, crop and field management, post-harvest handling, collective bulking, and marketing, leading to improved business performance.

Kebirungi concluded by outlining key lessons for effective agricultural extension programs which include:

- Adopting a hybrid extension approach. This involves combining traditional extension methods such as face to face interactions with modern approaches like digital tools and technologies.
- Making CSA services accessible and affordable to small holder farmers.
- Integrating CSA services into the broader farming system rather than being seen as a separate activity.
- Providing comprehensive support through unified extension approaches and bundled services. This ensures that farmers receive the support they need at various stages of the agricultural production process.

Speed Networking and Storytelling by Business Champions

Participants in a CRAFT networking session shared insights into the project's interventions and their positive outcomes. The following highlights key areas where CRAFT's business champions, or private sector actors, made a significant impact:

a) Seed Systems

- CRAFT's interventions increased the availability and use of clean, certified seeds among smallholder farmers.
- Trained farmers multiplied quality-declared seeds locally.
- Using improved seeds increased productivity and higher incomes for farmers.
- Farmers gained a significant increase in awareness of the benefits of using improved seeds.

b) Digitalization of Farmer Information Services and Business Processes

- Digital tools streamlined data collection and tracking, leading to more efficient operations and reduced risks.
- Accurate tracking of credit information led to timely repayment.
- Improved data management and traceability systems enhanced transparency and accountability, contributing to better product quality monitoring- processes.
- Farmers gained timely access to weather and market information.
- Digitalization reduced transaction and operational costs.

c) Extension as a Service

- CRAFT's extension services facilitated the timely dissemination of CSA practices and technologies.
- Extension workers documented successful CSA practices and technologies, enabling farmers to make evidence-based decisions.
- Farmers gained valuable knowledge and skills in climate change adaptation measures.
- Increased productivity and income improved community resilience.

d) Access to Market

- CRAFT's interventions helped farmers connect with buyers and access better markets for their produce.
- Farmers sold their produce at higher prices through collective selling.
- CRAFT created aggregation centres, leading to new job opportunities for youth and women.
- Farmers diversified their income by adding value to their products.

e) Alternative Financing

- CRAFT supported the establishment of SACCOs and AMCOS to provide financial services to smallholder farmers.
- Farmers gained access to loans for agricultural inputs and other needs.
- Training and sensitization programs helped farmers improve their financial management skills.



CRAFT Business Champions exhibiting their products and services, engaging with participants.

Panel Discussion with Agri-SMEs/Farmers on Unlocking Agri-SMEs Investment and Participation in Key CSA Interventions

Key Takeaways

The panel discussion highlighted several key areas where CRAFT's interventions have had a positive impact on smallholder farmers in East Africa. These include:

- ✓ CRAFT's initiatives have increased the availability and use of clean, certified seeds among farmers.
- ✓ Farmers have experienced increased productivity and income through provision of reliable markets, access to climate-smart inputs, and training on CSA practices,
- ✓ The project has supported the development of cooperatives and their capacity to deliver effective services to their members.
- ✓ CRAFT has helped farmers connect with buyers and access better markets for their produce, leading to higher prices and diversified income sources.
- ✓ The establishment of Savings and Credit Cooperative Organization (SACCOs) and Agricultural Marketing Cooperative Societies (AMCOS) has provided farmers with access to financial services, including loans and savings.
- ✓ CRAFT's interventions have helped farmers build resilience to climate change through the adoption of climate-smart practices and improved access to resources.

Challenges

The discussion also revealed some challenges and areas for further improvement. These include:

- Sustainability: Ensuring the sustainability of the interventions beyond the CRAFT project's lifespan is a critical challenge.
- Market access: While progress has been made, accessing consistent and reliable markets remains a challenge for many farmers.
- Financial literacy: Improving the financial literacy of farmers is essential for effective use of financial services.
- Counterfeits: Addressing the issue of counterfeit seeds and other agricultural inputs is crucial for protecting farmers' interests.
- Digitalization: Overcoming challenges related to access to digital tools and infrastructure is necessary for effective digitalization of agricultural practices.

Panel Discussion on Smallholder Farmer Interventions

The panel discussion on smallholder farmer interventions highlighted the critical need for a comprehensive approach that addresses various aspects of agricultural development. The key areas of focus included:

a) Seed systems

The panel emphasized the importance of accessing high-quality seeds and the potential of local seed multiplication. They acknowledged the challenges posed by counterfeit seeds and the need for measures to combat this issue.

b) Digitalization

The panel discussed the challenges and opportunities associated with adopting digital tools, including access to technology and data privacy. They stressed the need for user-friendly tools that are accessible to farmers with limited technical knowledge.

c) Extension services

The panel highlighted the importance of ensuring the sustainability of extension programs beyond project periods and providing training and capacity building for both extension workers and farmers. They identified Incentives as essential for motivating participation in extension programs.

d) Market access

The panel discussed market access in terms of the challenges faced by farmers in connecting with buyers and the opportunities presented by value addition and aggregation. The panel emphasized the role of cooperatives in facilitating market access and improving bargaining power for farmers.

e) Alternative financing

Alternative financing was also a key area of discussion. The panel highlighted the need to provide financial services to smallholder farmers, including loans and savings.

f) The integration of indigenous knowledge

The panel highlighted the importance of integrating indigenous knowledge with modern agricultural practices. They emphasized the challenges and opportunities associated with incorporating this knowledge and the need for collaboration between farmers and researchers.

The panel discussion underscored the need for a multifaceted approach to support smallholder farmers in addressing the above interventions. By addressing these challenges and building on the successes achieved, the interventions can have a lasting impact on agricultural development in the region.



(L to R): Moderator Dr Owekisha Kwigizile, Dr. Jeremiah Rogito, AGRA, Ms. Fatuma Namutosi, Byeffe Foods Limited, Prof. Tukamuhamba Phinehas, Makerere University Agricultural Research Institute Kabanyolo (MUARIK), Mr. Bashir Kasekenda, SNV CRAFT-UG and Dr. Lusike Wasilwa, KALRO

Group Discussions on Small Holder Farmer Interventions



Group 1, Day 2 discussions emphasized the importance of climate-resilient strategies in enabling smallholder farmers to overcome climate challenges and improve market access.

Group 1: Market access for climate-resilient value chains

a) How has climate change affected small holder farmers access to markets?

- **Reduced crop yields:** Unpredictable rainfall patterns, extreme weather events, and increased pest and disease pressure have led to lower crop yields, affecting supply and reducing farmers' ability to meet market demand.
- **Market price fluctuations:** Climate change has disrupted supply chains and created price volatility, making it difficult for farmers to plan their production and secure fair prices for their crops.
- **Quality degradation:** The quality of agricultural products has been affected making them less attractive to buyers and reducing their market value.

b) What are the opportunities for climate-smart value chains?

- **Premium markets:** Climate-resilient products often command premium prices.
- **Risk mitigation:** CSA practices help mitigate climate risks and ensure a more stable supply of products.

- **Value addition:** Processing and value addition increases the value of agricultural products and improves market access.
- **Climate-smart certification:** Obtaining certifications for climate-smart practices enhances market access and credibility.

c) What market structures would best support small holder farmers to be more climate resilient?

- **Contract Farming:** Long-term contracts with buyers can provide farmers price stability and market guarantees.
- **Cooperatives:** Cooperatives can aggregate produce for farmers, negotiate better prices, and improve market access.
- **Climate Information Systems:** Access to climate information helps farmers make informed decisions about production and pricing.
- **Diversification:** Growing a variety of crops or livestock can help farmers reduce risk exposure to climate-related shocks and market fluctuations.

Group 2: Climate sensitive seed systems

a) Smallholder farmers as agents of climate-smart seed systems

- Smallholder farmers and cooperatives play a significant role in developing and managing climate-sensitive seed systems.
- By empowering farmers, establishing local seed systems, and providing a supportive regulatory environment, it is possible to enhance agricultural resilience and promote sustainable agriculture in the face of climate change.
- Smallholder farmers can serve as agents of change in the development of climate-sensitive seed systems. When empowered and supported, they can actively participate in seed production, selection, and distribution.
- Local seed systems, established through cooperatives or other community-based organizations, can ensure access to seeds adapted to specific agro-ecological conditions. These systems can promote the exchange of knowledge, build trust among farmers, and strengthen local food security.
- By empowering farmers, establishing local seed systems, and providing a supportive regulatory environment, it is possible to enhance agricultural resilience and promote sustainable agriculture in the face of climate change.
- Smallholder farmers can serve as agents of change in the development of climate-sensitive seed systems. When empowered and supported, they can actively participate in seed production, selection, and distribution. Local seed systems, established through cooperatives or other community-based organizations, can ensure access to seeds adapted to specific agro-ecological conditions. These systems can promote the exchange of knowledge, build trust among farmers, and strengthen local food security.
- In Uganda, the regulations governing seed certification play a crucial role in creating a conducive environment for climate-sensitive seed systems. These regulations can provide quality standards, protect farmers' rights, and facilitate the development and distribution of improved seed varieties.
- By combining the efforts of smallholder farmers, cooperatives, and supportive regulations, it is possible to create a sustainable and resilient seed system that can help farmers adapt to climate change and improve their livelihood.

b) Challenges to smallholder farmers when it comes to access of Climate-Smart Seed

Availability:

- The supply of climate-smart seeds may be limited, especially in remote areas.
- Lack of diverse climate-smart seed varieties may not meet the specific needs of different agro-ecological zones.

Accessibility:

- Distance and poor infrastructure hinder access to seed markets and distribution channels.
- Farmers may not be aware of the availability and benefits of climate-smart seeds.

Affordability:

- Climate-smart seeds can be more expensive than traditional varieties, making them unaffordable for some smallholder farmers.
- Many farmers lack the financial resources to invest in high-quality seeds.

Reliability:

- Climate-smart seeds may not always perform as expected, leading to uncertainty and reduced trust among farmers.
- Counterfeit or adulterated seeds sold to farmers, compromising the quality and performance of the seeds.

Delayed Payments

- Government agencies, such as The National Agricultural Research Organization (NARO), take a long time to release payments to farmers, affecting their ability to invest in inputs like seeds.

To overcome these obstacles, there is need for a multifaceted approach. It is crucial to strengthen seed supply chains through local production, aggregate networks, and have quality assurance measures. Providing subsidies or payment plans can improve access to affordable seeds, while training and extension services can enhance farmer knowledge. Additionally, a supportive policy environment, including seed certification regulations and restrictions on seed movement, is essential. By implementing these strategies, smallholder farmers can gain better access to climate-smart seeds, enabling them to improve their agricultural practices and enhance their resilience to climate change.

c) Role of the private sector/research institutions in strengthening climate-smart seeds systems.

- Research institutions develop and provide climate-smart seed varieties tailored to specific agro-ecological conditions.
- Collaborations with the private sector enable the multiplication and commercialization of these improved varieties, ensuring their wider availability to farmers.
- Partnerships between research institutions and the private sector enable leveraging on their respective strengths, combining academic expertise with market knowledge and distribution networks.
- There is development of sustainable seed systems that are resilient to climate change and provide farmers with access to high-quality, affordable seeds.
- New opportunities for research commercialization and technology transfer. Makerere University for instance, has an MOU with an Ugandan seed company. This has enabled the university to engage with the Private Sector. The seed company provides valuable support to the university's breeding programs, ensuring the developed of seed varieties that are relevant to market needs.

d) How has climate affected seed systems in the context of small holder farmers?

- It has caused disruption of seasonal patterns. Farmers rely heavily on traditional seasonal

patterns for planting and harvesting. Climate change has led to unpredictable rainfall, extreme temperatures, and prolonged droughts, disrupting these patterns and making it challenging for farmers to plan their agricultural activities.

- It has led to obsolescence of crop varieties. Many traditional crop varieties are becoming less suited to the changing climate conditions. There is a growing need to identify and promote priority crops that are more resilient to climate change.
- It has led to soil degradation significantly disrupting traditional farming practices, affecting seed availability, quality, and suitability for changing climatic conditions. Soil testing, as a component of the CRAFT project, can help farmers understand the impact of climate change on their soil health and make informed decisions about seed selection and adaptation strategies.
- It has led to reduced productivity: Climate change can directly affect seed production by altering temperatures, rainfall patterns, and pest and disease pressures. As a result, there is reduced yields and lower crop quality.
- It had led to challenges in gender roles. Women face challenges in accessing resources and participating in decision-making, and adapting their agricultural practices to changing climate conditions.

Group 2, Day 2 discussions highlighted the role of research, private sector, and policies in creating resilient, climate-sensitive seed systems to boost agricultural productivity and adaptability





Group 3: Profitability of Climate-Smart Agriculture (CSA) in East Africa

a) What is the value of climate smart produce against the cost of production?

The CRAFT project conducted a comprehensive net margin analysis to assess the profitability of CSA practices in Kenya, Tanzania, and Uganda. The analysis compared the value of climate-smart produce against the costs of production, considering factors such as:

- **Input costs:** Seeds, fertilizers, pesticides, labor, and fuel
- **Output value:** Market prices for CSA products
- **Fixed costs:** Land rent, equipment, and infrastructure

The findings showed that:

- I. Adopting CSA practices and technologies increases profitability because it enhances productivity as evident in the Gross Margin Analysis (GMA) calculations.
- II. Adopting CSA practices and technologies requires significant levels of investment. Although SHFs don't need to adopt all practices at a go, the best practice to start with is use of improved seed varieties.
- III. For higher productivity, farmers need to combine a set of CSA practices and technologies more so a combination of climate smart land preparation/planting methods, improved varieties, soil nutrition and management of pests and diseases.
- IV. Apart from the yield, revenue is also dependent on the market price, variety, quality and markets (farm gate, local traders, terminal markets etc.).
- V. Adoption of climate-smart mechanization services is low due to limited availability and access of the services at SHF level.
- VI. Higher benefits are realized in the long-run, probably after the second season. For instance, some costing on soil testing will not be incurred in the second season and also when mechanized land preparation is applied it reduces the number of workings on the soil thus reducing the costs. In addition, with the correct soil amendment achieved through soil testing, the improvement of soil fertility will be gradual

season after season leading to increasing productivity.

- VII. Applying Gross Margin Analysis (GMA) and Net Margin Analysis (NMA) to CSA practices technologies while assessing the financial implications alongside the environmental and social benefits, smallholder farmers, extension service providers and other stakeholders can make informed viable decisions about the adoption and scaling up of climate-smart agricultural practices.

b) What are key cost drivers of CSA farm to market processes?

- **Seed quality:** High-quality, climate-resilient seeds can increase yields and reduce losses.
- **Fertilizer and pesticide use:** The use of appropriate inputs can improve crop health and productivity while minimizing costs.
- **Mechanization:** Access to mechanization services can reduce labor costs and improve efficiency.
- **Post-harvest handling:** Proper storage, processing, and packaging can minimize losses and improve product quality.
- **Market access:** Access to premium markets with higher prices can significantly increase profitability.

c) How does innovation and technology affect CSA profitability?

- Innovation and technology lead to improved varieties, which can increase productivity and reduce risks.
- Innovation and technology lead to precision agriculture. Technologies like GPS, drones, and sensors can optimize resource use and improve efficiency.
- Innovation and technology help market information systems. Access to real-time market information can help farmers make informed decisions about production and pricing.
- Innovation and technology enable value-added processing. Transforming raw products into value-added products can increase market value and profitability.



Group 3, Day 2 discussions showed that adopting climate-smart agricultural practices and technologies boosts smallholder farmers' productivity and profitability

d) What are the critical CSA practices to guarantee profitability?

- **Integrated pest and disease management.** This reduces reliance on chemical inputs by using biological and cultural control methods.
- **Soil health management.** This improves soil fertility and structure through practices like cover cropping, crop rotation, and organic matter addition.
- **Water conservation.** This reduces water costs and improves yields through efficient water use practices, such as drip irrigation and rainwater harvesting.
- **Diversification.** This reduces risk and increases income stability by growing a variety of crops.
- **Climate-smart land preparation.** This preparation prevents soil erosion and improves water retention by using techniques like contour farming and terracing.

e) What are the barriers to SHF access to and use of climate information?

- Limited access to technology constrains many smallholder farmers from accessing mobile phones, the internet, or other digital platforms that deliver climate information.
- Low literacy levels make it difficult for many SHFs to interpret complex climate forecasts or

meteorological data and limit the use of tech-based solutions.

- Cost of accessing climate information services, such as mobile data charges, can be prohibitive for poorer farmers.
- Lack of locally relevant information reduces the utility of generalized climate information for SHFs who need localized forecasts and weather predictions.
- Lack of trust in information sources can make SHFs reluctant to act on climate information.
- Delayed delivery of climate information limits its effectiveness if it arrives too late in the farming cycle.
- Cultural and social barriers can hinder the dissemination and use of climate information, especially among marginalized groups like women farmers.

f) Which climate information is relevant to SHF?

- **Seasonal rainfall forecasts** inform decisions around planting and irrigation by providing information on timing, amount, and distribution of rainfall during the growing season.
- **Temperature forecasts** help farmers determine planting times and anticipate risks of frost, heatwaves, or droughts.

- **Pest and disease forecasts** inform farmers about predicted pest outbreaks or favorable conditions for diseases based on climate conditions.
- **Extreme weather alerts** enable farmers to protect crops and livestock by providing real-time or near-real-time information about extreme weather events.
- **Soil moisture and drought information** guides farmers on irrigation needs and water management.
- **Agro-advisories** integrate climate data with specific farming practices, such as determining the best time to apply fertilizer based on weather conditions.

g) What is the role of the different stakeholders in ensuring SHF access to climate information?

- National meteorological departments and agricultural ministries are responsible for generating and disseminating climate information, prioritizing open, accessible, and understandable data for SHFs.
- NGOs and development organizations bridge the gap between SHFs and climate information by organizing training, creating localized content, and facilitating access to relevant tools.
- Telecom companies, agribusinesses, and fintech companies deliver climate information via mobile platforms, apps, and SMS services, developing business models that offer affordable climate information services.
- Agricultural extension officers help interpret climate data, provide advice based on forecasts, and facilitate the adoption of best practices.
- Climate and agricultural researchers tailor information to local contexts and develop tools for integrating climate forecasts into decision-making for SHFs.
- Farmer cooperatives and associations disseminate climate information, aggregate farmer needs, and advocate for more resources or services related to climate information.
- International organizations like the World Bank, FAO, and UN agencies provide technical support, funding, and policy guidance to improve SHF access to climate information.

h) What are best practices in integrating climate information in SHF decision making?

- **Co-production of knowledge** involves SHFs in the design and dissemination processes, ensuring that climate information is relevant to specific needs and practices. Participatory approaches increase buy-in and trust.
- **Localization of data** makes climate information hyper-local and context-specific, making it more useful. Tools like mobile apps or radio broadcasts that offer region-specific forecasts impact decision-making.
- **Blending traditional and scientific knowledge** integrates scientific climate data with traditional weather forecasting methods, improving acceptance and effectiveness.
- **Capacity building and training** equips SHFs with the skills to interpret and act on climate information through workshops, field schools, and ongoing extension services.
- **Timely delivery of climate information** allows SHFs to adapt their strategies by providing real-time or sufficient lead time to adjust planting dates or protect crops from anticipated extreme weather.
- **Diverse communication channels** ensure climate information reaches farmers regardless of technological access through SMS, mobile apps, radio, community meetings, and extension visits.
- **Linking climate information** to financial tools incentivizes SHFs to integrate climate data into their decisions and mitigate financial risks by offering climate insurance or credit products informed by climate forecasts.
- **Gender-inclusive approaches** address the specific needs and barriers faced by women farmers in accessing and using climate information by promoting gender-sensitive communication strategies and tools.
- **Continuous monitoring and feedback loops** improve systems and build more responsive services by gathering ongoing feedback from SHFs about the relevance, accuracy, and usefulness of climate information.

Plenary on Private Sector Engagement Presentation from Key Areas of Focus

1. Approaches to engaging the private sector
2. Challenges in working with the private sector
3. Achievements and Lessons learnt from their initiatives

a) SNV- Dutch Fund for Climate and Development (DFCD) – Tigere Muzenda

i) Approaches to Engaging the Private Sector

- Forming strategic partnerships with private sector entities to leverage their resources and expertise.
- Creating joint ventures with private companies to develop and implement climate-resilient projects.
- Sharing knowledge and best practices with the private sector to promote understanding of climate risks and opportunities.
- Supporting the development of climate resilience capabilities within private sector companies.
- Providing incentives or subsidies to encourage private sector investment in climate-resilient projects.

ii) Challenges in Working with the Private Sector

- Balancing the private sector's profit motives with the broader goals of sustainable

development and climate resilience can be challenging.

- Private sector entities often focus on shorter-term goals, which may not always align with the long-term objectives of climate resilience initiatives.
 - Private sector tends to perceive climate risks as too high or uncertain, deterring investment.
 - Regulatory constraints and bureaucratic hurdles hinder private sector engagement.
- #### iii) Achievements and Lessons Learned
- Successful partnerships have led to the scaling up of climate-resilient projects in various sectors.
 - DFCD has attracted private sector investment in climate-related initiatives, contributing to increased financing for sustainable development.
 - DFCD has facilitated knowledge transfer between research institutions and the private sector, fostering innovation and collaboration.
 - DFCD has advocated for policy reforms that create a more enabling environment for private sector engagement in climate resilience.



(L to R): Florence Kariuki Equity Bank, Tigere Muzenda SNV- Dutch Fund for Climate and Development (DFCD), Ingrid Wekesa KIRDI, Doreen Kinoti Micro Enterprise Support Programme Trust (MESPT), Harold Mate CRAFT Kenya, and moderator Lydia Kimani Agriculture Sector Network (ASNET)



Key Lessons



- ✓ Different approaches may be required to engage with various private sector entities, depending on their size, sector, and specific interests.
- ✓ Building strong and mutually beneficial partnerships with the private sector is essential for long-term success.
- ✓ Addressing the concerns and risks of the private sector is crucial for attracting investment.
- ✓ Need to advocate for supportive policies and regulations to create a more favorable environment for private sector engagement.

b) SNV-CRAFT Climate Innovation and Investment Facility (CIIF)– Harold Mate

i) Approaches to Engaging the Private Sector

- CRAFT utilized a competitive matching grant facility to attract private sector investment in CSA projects.
- The CIIF required a minimum of 50% co-investment from the private sector, demonstrating their commitment and shared risk.
- CRAFT provided technical assistance and support to Business Champions, helping them develop and implement their projects.
- CRAFT supported the capacity building of SMEs and cooperatives to enhance their ability to access and utilize finance.

ii) Challenges in Working with the Private Sector

- Many SMEs and cooperatives lacked sufficient capital to meet the co-investment requirements.
- Some private sector entities may have had a shorter-term focus, making it difficult to align with the long-term objectives of CSA projects.
- Climate risks may have been perceived as too high or uncertain by some private sector investors.

iii) Achievements and Lessons Learned

- CRAFT fostered successful partnerships between SMEs, cooperatives, and financial institutions, leading to increased investment in CSA.
- The CIIF successfully leveraged private sector investment, demonstrating the potential for scaling up CSA projects.
- CRAFT's ability to adapt its approach and address challenges throughout the project's lifecycle was crucial for its success.

c) Equity Bank – Florence Kariuki

i) Approaches to Engaging the Private Sector

- Equity Bank offers a range of financial products and services tailored to the needs of smallholder farmers and agri-SMEs.
- Equity Bank supports the capacity development of SMEs through financial literacy programs and business development training.
- Equity Bank provides access to financial resources and markets, enabling SMEs to expand their operations and reach new customers.
- Equity Bank collaborates with government agencies, NGOs, and other stakeholders to create a supportive environment for SMEs.

ii) Challenges in Working with the Private Sector

- Some SMEs lack the financial literacy and management skills necessary to effectively utilize financial services.
- Lenders perceive SMEs as high-risk borrowers due to their size and limited financial history.
- SMEs may struggle to meet the collateral requirements for loans and other financial products.

iii) Achievements and Lessons Learned

- Equity Bank has successfully expanded financial inclusion among smallholder farmers and agri-SMEs.
- Equity Bank's financial services have supported the growth and development of numerous SMEs in the agricultural sector.
- Equity Bank's initiatives have contributed to job creation and improved livelihoods in rural areas.
- Equity Bank has developed effective risk management strategies to mitigate the risks associated with lending to SMEs.

d) Micro Enterprise Support Programme Trust (MESPT)- Doreen Kinoti

i) Approaches to Engaging the Private Sector

- Micro Enterprise Support Programme Trust (MESPT) provides technical assistance and training to enhance the capacity of SMEs in the agricultural value chain.
- MESPT offers financial support for business plans, working capital, and aggregation investments.
- MESPT facilitates linkages between SMEs and various market actors, including exporters, aggregators, and processors.
- MESPT collaborates with public and private sector entities to create enabling environments for SME growth.

ii) Challenges in Working with the Private Sector

- Some SMEs may lack the capacity or expertise to effectively engage in the value chain.

- Access to affordable financing can be a challenge for SMEs, limiting their ability to invest in growth and expansion.

- SMEs may lack access to adequate market information and analysis to make informed business decisions.

iii) Achievements and Lessons Learned

- MESPT's interventions have contributed to the growth and development of SMEs in the agricultural value chain.
- SMEs have benefited from increased income, job creation, and improved livelihoods.
- MESPT's efforts have facilitated market access for SMEs, both domestically and internationally.
- MESPT has advocated for policies that support the growth and development of SMEs in the agricultural sector.

Panel Discussion: Private Sector as Drivers of CSA

The panel discussion underscored the crucial role of the private sector in promoting climate-smart agriculture (CSA). Smallholder farmers face significant challenges in accessing affordable and adequate financing for CSA initiatives. To address this, the panel explored ways to enhance private sector engagement through partnerships, financial incentives, and capacity building. Scaling up successful CSA projects and ensuring their sustainability were also key topics. The discussion highlighted the importance of a supportive policy and regulatory environment, as well as collaboration among government agencies, NGOs, research institutions, and private sector entities.

Recommendations:

- ✓ Expand access to financial services for smallholder farmers and agri-SMEs.
- ✓ Provide training and technical assistance to support the adoption of CSA practices.
- ✓ Facilitate market access for agricultural products and improve value chains.
- ✓ Create a conducive policy environment that supports CSA and incentivizes private sector investment.
- ✓ Strengthen collaboration among stakeholders to leverage resources and expertise.

Private Sector Engagement Group Discussions



Group 1: Access to Finance for SMEs, Cooperatives, and Smallholder Farmers

- A misalignment exists between the demand for climate resilience financing and the insufficient supply, especially for smallholder farmers.
- Agricultural finance faces specific challenges such as climate risk, limited financial literacy, collateral requirements, high-interest rates, and fragmented information.
- The private sector can play a crucial role in addressing these challenges by providing tailored financial products, improving access, and enhancing risk management.
- Successful models include bundled products, blended finance, and public-private partnerships.

Recommendations:

- ✓ Provide training on financial management, climate risk assessment, and access to financing.
- ✓ Foster a supportive policy environment with regulations, incentives, and infrastructure improvements.
- ✓ Develop financial products that address the specific needs of smallholder farmers, such as bundled products and blended finance.
- ✓ Enhance data collection and analysis to improve risk assessment and lending decisions.
- ✓ Promote collaboration between government, private sector, and financial institutions.



Group 1 Day 2 discussions highlighted the need for tailored financial products, policy support, and public-private partnerships to bridge the gap in climate resilience financing for smallholder farmers.

Group 2: Private Sector-Driven Inclusive Agricultural Value Chains

- Balancing profits and inclusivity, requires careful consideration of the opportunity cost of excluding certain groups (e.g women, youth).
- A thorough value chain analysis can identify opportunities for inclusive participation and collaboration among stakeholders.
- Successful integration of agricultural value chains into private sector models requires collaboration, information sharing, and addressing market demands.
- Promoting women and youth participation involves creating awareness, providing training, and ensuring equal opportunities within value chains.

Recommendations:

- ✓ Foster collaboration among stakeholders, including government, private sector, and farmers.
- ✓ Facilitate the exchange of market intelligence and information between private sector players and farmers.
- ✓ Create a supportive environment with infrastructure, policies, and access to markets.
- ✓ Ensure farmers produce high-quality products that meet market standards.
- ✓ Implement strategies to promote women and youth participation, including training, mentorship, and access to resources.

Group 3: Private Sector-Driven Service Delivery Models for CSA

- Current constraints in agricultural service delivery include the decline of public extension, limited access to finance, declining yields, and challenges in contract farming.
- Climate change has exacerbated these challenges, requiring new approaches and technologies.
- The private sector can play a significant role in providing efficient and effective services to smallholder farmers.
- Successful models often involve profit-driven servicing, outsourcing of technical aspects, and a focus on service delivery.

Recommendations:

- ✓ Collaborate between public and private sectors to address service gaps.
- ✓ Explore profit-driven models that prioritize service delivery and efficiency.
- ✓ Consider outsourcing technical aspects of CSA services to specialized providers.
- ✓ Ensure that service delivery models are transparent and focused on meeting the needs of smallholder farmers.

Group 4: Agricultural Resilience Climate Finance

- While the private sector has potential, capacity building and tailored financing products are needed.
- Explore government initiatives, international donors, MFIs, private sector investment, and carbon markets as financing sources.
- For value chain actors to access finance, they need knowledge, business cases, documentation, human capacity, partnerships, and financial resources.
- The outlook for agricultural climate financing is promising, but challenges remain in terms of availability, accessibility, and product customization.

Recommendations:

- ✓ Decentralize funding to local levels for improved accessibility.
- ✓ Develop tailored financial products that address the specific needs of smallholder farmers and agricultural value chains.
- ✓ Streamline access procedures and reduce bureaucratic hurdles.
- ✓ Design funding programs that consider local conditions and realities.



Group 3, Day 2 discussions on Private Sector-Driven Service Delivery Models for CSA showed the private sector can address agricultural service delivery challenges using profit-driven models.

Enabling Environment for Scaling CSA Interventions, the Craft Experience



(L to R): Mr Thomas Kirina WUR, Mr Joseph Okee, CSA-MSP, Dr Meshack Mdangi, MoA-Tanzania, Ms Jane Reuben MOA and Moderator, Consolata Acayo, Commissioner, MAAIF, Uganda.

a) Climate Smart Agriculture (CSA) Multi Stakeholder Platform (MSP)- Mr. Joab Osumba

CRAFT focused on creating an enabling environment, addressing key challenges, and fostering collaboration among stakeholders.

Key Achievements:

- ✓ CRAFT-EA contributed to the development of supportive policies and regulations for CSA at national and sub-national levels.
- ✓ The project facilitated access to climate information services, financial institutions, and extension services.
- ✓ CRAFT-EA strengthened the capacity of farmers, value chain actors, and government agencies to implement CSA practices.
- ✓ The project supported the development of value chains and improved market access for CSA products.
- ✓ CRAFT-EA effectively utilized multi-stakeholder platforms to promote collaboration and knowledge sharing.

Challenges and Recommendations:

While the project achieved significant progress, it also identified areas for improvement. These include the need for stronger administrative support, increased investment in CSA, continued capacity building, and further policy reforms.

Future Directions:

The CRAFT-EA project aims to continue its work in Phase II, building on previous achievements and addressing challenges, subject to continued funding. During that phase the project will also prioritize the implementation of policy recommendations and gender and social inclusion in its interventions.

b) Fresh Crop- Mr. Brendan Ireland

Mr. Brendan Ireland presented research on increasing the availability of certified potato seeds. He identified strict regulations on seed size and tolerances as a major constraint limiting seed production. Ireland proposed relaxing these regulations to allow larger and smaller potatoes to be used as seed, potentially increasing seed availability by 20-25%.

The research demonstrated that this change would not negatively impact seed quality or cost per planted acre. Ireland emphasized the importance of educating farmers about the cost per planted acre rather than focusing solely on the cost per bag. He estimated that the proposed changes could lead to a significant increase in certified seed production (50,000 bags), potato production (20,000 metric tonnes), and farmer revenue (800 million Kenyan shillings). Ireland concluded by highlighting the need for specific regulatory hurdles to be addressed to support potato production in Kenya.

c) MoA, Tanzania- Dr. Meshack Mdangi

Dr. Meshack Mdangi's presentation highlighted key points on relevant CSA policies for smallholder farmers and agri-SMEs in Tanzania:

Existing Policies and Programs

Tanzania has several policies and programs in place to support CSA, including the National Agricultural Policy, Agricultural Sector Development Strategy, National Climate Change Strategy, Tanzania Climate Smart Agriculture Program, Agricultural Sector Development Plan II, and National Five-Year Development Plan. These policies address various aspects of CSA, such as improved productivity, resilience, value chain integration, and institutional coordination.

Policy Gaps and Improvements

Despite the existing policies, there are several gaps and challenges that need to be addressed to effectively support CSA. These include weak political commitment, coordination issues, lack of reporting, inadequate extension services, and limited empirical evidence. Additionally, regulatory burdens, lack of finance, limited investment facilitation, access to inputs and technologies, insufficient human resources, and limited collaboration among institutions are constraining market-driven CSA rollout.

Key Policy Enablers

To promote CSA at all levels, he identified several key policy enablers. These include government-led CSA programs, public-private partnerships, inclusion of CSA in local government plans, targeted fiscal incentives, emphasis on economic viability, farmer cooperatives, and strengthened extension services.

Stakeholder Platforms and Regional Integration

Dr. Meshack emphasized the role of stakeholder platforms and regional integration in spearheading CSA policy. Stakeholder platforms can bring together various stakeholders to collaborate and support CSA implementation, while regional integration can facilitate trade, establish common infrastructure, and promote knowledge sharing.

CRAFT Business Champions showcasing their products and services to participants.





Moderator Edward Muriuki Kenya Meteorological department, Mr. Calistus Wachana ICPAC, Charles Otieno Mugah. Deputy Director, Aeronautical Meteorological Services, Godfrey Mujuni Rwamahe Uganda Meteorological Department (UNMA), Habiba Mtongori Tanzania Meteorological Department, Anirudha Ghosh- CIAT and Luleka Dlamini WUR

Panel Discussion on CSA Policy Gaps in East Africa

The panel discussion on CSA policy gaps in East Africa highlighted the need for comprehensive and well-implemented policies to support smallholder farmers and Agri-SMEs in the region. It was agreed that while Kenya, Uganda, and Tanzania have existing policies, challenges such as weak political commitment, coordination issues, and limited resources hinder effective implementation.

To address these gaps, the panel emphasized the importance of stronger political commitment, improved coordination, enhanced reporting, strengthened extension services, empirical evidence, reduced regulatory burdens, increased access to finance and investment, access to inputs

and technologies, sufficient human resources, and enhanced collaboration.

All three countries have made efforts to promote CSA through various policies and initiatives. Kenya has a well-developed policy framework, multi-stakeholder engagement, and county-level efforts. However, it faces challenges in implementation and contextualization. Uganda has integrated CSA into its national extension policy and established stakeholder platforms. Tanzania has several CSA policies but faces challenges in harmonization and implementation.



The participants raised several key questions related to CSA policies and implementation in East Africa:

- How can CSA policies be integrated with regional trade policies to maximize the benefits of climate-smart agriculture?
- How can trade be used as a catalyst for the uptake of CSA?
- What are governments doing to promote indigenous seeds, which are often more climate-resilient and sustainable?
- Despite the existence of CSA policies, how can we address the lack of political commitment and ensure effective implementation?
- What are countries doing to invest in research and development for climate-smart technologies, such as organic fertilizers?

The questions highlighted the need for a more integrated and holistic approach to CSA, considering factors such as regional trade, indigenous knowledge, political commitment, and innovative technologies.

There was an emphasis on the crucial role of the government in driving CSA implementation. While the government is the primary authority and guides

all stakeholders involved in CSA initiatives, there is a collective responsibility of everyone, including government officials, NGOs, and the private sector, to work together and address the challenges hindering CSA progress. By working together, all stakeholders can effectively address the concerns of climate and agriculture and achieve their goals.

Climate Science Presentation



Ms. Luleka Dlamini, Wageningen University & Research

a) Assessing Climate Change Impacts on Potato Production in East Africa - Luleka Dlamini

Ms. Luleka Dlamini's presentation at Wageningen University Research delved into the implications of climate change on potato production in East Africa. By employing decadal climate data, the research analyzed potential changes in temperature, precipitation, and crop suitability.

Key Findings:

- ✓ The East Africa region is projected to experience a general increase in temperature, with less warming in certain months.

- ✓ Precipitation is expected to fluctuate, with some areas experiencing increases while others face potential declines.
- ✓ The frequency and duration of dry spells are likely to increase, especially in Tanzania.
- ✓ Certain regions may become less suitable for potato production, while others may offer expansion opportunities.
- ✓ Potato yields could decline in some areas, particularly in southern Tanzania and Uganda, over the next 50 years, due to the impacts of climate change.

Adaptation Strategies:

- Adjusting planting times can help mitigate the negative effects of climate change on yields.
- Implementing irrigation systems can provide a buffer against water scarcity and improve crop performance.
- Investing in irrigation infrastructure is crucial for effective water management.
- Developing and promoting crop varieties that can withstand higher temperatures is essential.
- Adopting rainwater harvesting techniques can help conserve water resources.

Policy Implications:

- Effective CSA implementation requires well-coordinated policies at various levels.
- Collaboration among farmers, extension services, and other stakeholders is vital.
- Investing in infrastructure, such as irrigation systems, is essential for adapting to climate change.
- Ensuring that policies at different levels align with CSA goals is crucial for effective implementation.

She underscored the urgent need for proactive measures to address the challenges posed by climate change on potato production in East Africa. By implementing adaptation strategies and promoting policy coherence, the region can enhance agricultural resilience and ensure sustainable food security.



Mr. Paul Murage, Kenya Meteorological Department

b) HSC Climate Scientist, Kenya Meteorological Department - Mr. Paul Murage

Mr. Paul Murage presentation emphasized the crucial role of climate information in guiding decision-making, adaptation strategies, and building resilience to climate change.

He highlighted the need for participatory scenario planning, effective communication, and collaboration between indigenous knowledge and modern meteorology to enhance climate resilience

among Kenyan farmers and communities, such as selecting climate-resilient crop varieties, improving soil health, preventing diseases, and utilizing early warning systems. He underscored the crucial role of climate science in informing and supporting adaptation efforts in Kenya.

Additionally, he addressed the challenges faced by developing countries like Kenya in accessing weather information, such as poor infrastructure, illiteracy, financial constraints, and poor communication methods. He discussed the potential of mobile phones and radio coverage in delivering timely and useful weather information at lower costs than traditional extension services. Furthermore, he outlined the decentralization of the Kenya Meteorological Department.

The department established county meteorological offices to improve the interpretation and implementation of national meteorology policies at the county level, provide downscaled and localized seasonal weather forecasts and climate outlooks, issue warnings and alerts on weather hazards, and promote education and awareness on the use of meteorological data and products for county economic development. He showed the value of climate information as a resource for decision-making and planning for adaptation and resilience.



Exhibition of potatoes varieties



Ms. Miriam Kyotalimye, SNV-Uganda Presents the findings of GESI assessment conducted in select CRAFT project areas

Good Practices and Lessons Learnt on Gender Equality and Social Inclusion (GESI) for CSA

SNV Uganda, GESI - Ms. Miriam Kyotalimaye

Ms. Miriam presented a Gender Equality and Social Inclusion (GESI) assessment from a study conducted in Tanzania and Uganda in 2019 and 2024, which examined the impact of Climate-Smart Agriculture (CSA) on women's empowerment. The assessment aimed to understand how CSA interventions have affected three areas: women's agency, achievements, and access to resources. The assessment used a mixed-methods approach to gather insights from men, women, and young people participating in CSA programs.

Key Findings:

- ✓ While both men and women have experienced improved access to credit, a gender gap persists, with women generally having less access compared to men.
- ✓ Women have shown increased confidence in their agency and decision-making abilities.

- ✓ New technologies can increase agricultural productivity, but it's crucial to consider their impact on gender dynamics and potential workload increases, especially for women, such as additional labor-intensive tasks or if women are disproportionately responsible for their adoption and management. Adequate training and support is essential to ensuring a smooth and equitable adoption of these technologies.
- ✓ Despite progress in other areas, traditional gender roles and unequal division of labor within households remain a challenge.

Comparison of 2019 and 2024 Results:

- Women's self-perception of empowerment has significantly improved, indicating a positive shift in attitudes and behaviours.

Recommendations:

- Create a curriculum to sensitize men about gender equality and the importance of fair division of labour.

- Implement more inclusive financial programs to ensure equitable access to credit for both men and women.
- Invest in and promote technologies that can reduce the burden of household chores and agricultural tasks.
- Support policies and initiatives that address systemic issues such as gender-based discrimination and unequal access to resources.
- Encourage community-based initiatives that promote gender equality and empower women.

Participants' Reactions

Participants emphasized the importance of involving men in gender equality initiatives to address gender norms and promote women's empowerment. They recognized the need for further research to understand how women's empowerment occurs and identify effective strategies. They also highlighted the potential of technology to empower women but emphasized the importance of ensuring it is designed and implemented in a gender-sensitive manner.

Concerns were raised about the potential negative impact of women's empowerment on children, particularly in terms of household dynamics. Despite concerns, they generally believed that women's empowerment could have a positive impact on children, such as increased income and improved well-being.

The discussions also highlighted the positive influence of empowerment initiatives on young people, including increased confidence, participation, and future aspirations. They recognized the importance of women's leadership and negotiation skills in promoting change within their households and communities. There was also an emphasis on the need for training and support to develop these skills in women.

Panel Discussion on GESI in CSA, an Agri-SME Perspective

The panellists comprised of the following Business champions working with CRAFT

- Vivian George, Rift Cooperative Union, Ltd. (RIVACU) LTD, Tanzania
- Kwemboi Phelix Siya, Sebei Farmers SACCO/ COOP, Uganda



(L to R): Jennifer Linkletter, SNV Netherlands and Vivian George, Rift Cooperative Union, Ltd. (RIVACU) LTD, Tanzania.

- Laureen Njuguna, Starlight Farmers' Cooperative Society Ltd., Kenya
- Hance Melchior, East African Foods Lt., Tanzania

The Panel discussions highlighted several themes as follows:

i. Empowering Women and Youth

- The panel emphasized the importance of creating inclusive environments that consider gender, age, and ability. This includes targeted strategies to empower women and youth, such as providing access to finance, training, and leadership opportunities.
- The need for signed spousal consent form in accessing credit to address gender-based power dynamics. This helps to ensure loan funds are used for intended purposes and not misappropriated by the primary borrower.
- There were discussions on the critical issue of gender-based violence and the need to create safer environments by for women Training of Trainers (TOTs) who often face the risk of security hence risk not taking up the role. To mitigate this risk, Community Sensitization was encouraged, to educate communities about the importance of gender equality.

ii. Enhancing Financial Inclusion

- The panel recognized the challenges faced by smallholder farmers, particularly women, in accessing finance. Some of the effective strategies to improve access to credit include group-based lending models and financial literacy training.
- There was also emphasis on the need for innovative financial products tailored to the specific needs of women and youth.

iii. Strengthening Value Chains and Market Access

- The panel discussed the role of climate-smart agriculture in empowering women and improving their livelihoods.
- The need to strengthen value chains to improve market access and increase farmers' incomes was emphasized.
- Adoption of technology, such as mobile phones and digital tools, was highlighted as a strategy to empower women and improve their access to information and markets.

iv. Capacity Building and Leadership Development

- The discussions pointed the importance of providing targeted training programs that address the specific needs of women and youth.
- The role of mentorship and coaching in supporting women's leadership was highlighted.
- The panellists called to attention the importance of fostering collaboration among stakeholders to share knowledge and best practices.

Success Stories through engagement with CRAFT

The panel discussion highlighted several success stories that have occurred during engagement with CRAFT

Rift Cooperative Union (RIVACU) Ltd., Tanzania

- RIVACU has successfully increased the number of women members and leaders within the cooperative.
- The cooperative has implemented effective strategies to improve access to finance for women members such as group lending and capacity building.
- RIVACU has facilitated market linkages for its members, enabling them to sell their products at better prices.

Sebei Farmers SACCO/COOP, Uganda

- The SACCO has empowered women through financial inclusion and leadership opportunities.
- The SACCO has provided affordable loans and financial services to smallholder farmers, particularly women.
- The SACCO has promoted climate-smart agricultural practices, leading to increased yields and incomes for farmers.

Starlight Farmers' Cooperative Society Ltd., Kenya

- The cooperative has successfully promoted women's leadership in decision-making roles.
- The cooperative has implemented gender-sensitive training programs to empower women farmers.
- The cooperative has contributed to improved livelihoods for its members, particularly women, through increased income and access to markets.

East African Foods Lt., Tanzania

- The company has supported women farmers by providing training, access to finance, and market linkages.
- The company has created employment opportunities for young people, particularly in rural areas.

Q&A Session on GESI in CSA and Agri-SMEs

The Q&A session addressed various challenges and approaches to achieving gender equality and social inclusion (GESI) in climate-smart agriculture (CSA) and Agri-SMEs.

Negotiation Training and Gender Dynamics:

- A question highlighted the potential challenges of negotiation training for women in societies with strong gender roles. The response emphasized a gradual approach, encouraging women to use their soft power to indirectly influence their husbands. Cooperatives/Saccos were encouraged to invite the men to learn and understand more about the organisations and what their wives do during the training sessions.

Shifting Power Dynamics in Value Chains:

- A question addressed the issue of women being excluded from high-value cash crops. The response offered two approaches: focusing on empowering women in existing value chains as well as challenging social norms around crop ownership.

Importance of Household Sensitization:

- A participant emphasized the need for GESI interventions to extend beyond institutions and reach households for lasting change.

Addressing Founder's Syndrome in Cooperatives:

- The discussion explored strategies to address "founder's syndrome," where cooperative founders resist stepping down. Suggested solutions included; Establishing clear governance policies, promoting board member capacity building, and fostering a shared vision for the cooperative's future.

Gender Action Learning System (GALS):

- A participant inquired about the effectiveness of GALS, a tool for promoting joint decision-making between men and women. While CRAFT hadn't implemented GALS specifically, panellists acknowledged its effectiveness and the potential for integrating its elements into training programs.

Political Interference in Cooperatives:

- A question highlighted the disruptive influence of community political leaders such as Members of County Assembly (MCAs) in cooperatives. Solutions given to mitigate political interference include maintaining a non-political stance, focusing on economic activities, and prioritizing strong internal governance.

Mainstreaming Gender Equality in Climate Services:

- The importance of mainstreaming gender equality in climate services was raised. The Intergovernmental Policy Advisory Committee (IGPAC) approach, which involves appointing gender focal points within various sectors, was highlighted. However, challenges such as limited familiarity with climate services among these focal points and the need for more gender-specific advisories were identified.


To address these issues, suggestions were made on capacity building, tailoring climate services, and fostering collaboration between gender focal points and climate scientists.

Addressing Power Dynamics in Households:

- The question emphasized the importance of addressing power dynamics within households as a root cause of gender inequality. The discussion acknowledged the limitations of interventions that may not address these dynamics and the need for broader strategies to promote justice and equity in gender relations.



Jennifer Linkletter, SNV Netherlands Global Technical Advisor for Gender Equality and Social Inclusion

A photograph of Dr. Meshack Mdangi, a man with a beard and short hair, wearing a dark blue button-down shirt and a dark jacket. He is holding a microphone and speaking at a podium. The background is a light-colored wall with a blue banner partially visible on the right side. The photo is set within a white, rounded rectangular frame on a blue background.

Dr. Meshack Mdangi from the Ministry of Agriculture (MOA), Tanzania

Closing Remarks

Dr. Meshack Mdangi from the Ministry of Agriculture (MOA), Tanzania expressed his gratitude to the organizers, participants, and representatives from various sectors. He emphasized the importance of collaboration in addressing issues like social inclusion, gender empowerment, and climate change. Dr. Meshack shared a personal story highlighting the need to empower women, noting how men often realize the importance of women's empowerment only in times of crisis. He stressed the need to continue training and empowering women, particularly in rural areas, to ensure they can contribute to and sustain their households and communities.

He also highlighted the importance of climate change discussions and urged the audience to focus on the next steps beyond the current project. Dr. Meshack emphasized that while the project may be coming to an end, the work to combat climate change must continue. He called for collaboration among NGOs, governments, the private sector, and other stakeholders to ensure long-term success in addressing climate-related issues.

He concluded by suggesting that such consortiums should meet annually to ensure that climate change remains a priority and that progress continues to be made.

Recommendation for Future Direction

1. Strengthening Partnerships and Collaboration

- **Government-Private Sector Partnerships:** Continue fostering strong partnerships between governments, the private sector, and smallholder farmers to leverage resources and expertise.
- **Knowledge Sharing and Learning Networks:** Establish platforms for knowledge sharing and learning among stakeholders, including farmers, researchers, policymakers, and private sector actors.

2. Scaling Up Climate-Smart Practices

- **Expanding the Reach of CSA Interventions:** Scale up successful CSA interventions to reach a wider range of smallholder farmers.
- **Promoting Climate-Smart Technologies:** Encourage the adoption of climate-smart technologies, such as improved seed varieties, efficient irrigation systems, and climate-resilient crop varieties.
- **Leverage success stories from CRAFT** to attract further investment and partnerships for scaling up CSA initiatives in East Africa. By showcasing the project's positive impacts and lessons learned, it is possible to mobilize additional resources and support for sustainable agricultural development.

3. Enhancing Farmer Resilience

- **Building Farmer Capacity:** Continue providing training and capacity-building programs to farmers on climate-smart agriculture practices, financial literacy, and market access.
- **Supporting Farmer Organizations:** Strengthen farmer organizations to improve their bargaining power and access to resources.
- **Promoting Climate-Smart Insurance:** Explore innovative insurance products that can protect farmers from climate-related risks and losses.

4. Addressing Gender and Youth Inclusion

- **Empowering Women Farmers:** Design and implement gender-sensitive interventions to empower women farmers, including access to land, credit, and training manuals.
- **Engaging Youth in Agriculture:** Create opportunities for young people to participate in agriculture, providing them with training, mentorship, and access to finance.

5. Monitoring and Evaluation

- **Regular Monitoring:** Establish a robust monitoring and evaluation system to track the impact of interventions and identify areas for improvement.
- **Learning and Adaptation:** Continuously learn from experiences and adapt strategies to improve outcomes.

6. Support Policy and Regulatory Environment

- **Address policy gaps:** Collaborate with government bodies to strengthen policies on CSA and prioritize enforcement to ensure availability and quality of inputs, such as certified seeds.
- **Promote regional collaboration:** Encourage partnerships across East African countries to create a unified policy approach for CSA, facilitating shared resources and knowledge to mitigate climate challenges.

Conclusion

The CRAFT regional learning event was a pivotal moment for reflecting on its 6 years of the project implementation and charting a course for the future of CSA in East Africa. Bringing together diverse stakeholders, including government representatives, private-sector actors, cooperatives, and smallholder farmers, the event provided a platform to celebrate successes, share lessons, and explore opportunities for scaling CSA practices.

The CRAFT project successfully mobilized over €12 million in co-funding for CSA interventions across Kenya, Tanzania, and Uganda, leveraging contributions from private sector actors, project resources, and financial institutions. The project is proof that CSA can significantly enhance the resilience and livelihoods of smallholder farmers in East Africa.

Key lessons learned include the importance of a holistic approach to CSA, addressing technical, financial, and institutional barriers. The project has demonstrated the potential of digital tools to improve information access and market linkages, the critical role of extension services in bridging the knowledge gap, and the need for gender-sensitive approaches to ensure equitable benefits.

By adopting the proposed recommendations, stakeholders can contribute to the development of resilient agricultural systems and enhance the livelihoods of smallholder farmers in East Africa.

Speeches



Douglas Kangi - Director of Crops, Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock Development in Kenya

Speech By The Principal Secretary, State Department For Agriculture During The Learning Event By Climate Resilient Agribusiness For Tomorrow (CRAFT) Project At Tamarind Tree Hotel Nairobi 24th September 2024

- The national and government representatives;
- The representative of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of the Netherlands and other officials from Kenya Netherlands Embassy;
- The Country Director, SNV- Netherlands Development Corporation that is sponsoring this project;
- The delegates from Tanzania, Uganda and other invited foreign guests; The Development partners;
- Fellow Leaders;

Ladies and Gentlemen:

It is a great honor and privilege to join you here today during this important event organized by the Climate Resilient Agribusiness For Tomorrow (CRAFT) project. This event brings together key stakeholders, farmers and agribusinesses involved in the promotion of climate smart agriculture, resilience to climate change and use of modern technologies and innovations to enhance agricultural productivity and agribusinesses through private sector support. The main objectives is to share experiences, learn from what is working and not working, up-scale what is working and create enabling environment for more engagement with smallholder farmers, youth and women in particular.

On the onset, we want to thank the Kenya CRAFT team for organizing this event, and selecting Kenya to be the host country. My I take this opportunity to welcome all our visitors and express our sincere gratitude for having you in our Country.

Ladies and Gentlemen:

Climate change is one of the major impediments and global challenges facing agriculture and agribusinesses today. The impacts such as unpredictable weather conditions, extreme weather conditions such as droughts and floods, emergence of new pests and diseases, soil fertility degradation, the shift in agro-ecological zones, among others affect not only yields and productivity of crops but also the overall cost of managing the value chains. Smallholder farmers are the most vulnerable with respect to coping and adaptation capacities.

The Small and Medium Scale agribusinesses are equally affected by the vagaries of climate change. The impacts include supply chain disruptions, unpredictable business environment, changes in technologies and business skills, high cost of insurance, and general increased costs of doing business.

Clearly, without organized support to smallholder farmers and Agri-SMEs, the future of agricultural development, food security and farming as a business in dark limbo. It is therefore very refreshing and encouraging to learn that since its inception in 2018, CRAFT has reached out to over 266,000 farmers and more 56 lead AgriSMES and cooperatives to co-develop and co-fund climate smart business concepts and cases. We wish to congratulate the project team for this significant Milestone.

Ladies and Gentlemen:

Effective adaptation and mitigation to climate change leading to sustainable resilience requires application of modern technologies and disruptive innovations. These innovations grouped together as Climate Smart Agriculture strive for sustainable and practical solutions while at the same time working towards reduction of factors that actuate climate change. For smallholder farmers SMEs to gain from Climate Smart Agriculture interventions, relevant government policies and strategies are required, including political goodwill.

From the CRAFT project, we learn of several smallholder farmers' practical innovations, including the Climate Innovation and Investment Facility (CIIF) that provides support to agribusinesses in becoming resilient to climate change.

Ladies and Gentlemen:

In Kenya, the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock Development (MoALD) is implementing the Agricultural Sector Transformation and Growth Strategy (ASTGS) with strong pillars aimed at increasing agricultural productivity, farmers incomes, food security and smallholder farmers' resilience to climate change. In the Strategy, data and digital agricultural innovations are the key enablers for the envisaged transformation.

To enhance climate smart agriculture, the government has established enabling structures such as the National Climate Change Action Plan, the

Climate-Smart Agriculture Strategy, enhanced access to climate information such as localized weather forecasts, improved water conservation and precision farming, among other support. Despite these efforts, more support is still required especially for the vulnerable small farmers and Agri-SMEs.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The private sector plays an indispensable role in the transformation of agriculture and deepening of climate smart agricultural innovations. In many developing countries, governments try to support farmers and SMEs through various means especially provision of subsidies. However, often, the government interventions face many challenges including how to target the right beneficiaries, how to ensure inclusivity, how to minimize bureaucracy and ensure transparency and accountability. More importantly, at a time of economic meltdown and limited resources, the government support can never be enough.

The private sector actors, driven by market forces, price discoveries, supply and demand, usually provide more practical and sustainable solutions. In this regard, the CRAFT project has demonstrated how partnerships between smallholder farmers and private sector actors can create win-win scenarios. Farmers benefit from increased yields, income, and resilience; while businesses gain through access to sustainable supply chains and long-term profitability. Over the years, the smallholder farmers and SMEs have suffered exclusion from private sector support such as access to inputs, credit, insurance, among others. Deliberate efforts to include private sector is critical for the needed investment in technology development and transfers, infrastructure, and markets access.

The innovations introduced through the CRAFT project have shown us that we can make significant strides in protecting our agriculture from the negative impacts of climate change. Techniques like precision farming, drought-resistant seed varieties, soil conservation practices, and water-efficient irrigation systems are some of the examples that have transformed farms across the regions where CRAFT operates.

My Ministry appreciates the role played by CRAFT project since its inception in 2018 in promoting climate resilient technologies for increased food security and business opportunities for farmers and other value chain actors which include,

- Supporting domestication of Kenya Climate Smart Agriculture Strategy (KCSAS)
- Implementation of the Kenya Climate Smart Agriculture Implementation Framework in Nakuru County
- Training of public and private extension service providers and Farmers Field schools

- Supporting Development of Climate Smart Agriculture training materials for 4 value chains, namely: Sorghum, green grams, potato and beans;
- Support to 56 agribusinesses, including 34 SMEs and 16 cooperatives;
- Facilitated training of Over 266,000 smallholder farmers in climate-smart agricultural practices and technologies.

Ladies and Gentlemen:

As I conclude, I want to reaffirm the government's commitment to climate-smart agriculture and private sector engagement. We strongly believe in the values of digital agricultural innovation and involving the private sector to support government initiatives. Kenya is going to take lead in climate change mitigation and adaption as well other efforts to enhance resilience of stallholder farmers and Agri-SMEs.

Thank you once again to the CRAFT team for your tremendous work, and to everyone here for your dedication to making climate-smart agriculture a reality. Let us continue working together, forging partnerships and sustainable future for our farmers and our country.

Thank you. May God bless you all.



Dr. Timmo Gaasbeek - Senior Policy Officer Food Security at the Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Good morning everyone.

Representatives of the government, representatives of Small and Medium Enterprises, Cooperatives, the partners in CRAFT, obviously, and I hope there are farmers in the room as well.

It is an honour to be part of this learning event.

I'm in the Netherlands and not physically with you, unfortunately, but I look forward to listening in on as much of the conversation as possible during the next few days. CRAFT is an important project linking the private sector, smallholder farmers, and climate change adaptation. Over the last few years, we've made significant progress, reaching many people through the combined efforts of everyone involved. Not only have the organizations implementing CRAFT worked hard, but cooperatives, companies, banks, and governments have also contributed significantly to its wide reach.

When I visited the CRAFT project last year, it was obvious that this was more than just a story of, oh, we've done a radio message and we've reached 100,000 people. No, people actually were able to give very good examples of how the program has really engaged with them and what changes were there. I think that's really important, because the problem of climate change is global, and there are hundreds of millions of smallholder farmers in the world, and if we want to make agriculture resilient, we need to reach many, many people soon, because climate change is getting worse and the impacts are coming towards us.

I think it's fantastic that you've organised a three-day learning event to bring together stakeholders to reflect on what we've accomplished and what we can learn for the future. I would like to give two particular questions to you to add to the reflections. One is to the Business Champions and the companies that were involved. You have invested a lot of your resources, including your own time. Your staff has been very engaged, and CRAFT has engaged with you a lot. I have seen how many people have been trained to work with farmers directly.

Now that CRAFT is moving towards its end, the question is how this will continue in the future, and how can you, on the one hand, maintain the improved resilience of your own business but also the improved resilience of farmers by yourself, because it's not only the income that goes up, it's also the expenses that go up. I'd be really interested to hear your thoughts on how we can work towards sustaining the improvements that have been made so far.

The second question I have is about smallholder farmers because producing more than one crop can give you more income. But you also spend more on that crop, and maybe if you pay more attention to it, you cannot meet your cost. So how can we make households more resilient?

We've seen big shocks during the implementation of the project. At first, there was COVID, then drought, and now there's heavy rain. So, it is clear that resilience is needed. But a household is more than its crop; more than one particular crop, and so the question is, how can we make things structurally in the future even better for smallholder farmers? It makes sense to engage with the other partners.

At the same time, how can we make sure that this fits within the business case of corporates and companies? Those two need to match to stimulate further growth. If one of them doesn't really make sense or make a big difference they will not be interested and the other will listen. Linking those two together is something I would be really interested in hearing reflections on, to see what can be done to further improve things. That will also

help us as a ministry, and as a development partner, to refine our programming in the future. It's not just you who are learning and doing things in the three countries, it is also what you're doing that is something that the Netherlands and other development partners need to learn from. Therefore your reflections for the next few days are really really important. So I would like to ask you from my position in the Netherlands, to please tell me how we can make less nonsense and more sense, and how we can be in that sense also better in our programming and with our implemented partners so that in the end we can contribute to less hunger and more resilience in Africa and in other parts of the world. I wish you very fruitful deliberations in the next few days.

I hope you have a lot of fun together, and also a lot of creativity. I look forward to listening to the conversations. Thank you.



Rebecca Hallam - Country Director SNV Kenya and Burundi

- Chief Guest – Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture Kenya – Dr. Paul Rono
- MFA representative – Timmo Gaasbeek
- EKN Representatives – Hellen Kuria- Regional Senior Climate Expert & Hannah Muroki – Climate Policy Officer
- Government Representatives from Uganda and Tanzania
- Business Champions
- CRAFT Consortium partners (Agriterra, Wageningen University, AICCRA and Rabo Bank)
- Stakeholders, participants
- Ladies and Gentlemen

On behalf of SNV Kenya, it is our pleasure to welcome you here today – it is an important day for SNV, our partners and stakeholders at large, as we come together to share experiences on how the Climate Resilient Agribusiness for Tomorrow, (CRAFT), has built a climate resilient farming system in Kenya, Uganda and Tanzania, in partnership with the private sector and in line with SNV’s Global Mission of strengthening capacities and catalysing partnerships that transform the food, energy and water systems which enable sustainable and more equitable livelihoods for all. We are eager to learn from your experiences of CRAFT, experiences that will define our future programming and partnerships for greater impact.

We at SNV Kenya are cognisant of the fact that sectorial approaches in the Agrifood sector may not have been fully successful in integrating people and nature in a sustainable and holistic manner and may no longer be sufficient to meet national challenges such as poverty alleviation, biodiversity conservation, and food production. We have therefore adopted a landscape approach in our programming, to link agricultural production practices, natural ecosystems, institutions, and policies, providing a basic framework for balancing competing demands in the future.

Such intergartion has been a success in one of our projects: Laikipia, Isiolo, Samburu Transforming the Environment Through Nexus (a project more commonly known as LISTEN). Through LISTEN we have been able to see success by building a nexus for productive use of energy and management of water resources for increased resilience. Our project participants have been able diversified their incomes by adopting vegetable production, using water sustainably ‘harvested’ from the rivers in the Arid and Semi-Arid Lands. In promoting this nexus approach, we also work with stakeholders and governments to manage the water resources, while providing an opportunity for policy discussions. We believe lessons-learned of similar successes, and perhaps challenges, which provide as important – or more important learnings will be discussed here over the next three days. Thank you for coming.

And finally, for our friends coming outside of Kenya, Karibu Nyumbani. We are previlaged to host this meeting near the Nairobi National Park and Animal Orphanage. Please explore our heritage and don’t hesitate to adopt a leopard or other animal of your choice before leaving the country. And to our esteemed residents, take time to explore the other side of Nairobi.

Again, welcome, and thank you.



Michael McGrath - Country Director SNV Tanzania

Speaking on behalf of SNV's Director of Technical Expertise, Andre De Jager,

- Chief Guest: Dr. Kipronoh Rono, the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock Development, Kenya represented by Douglas Kangi, the Director of Crops in the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock Development in Kenya
- Officials from National and Regional Governments in Kenya, Tanzania, and Uganda
- Netherlands Government; Helen Kuria, Ministry of Foreign Affairs Regional Climate Policy Officer
- Hannah Karoke, Climate Policy Fellow
- Other development partner representatives
- Business champions (both SMEs and Cooperatives)
- CRAFT Partners (Agriterria, Wageningen University & Research, plus other academic institutions)
- SNV Staff
- All protocols observed

Welcome Remarks:

On behalf of the CRAFT project team and SNV, welcome to this learning event.

In Tanzania, with which I am most familiar, I am particularly proud of the contribution that we have made in the potato value chain, both with SMEs such as East Africa Foods (who I met last Friday to discuss further collaboration on strengthening their customer database) and cooperatives (like Isowelo, which won best cooperative of the year in 2022).

The work that CRAFT has done on projecting the impact of climate change on key value chains has demonstrated the potential of such research. There is so much more that could be done to broaden and deepen this research, and to work out the implications for government and private sector.

The CRAFT project was designed in 2018 jointly by the SNV and the Directorate-General for International Cooperation (DGIC), a department of the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs, to demonstrate that it is possible to unlock private sector funding to support adaptation to climate-smart agriculture. It was designed as, and has been, a cutting-edge project, testing new approaches, building new partnerships.

As a result, it is at its core a learning project. Accordingly, it is fitting that this major SNV has been in East Africa for over 50 years. We are in all East African Countries, and in Southern African in Mozambique.

SNV is focused on 3 Sectors (Agrifood, Water, & Renewable Energy) and 3 Cross-cutting themes (Gender, Climate Change & System Transformation). Under our new strategy 2030, which is linked to the UN SDGs, we are broadening our sectoral focus from agriculture to agrifood (nutrition, food safety, etc.)

Increased emphasis on bringing fundamental sustainable change to address climate change, gender inequalities, to interact with global policy, private sector approach, and community development.

The learning event is focused on what we have learned as a result of the implementation of the CRAFT project, and what are the applications of that learning.

Harold Mate provided full details of how CRAFT is structured and what it has fought to achieve. I will just emphasize that SNV and its partners Wageningen University & Research, AICCRA, Rabobank, and Agriterra in the earlier phase of the project together with the business champions carried out the following key components:

- a) Climate research and embedding climate science into the development project
- b) Building climate resilience at the small holder farmers' level.
- c) Provision of financial support to SMES and Cooperatives.
- d) Strengthening the enabling environment particularly in Kenya and Uganda.

There are so many stakeholders to thank including the private sector, research institutions, academia, and government. However, I would like to highlight the Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs / DGIS who not only had the confidence in SNV's ability to implement this complex and challenging project, but who have been deeply involved in the project throughout its duration. I am proud of SNV and its partners for the flexibility to adapt to changing circumstances and learnings. We cannot thank you enough.

I look forward to the days of highly productive discussions over the coming days, and particularly to hearing any lessons we may draw for government policy, private sector investment strategies and future programming in this area.



Harold Mate - Project Manager CRAFT KENYA

- The Chief Guest – The Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture Kenya – Dr. Kipronoh Rono
- Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of the Netherlands representative – Timmo Gaasbeek
- EKN Representatives – Hellen Kuria – the Regional Senior Climate Expert & Hannah Muroki – the Climate Policy Officer
- Government Representatives from Kenya, Uganda and Tanzania
- Business Champions & farmers
- CRAFT Consortium partners (Agriterra, Wageningen University & Research, AICCRA and Rabo Bank)
- Other stakeholders and all participants

All protocols observed, good morning.

CRAFT East Africa Overview

In May 2018, the Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs/DGIS awarded SNV the Climate-Smart Agriculture East Africa project (CSA-EA – since then renamed CRAFT) to be implemented in Kenya, Tanzania, and Uganda. This six and half-year project, is being implemented by SNV as the consortium lead in partnership with Wageningen University & Research and Wageningen University and Environmental Research, AICCRA (previously CCAFS), Agriterra, and Rabo Partnerships.

The Climate Resilient Agribusiness for Tomorrow (CRAFT) project is a private sector-led agribusiness intervention focused on promoting viable business cases that are climate-smart, inclusive, scalable and have a clear value proposition to all stakeholders, particularly smallholder farmers. The project applies science to understand how climate change impacts vulnerable value chains, namely soybean, sesame, potato, green gram, sorghum, common beans, and sunflower, and assesses which risks involved. Whereas prolonged dry periods or high rainfall intensity are regarded as exceptional, they will likely become the new norm in the future. This type of information is used to raise awareness among agri-businesses about the risks they are facing. CRAFT's overall goal is to *“contribute to the increased availability of accessible and climate resilient food for the growing population in Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda.”*

CRAFT's Climate Innovation and Investment Facility (CIIF)

CRAFT designed the Climate Innovation and Investment Facility to support business champions to unlock resources and investments in climate smart agriculture. Overall, a portfolio of 56 business cases was developed. Of these, 16 are cooperatives and 40 Small and Medium sized Enterprises (SMEs) including 6 private sector agri-service providers. Additionally, 20 are either women- or youth-led. Through the matching grant Facility, CRAFT has triggered private sector financing (own contributions from grantees) worth over 12 million Euros against a target of 10 million euros, an indication that when done right, the private sector can be incentivised to invest in climate smart agriculture.

Over the implementation period,

- Over 266K Small holder farmers (89% of total farmers) adopted climate smart agriculture practices and technologies
- 213K Small holder farmers applied two or more resilient farming practices in the past 12 months- (71% of total farmers)
- 168K Small holder farmers have increased incomes- (56% of total farmers)
- 147K Small holder farmers have increased their productivity- (49% of total farmers)

Partnerships

- The CRAFT Project has partnered with various stakeholders in Kenya including;
- Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock Development through the Climate Change Unit
- The regional governments across the 3 countries the project is operating in,
- Meteorological Departments
- National Research Organizations
- Civil Society Organizations
- Private Sector Actors in the agricultural input and services sector, financial institutions among others

It is through this partnership that the project has been able to deliver the results we present today, and what we will be engaging on through the 3 days.

Ladies and gentlemen, through the implementation process, we picked some key learnings;

1. Do SMEs and farmer coops exactly see commercial benefit in investing in CSA extension services to smallholder farmers. The answer is yes. More reliable supply and better-quality produce. Revenue has increased, both for the companies and the farmers. We will learn in this event more details about the net profitability of investing in CSA practices and technologies, for both companies and farmers.
2. A big lesson we have learned is the gap in supply of improved seed varieties (drought resistant, disease-tolerant) of the crops CRAFT has been promoting. CRAFT is working now more on quality declared seed multiplication by our companies and other service providers. Especially for potatoes, this is an area of importance.
3. Moving from a single crop focus as an entry point at the start of the CRAFT project, we moved to a farming systems approach to ensure the CSA principles and services we offer are carried over to crops grown by of smallholder farmers. This is a sure way of building resilience.
4. We are also keen to learn how the project has impacted inter- household gender relations/dynamics, as well as youth inclusion. We will hear more about this during the learning event.
5. Crop insurance and irrigation services have not really picked up, mainly due to affordability issues but also low interest in taking risks from the side of the (insurance and irrigation) companies. This is an area that we will seek input from the various stakeholders during the various sessions.

Ladies and gentlemen, CRAFT is greatly honoured to have you here today and the rest of this learning event.

Thank you and welcome!

Feedback from the 3-Day Craft Regional Learning Event

A feedback survey was administered at the end of the 3-day CRAFT regional learning event to provide valuable insights into participants' perceptions of the event's content, structure, and facilitation. Below are the key findings:

Content Relevance and Engagement

A significant majority of participants (67.5%) indicated that all sessions were necessary, strongly suggesting that the event's content was both valuable and engaging. Among the 83 responses received, sessions on GESI (Gender Equality and Social Inclusion) and Climate Finance emerged as the most popular. Other well-received sessions, though by smaller subsets of participants, included Climate Information, Weather Forecasting, and Private Sector Engagement.

Session Value and Coverage

Out of 40 responses on session value, 27 were overwhelmingly positive, indicating that a significant majority found the sessions valuable. When asked about topics not covered, responses were diverse. While no single topic dominated, Soil Health was the most frequently mentioned, followed by Crop Insurance and Agritech, highlighting these as potential areas for future inclusion.

Pacing and Time Management

Mixed feedback was received on the pacing of sessions. From 39 responses, participants noted that GESI was "overly prolonged," while Breakout Sessions and Panel Discussions were described as "rushed." This feedback highlights the need for better time allocation, either by reducing the number of topics or allowing more time for interactive components like panel discussions.

Presentation Quality

The quality of presentations received positive feedback from 39 responses, with most participants agreeing or strongly agreeing that the presentations were clear and effectively delivered. This underscores the competence and preparation of the presenters.

Program Structure and Facilitation

The program structure was considered effective in achieving its objectives, as reflected in 39 responses. Facilitation also received high ratings, with most participants describing it as "Good" or "Excellent," indicating satisfaction with the way participant interactions were managed.

Event Schedule and Organization

The event schedule was positively received. Of the 30 responses, the vast majority expressed satisfaction with the event's timing and organization, demonstrating the organizers' success in planning and execution.

Networking and Collaboration

Networking and Breakout Sessions were highly valued for fostering collaboration and shared learning, as indicated by 40 responses. Participants also appreciated Panel Discussions and the Exhibition, noting these as engaging and impactful aspects of the event.

Highlighted Sessions

Among the 39 responses regarding standout sessions, Networking, Panel Discussions, and the Sharing of Experiences were most frequently mentioned. This feedback reinforces the importance of interaction and knowledge-sharing as key components of the event.

The feedback indicates that the CRAFT 3-day regional learning event was overall well-received. Participants found the sessions engaging, the facilitation effective, and the program structure aligned with the event's objectives. However, there are areas for improvement to enhance future events:

- **Balanced Time Allocation:** Adjust the pacing of sessions to allow more time for interactive components like panel discussions and breakout sessions.
- **Inclusion of New Topics:** Address emerging areas of interest such as Soil Health, Crop Insurance, and Agritech.
- **Enhanced Networking Opportunities:** Continue to prioritize networking and knowledge-sharing platforms to foster collaboration.



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Our donors and implementing partners

