

Objectives of the project

CAADP-XP4/CCARDESA: Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme ex-Pillar 4/ Centre for Coordination of Agricultural Research and Development for Southern Africa. African Regional and Sub-Regional Organizations for Agricultural Research and Innovation Support Project.

The overall objective of the CAADP-XP4 project is to enable agricultural research and innovation, including extension services, to contribute effectively to food and nutrition security; economic development and implement climate relevant interventions in Africa. This will be achieved by improving the capacity, effectiveness, and positioning of the Regional and Sub Regional Agriculture research and extension organizations as well as National-Agriculture-Research-Systems, and by promoting collaboration and knowledge sharing among the organizations.

Background

Southern African countries, like most of African countries, face serious climate challenges that compromise efforts to increase agricultural productivity. The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC, 2014) projected that crop yields in sub Saharan Africa would drop by 22% by 2050 due to effects of climate change. The IPPC (2019) identified Southern Africa as one the regions that will be adversely affected by climate change where the frequency and intensity of droughts are expected to increase under all scenarios. Projections suggest that the impact on the agricultural sector in the SADC region will become severe over the next decades.

In early 2019, four countries (Comoros, Malawi, Mozambique, and Zimbabwe) experienced flooding caused by cyclones Idai and Kenneth which affected about 3.8 million people. Therefore, urgent action is needed to address this threat which may compromise the ambition of realising the targets of the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP) which is Africa's commitment framework for improving African agriculture. As a result of the risk posed by climate change, the CCARDESA long-term strategy (2020-2029) has given top priority to addressing the impact of climate change on agriculture in the SADC region.

The CAADP-XP4 project aims to address the above challenges through supporting a science-led and climate-relevant agricultural transformation in Africa. The project will support the Centre for Coordination of Agricultural Research and Development for Southern Africa (CCARDESA) to work closely with the African Forum for Agricultural Advisory Services (AFAAS), Association for strengthening Agricultural Research in East and Central Africa (ASARECA), West and Central Africa Council for Agricultural Research and Development (CORAF), and Forum for Agricultural Research in Africa (FARA) to contribute towards the attainment of CAADP. More specifically, the project seeks to strengthen the capacity of CCARDESA to deliver on its Agricultural Research for Development (AR4D)



mandate and to support its member countries to implement relevant programmes of the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP).

The theory of change to achieve the objectives

The CAADP-XP4 project has two expected outcomes and these are: (i) Improved capacities of FARA, AFAAS, ASARECA, CCARDESA and CORAF to support African countries to contribute to the delivery of CAADP results through inclusive regional and international partnerships, production and exchange of climate relevant agricultural knowledge, effective communication, monitoring and evaluation and the promotion of more systemic and effective use of science, knowledge and innovation and (ii) Improved capacities of African countries to deliver CAADP/Malabo targets.

The project has five outputs, namely: (i) Strengthened capacity of CCARDESA to perform its mandate and better work together with AFAAS, FARA and sister Sub Regional Organisations (SROs). A capacity gap assessment will be conducted to enable CCARDESA to strengthen skills, processes and systems required for the effective implementation of the project; (ii) Established or strengthened and operationalised multi-stakeholder partnerships for Innovations to improve the capacities of the targeted organisations to realize the outputs of the program; (iii) Policy in support of climate relevant agriculture and food systems transformation formulated, investments increased, advocacy and market linkages strengthened; (iv) Knowledge Management and Communication for decision support, sharing innovation and advocacy related to climate relevant agriculture transformation strengthened and (v) Effective planning, coordination, monitoring, evaluation, learning and reporting.

To obtain these outputs the project will contribute to the delivery of CAADP results through facilitating inclusive regional and international partnerships, production and exchange of climate relevant agricultural knowledge. In this regard, CCARDESA will ensure that regional and international partnerships are strengthened or developed. These partnerships will promote exchange of knowledge and experience on climate relevant agricultural and food systems research and innovation through multi-stakeholder innovation platforms and networks including regional/national agricultural research for development (AR4D) organizations and advisory services.

CCARDESA will also ensure that mechanisms for strengthening capacities of target countries in the SADC region are functional and coherent. Countries will be capacitated to prioritize research and Innovation, develop and use climate-relevant technologies and innovations, advocate and mobilize investments in agriculture research & innovation and formulate and implement climate relevant policies. CCARDESA will also support target countries to develop their knowledge management and communication strategies and ensure that flagship publications and best practice guidance notes are published and shared at platforms that can easily be accessed by the general public. Furthermore, CCARDESA will ensure that the governance system of climate-relevant research, innovation and advisory services are developed in countries benefiting of technical advice.

The findings/deliberations from the national-level and regional dialogues will be synthesized by CCARDESA and shared with AFAAS/FARA for consolidation at continental level. CCARDESA will engage with the Regional Economic Communities (RECs) structures at appropriate technical and political levels to contribute towards policy formulation. Within the Southern African region, CCARDESA will promote the dissemination of climate smart agricultural practices as well as influence policy changes in support of the promotion of resilience of farming systems to climate change. Strong partnerships between CCARDESA and the National Agricultural Research and Innovation System (NARIS) will be among the critical routes through which the project innovations will be scaled up in the region. Sustainability and scaling up will be achieved by deepening ownership of the project primarily by the

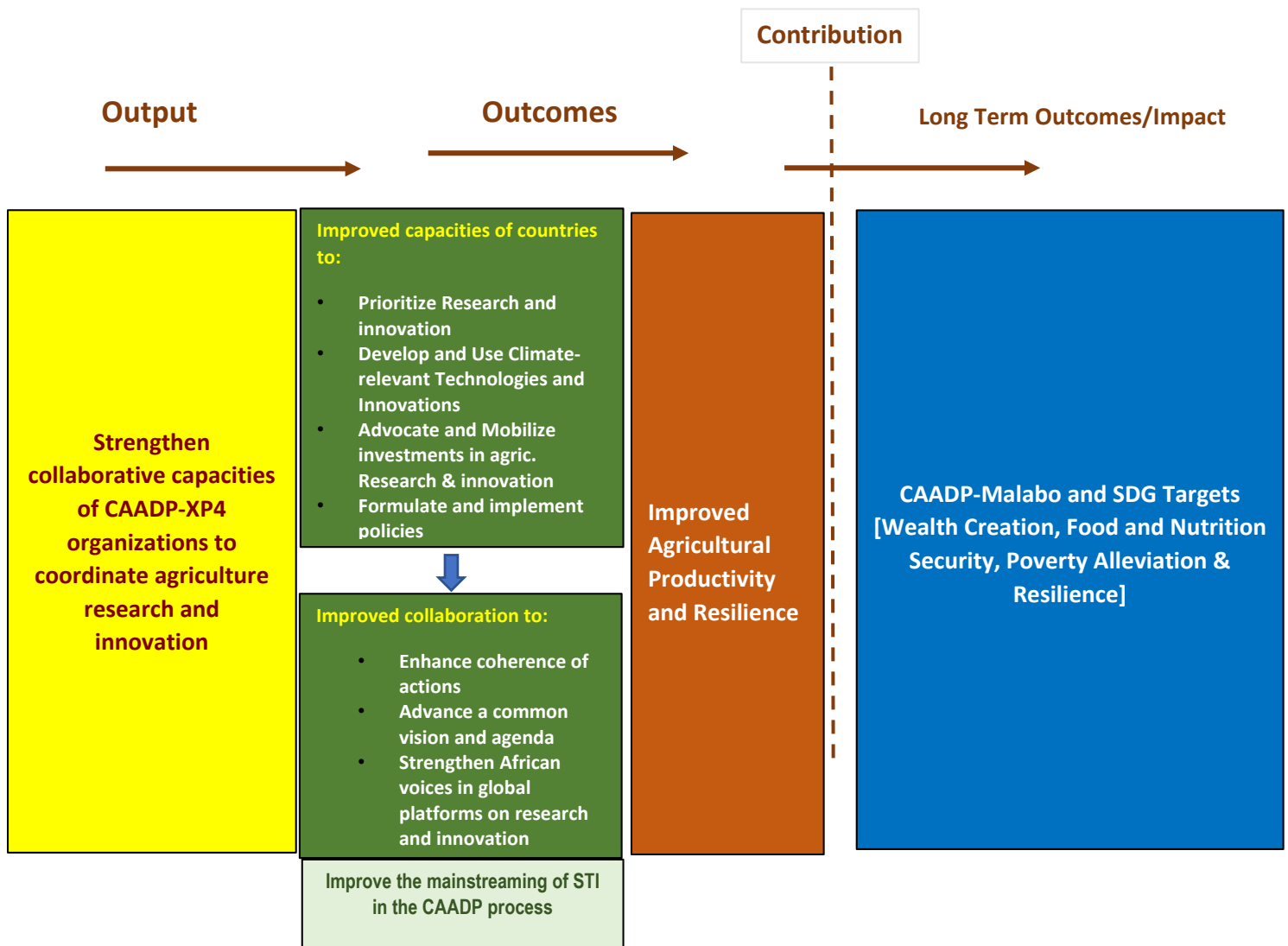


direct beneficiaries i.e. the target institutions AFAAS, ASARECA, CCARDESA, CORAF, FARA and the indirect beneficiaries, as well as linking the project with other projects and programmes implemented under the CCARDESA Strategy (2019 -2028).

CCARDESA will develop and disseminate knowledge products on climate relevant technologies at national and regional level and may include: case studies, technical papers, videos, blogs, policy briefs, brochures, and articles through appropriate platforms. ICT based climate relevant knowledge products for wider dissemination will be developed with various stakeholders for dissemination via the CCARDESA knowledge platforms. In this regard, CCARDESA will build on existing information systems to increase the effectiveness of the programme portal in facilitating information and knowledge acquisition, sharing and analysis. The portal will cater for marketplace functions and to ensure that researchers, policy makers and private sector operators participate in policymaking through the programme's interventions and influence.

However, the project may face difficulties. The following risks may hinder the attainment of the expected outcomes: (i) regional and national policies unfavourable to agricultural transformation and growth; (ii) inadequate and inappropriate policies and plans for climate change adaptation and mitigation in the agricultural sector; (iii) limited political support for agriculture as a major driver of sustainable national economic development; (iv) poor coordination of implementing partners which could result in poor adoption of climate-relevant practices due to ineffective collaboration and (v) multi-stakeholder partners not motivated to create, share and exchange climate relevant knowledge and information. (vi) emergence of natural disasters which could derail focus away from programme priorities and hamper implementation. Adequate mitigation measures have been incorporated into the project to counter these risks should they occur.

Figure 1: CAADP-XP4 Impact pathway based on the Theory of Change



The Assumptions are: (i) Relevant continental, regional and national policies favourable to agricultural transformation and growth will prevail; (ii) Adequate and appropriate policies and plans for climate change adaptation and mitigation in the agricultural sector will be strengthened and developed; (iii) Political support for agriculture as a major driver of sustainable national economic development will be upheld; (iv) All the coordinating and implementing partners will continue to work together adopting practices that foster effective collaboration; (v) Multi-stakeholder partners will be motivated to create, share and exchange knowledge and information; (vi) No natural disaster will emerge to derail focus away from priorities of the programme and its implementation.

Main activities

CAADP-XP4 will strengthen the capacity of CCARDESA to perform its mandate and improve working together with AFAAS, ASARECA, CORAF and FARA.

- ✓ Under **Component 1** the following activities will be undertaken: launch the project; capacity gap assessment; upgrade internal systems (financial, MEL System, knowledge management and procurement) and strengthen Climate Smart Agriculture (CSA) and innovation platform, review key CCARDESA manuals.
- ✓ Under **Component 2** the following activities will be implemented: map out existing climate relevant initiatives at national and regional levels; prepare sub-regional synthesis report on CSA



and associated platforms; strengthen existing climate-relevant Thematic Working Groups and national multi-stakeholder innovation platforms; develop and operationalise strategies for engaging with private sector on climate-relevant issues in agriculture.

- ✓ **Component 3** activities include: train stakeholders on resource mobilisation; develop joint proposals; develop joint response mechanisms to emerging technical and innovation issues; establish, develop and implement staff exchange, support technical visits and mentorship programs with African and European Partners; capacitate NARIS in proposal development; train national partners on policy analysis; convene policy dialogues and strengthen quality control capacity of agricultural inputs, products & trade.
- ✓ The following are activities under **Component 4**: develop & operationalise knowledge management strategies and data capture guidelines; develop ISO compliance standard for sharing information as well as produce best practice guidance notes.
- ✓ **Component 5** will focus on: convening joint review and planning meetings, develop a Project Implementation Manual (PIM); convene planning meetings; customise existing MEL systems to ROM; train CCARDESA & partners on MEL; develop data collection tools; conduct baseline survey; convene governance meetings; develop and implement a joint communication and visibility strategy and participation in other strategic events/fora.

Organization

The CAADP-XP4 Programme is implemented collaboratively by a consortium of five ex-Pillar 4 institutions who will annually jointly plan project activities to ensure coherence and effectiveness. The apex of the governance structure for the project is occupied by the Advisory Committee (AC) composed of the 5 consortium members and some European Union partners (AGRINATURA and EUFRAS), FAO/TAP, Pan African Farmers Organisation (PAFO), and the Pan African Agri-business Consortium (PanAAC) (figure 2). The AC will meet once a year (physical meeting) and also hold virtual meetings as need arises. It will be chaired on an annual rotational basis amongst the Consortium Members and the Secretariat for the Committee will be provided by the Consortium member chairing for that year. The European Commission and IFAD will be observers. A Technical Committee composed of representatives from the five Consortium members has been established to deal with all the technical matters of the project, approve documents and report to the Advisory Committee.

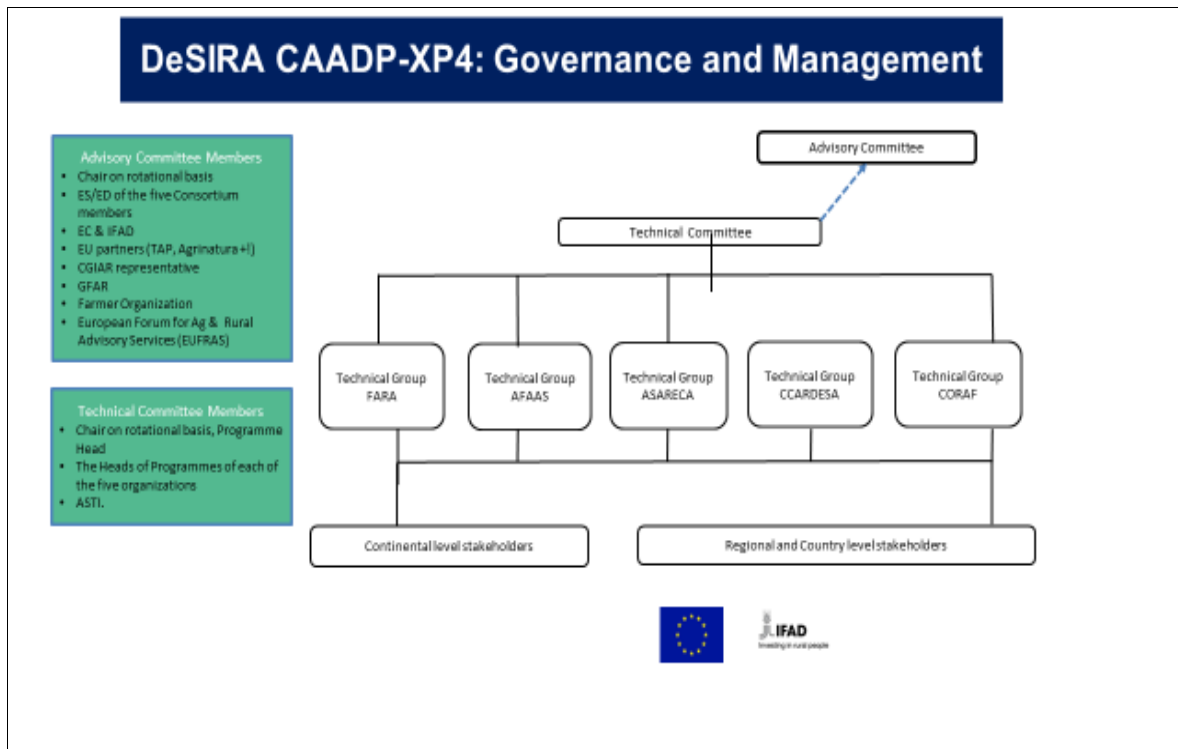


Figure 2: CAADP-XP4 Governance and Management structure



Implementing organization

Centre for Coordination of Agricultural Research and Development for Southern Africa (CCARDESA) Secretariat



Administered by IFAD

Project Partners

CCARDESA will work with AFAAS, ASARECA, CORAF and FARA to roll out the programme at various levels and respective regions.



Other stakeholders

CCARDESA has engaged and is planning to work with regional organisations namely; Southern Africa Development Community SADC Secretariat Directorate of the Food Agriculture and Natural Resources (SADC-FANR), Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA), FAO Regional Emergency Office for Southern Africa (FAO-REOSA), Small Scale National Farmers Unions, Food Agriculture and Natural Resources Policy Analysis Network (FANRPAN), Regional Network of Agricultural Policy Research Institutes (ReNAPRI) as well as regional Youth networks e.g. CAADP Climate Smart Agriculture Youth Network (CSAYN).



The programme is planning to collaborate with international and European agencies and research networks such as Global Forum for Agricultural Research (GFAR), Global Forum of Rural Advisory Services (GFRAS), AGRINATURA, European Forum of Rural Advisory Services (EUFRAS), Tropical Agriculture Platform (TAP) to mention but a few.



CCARDESA launched CAADP-XP4 project in Lusaka, Zambia. From the left to the right: Dr Simon Mwale-CCARDESA Acting ED, Dr Malu Ndavi – IFAD CAADP-XP4 Programme Lead Technical Specialist, Honourable Minister for Agriculture – Mr Michael Katambo

At regional and country level the key actors will entail the national agricultural knowledge and innovation systems (NAKIS) in Southern Africa i.e. Departments of Agricultural Research, Extension Agencies, Non-State Organisations active in Agriculture, Agriculture Institutions of higher learning, regional agricultural research organisations, farmer organisations, women and youth organisations, agricultural input suppliers and others.

The implementation of project activities has been slow due to the COVID-19 pandemic and global lockdown. Once the situation is under control, CCARDESA will expedite project

implementation.

Region

The project will be implemented in Botswana, Eswatini, Mozambique, Namibia, Tanzania, Zambia, and Zimbabwe. The 7 countries will be the focus of implementing activities, but the project will endeavour to spread the benefits to the rest of the SADC countries.

Funding and co-funding

EU	€ 5,370,000
Total budget	€ 5,370,000

Duration

4 years (March 2019 to 28th February 2023)