

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 is being achieved by improving the capacity, effectiveness, and positioning of the Regional and Sub Regional Agriculture research and extension organisations as well as National Agriculture Research Systems, and by promoting collaboration and knowledge sharing among the organizations.

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).

Background

Southern African countries, like most 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 IPCC (2019) identified Southern Africa as one of the regions that will be the most adversely affected by climate change, where the frequency and intensity of droughts and floods are expected to increase under all scenarios. Projections suggest that the impact on the agricultural sector in the Southern African Development Community (SADC) region will become severe over the next decades.



CAADP-XP4 partners on stage at the 8th Africa Agribusiness and Science week, hosted by CCARDESA in June 2023. Photo credit: CCARDESA

Therefore, urgent action is needed to address this threat which may compromise the ambition of realising the CAADP targets, 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 is supporting 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), the Association for strengthening Agricultural Research in East and Central Africa (ASARECA), the West and Central Africa Council for Agricultural Research and Development (CORAF), and the Forum for Agricultural Research in Africa (FARA) to contribute towards the attainment of CAADP.

The theory of change to achieve the objectives.

The theory of change (ToC) of the programme entails that:

On one hand IF, individual and collaborative capacities of CCARDESA are improved and strengthened to coordinate science led agriculture research, innovation and sustainable climate-relevant initiatives; THEN, the collaboration among the CAADP-XP4 organizations will be improved, and this will also lead to the improved mainstreaming of Science Technology and Innovation (STI) in the CAADP process and towards:

- ✓ advancing a common vision and agenda.
- ✓ enhancing coherence of actions; and
- ✓ strengthening African voices in global platforms on research and innovation.

On the other side IF, individual and collaborative capacities of CCARDESA are improved and strengthened; THEN, they will be better positioned to support countries in their planning and implementation of actions aimed at ensuring their agricultural transformation (science and innovation-led, sustainable and climate relevant) by:

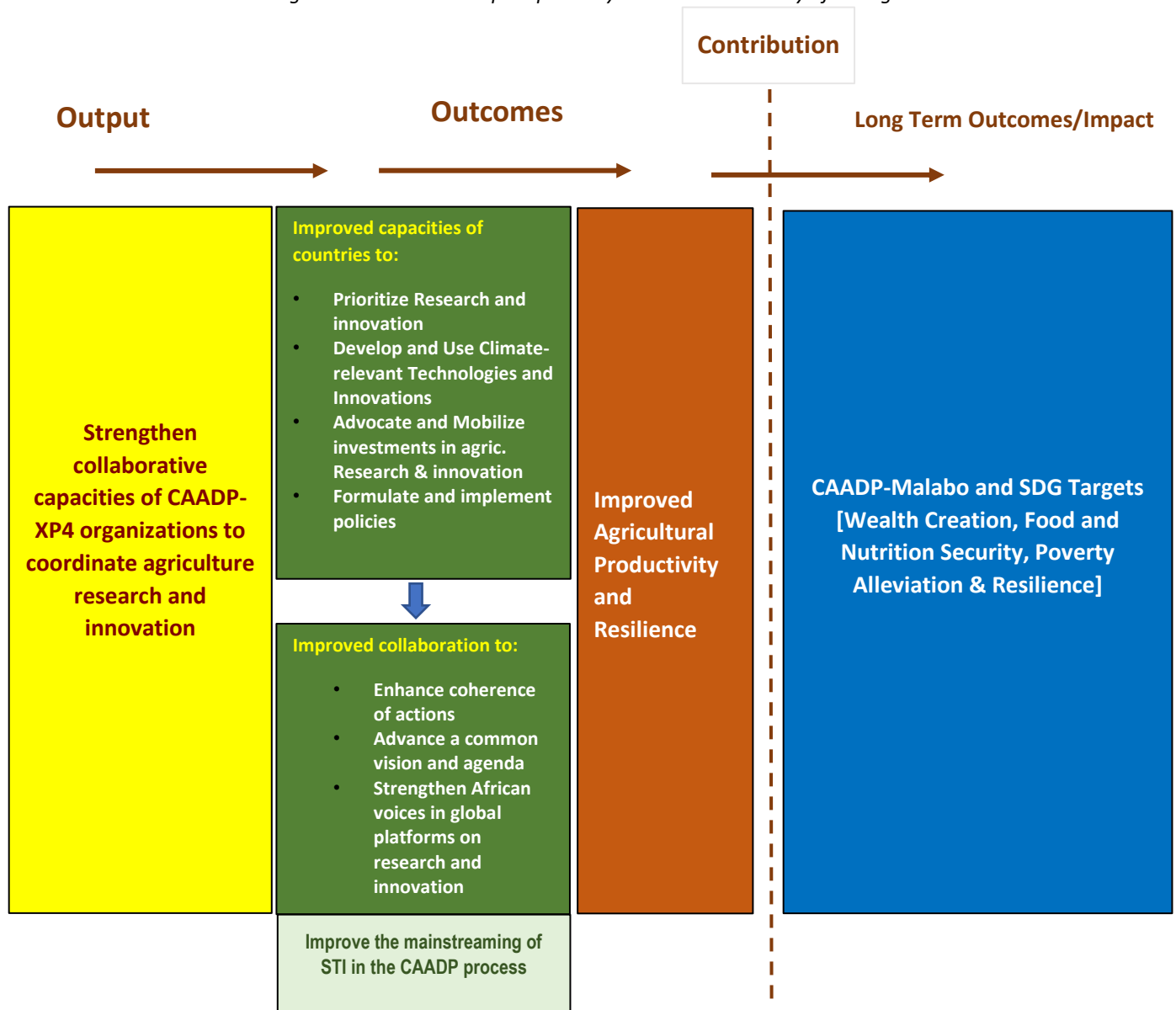
- ✓ prioritizing research and innovation.
- ✓ developing and employing climate-relevant technologies and innovations; -advocating and mobilizing investments in agricultural research and innovation; and
- ✓ in formulating and implementing policies.

IF, the capacities of the country partner organizations are strengthened in planning and implementation of actions aimed at ensuring their agricultural transformation (is science and innovation-led, sustainable and climate relevant), THEN, the countries will be better positioned to contribute to CAADP, Malabo and Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) Targets [on wealth creation, food and nutrition security, poverty alleviation and resilience].

The logic in the change pathway presented in Figure 1, is based on key assumptions that include:

- ✓ Relevant continental, regional and national policies favourable to agricultural transformation and growth will prevail.
- ✓ Adequate and appropriate policies and plans for climate change adaptation and mitigation in the agricultural sector will be strengthened and developed.
- ✓ Political support for agriculture as a major driver of sustainable national economic development will be upheld.
- ✓ All the coordinating and implementing partners will continue to work together adopting practice that foster effective collaboration.
- ✓ Multi-stakeholder partners will be motivated to create, share and exchange climate relevant knowledge and information.

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



Main activities

CAADP-XP4 is meant to strengthen the capacity of CCARDESA to perform its mandate and improve collaboration with AFAAS, ASARECA, CORAF and FARA.

- ✓ Under **Component 1**, the following activities were or are being implemented: undertake a capacity gap assessment; upgrade internal systems (financial, Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning -MEL-System, Knowledge Management, electronic filing and procurement) and, strengthen Climate Smart Agriculture (CSA) and innovation platform, review key CCARDESA manuals.
- ✓ Under **Component 2**, the following activities were or are being implemented: map out existing climate-relevant initiatives at national and regional levels; prepare a 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 the 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 National Agriculture Research Institutes (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** focuses on: convening joint review and planning meetings, develop a Project Implementation Manual (PIM); convening planning meetings; customising existing MEL systems to ROM (Result-Oriented Monitoring); training CCARDESA & partners on MEL; developing data collection tools; conducting baseline survey; convening governance meetings; developing and implementing a joint communication and visibility strategy and participation in other strategic events/fora.

The initial implementation of project activities was slowed down by the COVID-19 pandemic and global lockdown. After the situation came under control, CCARDESA started expediting project implementation.

Results achieved to date (December 2022)

- ✓ Capacity Building: CCARDESA has trained 19 National Agricultural Research and Extension Stakeholders (NARES) on resource mobilisation. NARES are expected to improve their ability to secure funding and resources, enhancing their capacity to implement agricultural programs and research.
- ✓ 247 NARES officials and media personnel have been trained on applying foresight for climate-resilient agricultural development. Trainings provided these different stakeholders with new insights into preparing for and adapting to changing environmental conditions. Countries will also use a more climate-resilient approach to agriculture, which is expected to enhance their implementation of agricultural programs and reporting on agriculture and climate change.
- ✓ Additionally, CCARDESA trained 111 individuals from 41 institutions on using the Agricultural Innovation System-Policy Practice Index (AIS-PPI), and 14 people on employing the KM and Information capture guidelines. These individuals have been equipped with a systematic way to track and assess formulation and monitoring of policies in agriculture, potentially leading to more effective development and monitoring of strategies in their respective countries.
- ✓ In addition, over 110 stakeholders in 4 countries have been trained on monitoring and reporting on the Malabo Commitments. They are now supporting their countries' reporting on the Malabo Commitments. 3 representatives from 3 countries as well as 2 CCARDESA staff were trained on the FAO-TAP (Food and Agriculture Organisation – Tropical Agriculture Platform) Framework tools and concepts to strengthen Agriculture Innovation Systems (AIS). These capacity building activities are set to lead to more enhanced policy implementation and improved resource mobilization.
- ✓ CSA Mapping: CCARDESA successfully mapped Climate-Smart Agriculture (CSA) initiatives across the SADC Region, providing a comprehensive view of current initiatives and identifying gaps and areas for potential cooperation and synergy. Policy makers have benefitted from getting targeted CSA information and policy advice from briefs produced by the project.
- ✓ National KM Strategies Development: CCARDESA has facilitated the participation of eight countries in the KM for Agricultural Development Challenge (KM4AgD) to professionalise KM in the region. Participants in the KM4AgD challenge developed 8 national KM strategies and have already started to improve their KM systems, which will boost the effectiveness of their

agricultural programs. They have also improved how knowledge is managed and information is captured within their organisations, leading to more effective use of resources and better decision making.

- ✓ **System and Strategy Development:** CCARDESA has created an automated MEL System, which will allow countries to employ the results-based reporting approach to better learn from their experiences and improve their programmes. CCARDESA also developed three strategies and action plans: An Innovative Partnerships Strategy, a Private Sector Engagement Strategy, and a Regional Advocacy Strategy for promoting cross-border trade in agricultural commodities and inputs. The Private sector and NGOs benefited from the Private Sector Engagement Strategy and Action Plan, which has improved inclusiveness by providing a platform for non-state actors and other views to be heard. Private sector engagement will improve investment in research and uptake of climate-relevant technologies as well as enhance sustainability. This could lead to more business opportunities in agriculture, potentially leading to increased profits and growth.
- ✓ **Publications:** CCARDESA has produced various publications covering important topics like the status of agricultural research in the SADC Region, mapping of CSA initiatives in the SADC region, guidelines and a regional action plan for mainstreaming climate science and technology indicators into National Agricultural Investment Plans.
- ✓ **Overall, achievements from CAADP-XP4 cover a wide range of areas, from capacity building and knowledge management to strategic development and regional integration.** The CCARDESA Secretariat was strengthened in terms of governance and staffing levels, and through CAADP, improved its visibility and credibility as a partner in regional R&D engagements on the topical subject of climate smart agriculture and in the implementation of One-CG (One-CGIAR) regional Integrated Initiatives. Besides the aforementioned stakeholders who directly benefited, smallholder farmers and rural communities from across the region will have their lives changed from these initiatives thanks to improved policy and enhanced agricultural research for development, the downstream effects of which include higher yields, greater access to markets and greater climate resilience.

Organization

The CAADP-XP4 Programme is implemented collaboratively by a consortium of five ex-Pillar 4 institutions who annually jointly plan project activities to ensure coherence and effectiveness. The Advisory Committee (AC) sits at the apex of the governance structure for the project and is composed of the Heads of the 5 consortium member institutions and some European Union partners (AGRINATURA and the European Forum for Agricultural and Rural Advisory Services (EUFRAS)), FAO/TAP, Pan African Farmers Organisation (PAFO), and the Pan African Agri-business Consortium (PanAAC) (figure 2). The AC meets once a year (physical meeting) and also holds virtual meetings as need arises. It is chaired on an annual rotational basis amongst the consortium members and the Secretariat for the Committee are provided by the consortium member chairing for that year. The European Commission and the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) are 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.

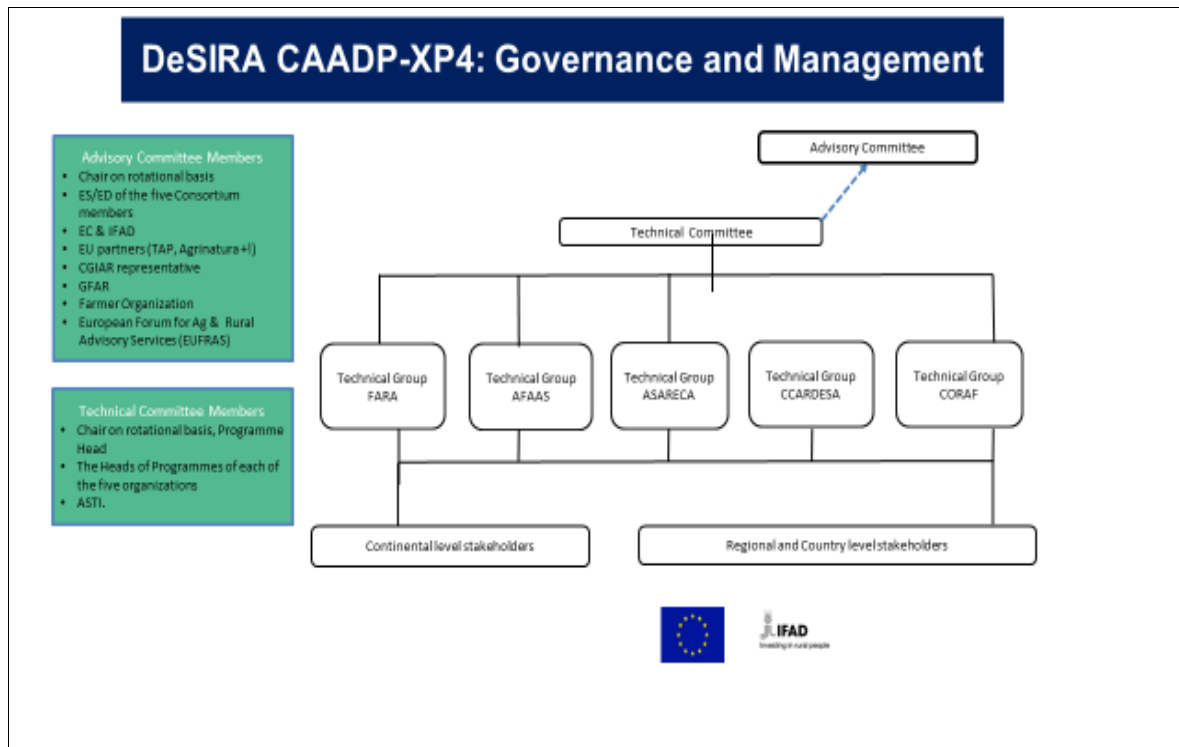


Figure 2: CAADP-XP4 Governance and Management structure

Implementing organization

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

Administered by the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD)



Project Partners

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



Other stakeholders

CCARDESA has engaged and is planning to work with regional organisations namely:

- ✓ Southern Africa Development Community 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),
- ✓ Digital Earth Africa, Global CSA Youth Network (GCSAN),

✓ as well as regional Youth networks, e.g. CAADP Climate Smart Agriculture Youth Network (CSAYN).

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

At regional and country level the key actors involve 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.

Location

The project is implemented in Botswana, Eswatini, Mozambique, Namibia, Tanzania, Zambia, and Zimbabwe. The 7 countries are the focus of implementing activities, but the project endeavours 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

70 months (March 2019 – December 2024)

The project duration was originally 4 years (1st March 2019 to 28th February 2023) but it was granted no-cost extension to the end of December 2024 in view of the time lost due to the COVID-19 restrictions.

Website

<https://www.ccardesa.org/>

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