



African Gender, Climate Change and Agriculture Support Program (GCCASP)

**Proceedings of Regional
Programming Consultation
Workshop**

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**REC Consultation Programming Workshop on the Gender, Climate Change
and Agriculture Support Program (GCCASP)**



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ACRONYMS

3N Initiative	Nigerian Nourish Nigerians Initiative
AU	Africa Union
AUC	Africa Union Commission
BPA	Beijing Plan of Action
BPA	Beijing Plan of Action
CAADP	Comprehensive African Agriculture Development Programme
CEDAW	Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women
COMESA	Common Market for East and Southern Africa
CSA	Climate Smart Agriculture
CSO	Civil Society Organizations
EAC	East African Community
ECCAS	Economic Community of Central African States
ECOWAS	Economic Community of West African States
GCCASP	Gender Climate Change Agriculture Support Programme
IGAD	Inter-Governmental Authority on Development
MDGs	Millennium Development Goals
NEPAD	New Partnership for African Development
NORAD	Norwegian Development Agency
NPCA	NEPAD Planning and Coordinating Agency
PPs	Partnership Platforms
RECs	Regional Economic Communities
UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change

1. BACKGROUND AND RATIONALE

There is compelling evidence that climate change is happening and is causing significant damage to societies, economies and environments. Africa, in particular is greatly affected as exposures and vulnerabilities are increasingly high while capacities to respond are very low. Small holder agriculture is the mainstay of most African countries but it is the most vulnerable sector dominated by women farmers who account for over 80% of the continent's food production. Women and youths are highly vulnerable and are most likely to be disproportionately affected by the adverse effects of climate change. This calls for the urgency to integrate gender issues and concerns of small scale women farmers in responding to climate change in agriculture.

Cognizance of this issue, the NEPAD Agency with funding from the Norwegian Government initiated a five year Gender Climate Change Agriculture Support Programme (GCCASP) design study that involved the undertaking of case studies in five African countries (Cameroon, Ethiopia, Malawi, Niger and Rwanda), one country in each for the five Regional Economic Communities (RECs – COMESA, ECOWAS, ECCAS, IGAD, and EAC) of the African Union. In addition, a REC level consultation workshop was also conducted in Ethiopia 2012.

The specific objectives of this Programme are to: (i) strengthen and align institutional and policy environment to address climate related challenges impacting on women small holder farmers; (ii) strengthen local capacity through facilitating training and shared learning, and access to information and knowledge; (iii) improve women small holder farmers' accessibility to land, inputs, credit and technologies; and (iv) enhance women's participation in local, national and regional economic, social and political decision making processes.

The 2012 consultations led to the development of a framework Programme document that was submitted to the Norwegian Government for funding. NEPAD with the initial grant from NORAD launched the Programme in September 2013, within the margins of the United Nations General Assembly in New York.

The GCCASP 2012 consultations identified four strategic intervention areas for the NEPAD Agency to focus in the implementation of the Programme. Subsequently, the GCCASP is envisaged to be operationalized in two phases namely: the Inception and the Implementation phases. In order to make progress in the implementation of the Programme, the NEPAD Agency embarked up on the inception phase with organizing the first programming workshop in June 2014 in Ethiopia. The programming workshops were also conducted consecutively in Malawi, Niger, Cameroon and Rwanda. Participants of the consultation meetings involved relevant representation of government officials from the Ministries of Agriculture, Gender and Environment, development partners, research institutions, women farmer groups and non-governmental organizations. In these workshops, country priority

areas were validated and institutional arrangements needed for the implementation of the Programme were discussed and agreed upon.

In order to come up with a Programme document that speaks to Africa and for Africa – a continental level work Programme for action to be used by AU and NEPAD, there is need for a continental level consultation. The present consultation will enable validation and enrichment of the REC level priority interventions areas and harmonization with detailed country level priority intervention areas. It is against this backdrop that this continental level consultation workshop was organized and held at International Conference Center, Durban, South Africa for two days from 6 to 7 October 2014.

2. WORKSHOP OBJECTIVES

The aim of this REC level GCCASP programming workshop is to validate and enrich the RECs level intervention areas and harmonize with the country level GCCASPs so as to come up with Continental level bankable Programme document to be submitted for financing the implementation phase of the GCCASP.

3. METHODOLOGY

Methodologically, the workshop was conceived based on well thought concept note that provided background, established its rationale and set clear objectives. The workshop used a mix of power point presentations, group discussions and presentations, plenary discussions, recap and wrap up sessions. Welcoming and introductory speeches, and closing remarks were also part of the workshop Programme. Both English and French were used as medium of communication throughout the workshop period.

4. WORKSHOP PARTICIPANTS

The regional consultation workshop brought together 18 participants drawn from the African union Regional Economic Communities such as COMESA and ECCAS and National stakeholders including invited representatives from ministry of gender, agriculture, environment and climate change civil society. Other participants were drawn from GCCASP implementing countries namely, Cameroon, Ethiopia, Malawi and Niger. In addition, a representative from the development partner, NORAD was present in the workshop.

5. OPENING SESSION

This session was chaired by Dr. Andrew Daudi, Lead GeoSAS Consultant for Malawi. He started by welcoming all participants to a two day meeting and invited Dr. Rokhaya Ndiaye to make introductory remarks.



Dr. Andrew Daudi

5.1 Introduction of the Workshop and Welcome Remarks by Dr. Rokhaya Ndiaye from NEPAD

Dr. Rokhaya Ndiaye of NEPAD welcomed all invited guests and participants on behalf of the CEO of NEPAD, Dr. Ibrahim Assane Mayaki, and the Director of Programme Implementation and Coordination Directorate, Mrs. Estherine Fotabong, to the REC Programming Workshop. In her introductory statement pointed out that 2014 is considered as a very important Year for Agriculture by the African Union, as it is designated the International Year for Family Farming and also a celebration of 10 years of CAADP.



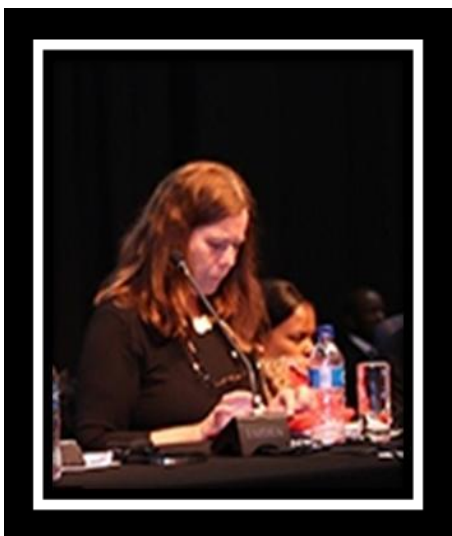
Dr. Rokhaya Ndiaye

She further explained that in Africa, there has been micro economic growth but there has also been increase in rural poverty and this trend is estimated to increase till 2025. She stressed that through the GCCASP, we are turning to urgent actions to fully empower small holder women farmers to cope with the effects of climate change. In this connection, she recalled the assessment phase activities, including desk reviews, studies and consultations in the five participating countries and REC levels.

Dr. Rokhaya Ndiaye expressed her hope that in this workshop, participants will take stock of what the RECs are currently doing and issues that arose in the assessment phase. She noted that this information will enable us to validate REC level priority interventions areas and harmonize with the detailed country priorities to come up with the continental bankable GCCASP document

Finally, she wished all participants successful deliberations and expressed her trust that the work that would come out of this consultation will inform the consolidated Programme document for Africa.

5.2 Statement by NORAD Representative



Mrs. Maal Bodil

Mrs. Bodil Maal, Senior Adviser of the Gender Team Department for Economic Development, Energy, Gender and Governance of NORAD, began her statement by expressing Norway's government appreciation of the engagement and leadership that NEPAD has shown in the development of the Gender Climate Change Agriculture Support Program. She particularly emphasized that the broad participation and involvement of female smallholder farmers and their leaders in the process is a prerequisite for success.

Mrs. Bodil also pointed out that the work is in line with Norway's priorities in a sense that "it is Africa-led, multi-sectorial, focused on women, the interventions will be long-term and NEPAD has taken on the role of coordinating the development partners." She went on recalling that Norway has supported NEPAD in the planning of GCCASP since COP 17 in 2011.

Talking of challenges, Mrs. Bodil Maal indicated that Norway recognizes the complexity of challenges facing African agricultural producers, especially women smallholder farmers and elaborated on the implication of the problem with reference to food insecurity. In this connection, she underscored the fact that many of the chronically hungry people today are smallholder farmers, and reversing this trend is our greatest challenge. Furthermore, Mrs. Bodil Maal described the multifaceted and critical role played by small holder women farmers in agriculture yet the existence of policy and practice gaps in addressing women's needs. In this regard, Mrs. Bodil pointed out that the intention of GCCASP is to assist women smallholder farmers.

Mrs. Bodil in her speech posed a question that how can women smallholder farmers be assisted. Then by citing an example from Zambia she elaborated how by adoption of conservation agriculture that could be made possible. She then suggested that in order for women smallholder farmers to get the opportunity to learn this method of climate smart agriculture, they need training and support, be part of the decision making structures within agriculture; secure access to land and to be part of cooperatives among other things.

She concluded her statement by saying that NORAD welcomes the Malabo declaration and emphasized that the RECs support to the NEPADs GCCASP is crucial in order to reach the goals and targets set in the Malabo Declaration.

6. MAJOR PRESENTATIONS

6.1 Background and Update on GCCASP by Ms. Edna Kalima from NEPAD

Ms. Edna presented an overview of GCCASP starting with background information on the program initiation and the consultations made in the five pilot countries during the assessment phase in 2012 and updates on the current inception phases. The key elements covered in her presentation include the Programme development process, consultations made in the 5 countries and with RECs, outputs of the Programme development phase. She also highlighted the specific components of the GCCASP and operationalization process, specific roles of NPCA and outputs of Inception Phase.



Ms. Edna Kalima

Accordingly, she explained that development of GCCASP was embarked with the NORAD financial support in 2012 and the design process undertaken in the five selected countries which involved field level assessment

with case studies, desk reviews of policies and programmes, national consultation with participants selected among the beneficiaries and key stakeholder institutions and regional consultation workshop with participants drawn from RECs and representatives from pertinent participating countries. She also noted that the methodology and approach adopted was broad based and inclusive participation of various stakeholders including representatives of women small holder farmers.

The outputs of the assessment phase include country level assessment reports, desk review reports, proceedings of national and REC level consultation workshop, which were culminated by the development of Gender, Climate Change and Agriculture Support Programme (GCCASP) framework document. This GCCASP framework program formed the basis for the development of country specific work Programme for the present inception phase.

The main objective of the GCCASP is to empower women smallholder farmers, youths and other vulnerable sections of communities in African participating countries to better cope with the adverse effects of climate variability and climate change through provision of defined support to enhance their resilience and adaptive capacity. With regard to the Programme areas, Ms. Edna indicated that the GCCASP activities are grouped into four distinct but interrelated Sub-Programmes including, closing institutional gaps, capacity building of women smallholder farmers, creating and strengthening of women platforms, and investments/up scaling of innovative and successful practices. She further highlighted on the key activities identified under each sub Programme.

With regard to the operationalization of the GCCASP the presenter highlighted that the GCCASP was launched in New York in September 2013 and NORAD gave an initial grant to kick start the Programme in two phases namely, Inception Phase, and Implementation Phase. She noted that the

Programme is now in its inception phase which was started in April 2014 with the objective of developing detailed country specific and RECs level GCCASP work Programmes based on the already developed Programme framework. NPCA was entrusted to provide technical backstopping/support to the participating countries and RECs in the process of designing and submission of detailed work Programme for consideration for funding.

Ms. Edna explained that during the inception phase, the GCCASP programming workshops have been conducted in the five participating countries starting with Ethiopia, Malawi, Niger, Cameroon, Rwanda and at present with RECs. She noted that during the present inception phase NPCA has played the role of facilitation and provision of technical support to the participating countries, organizing of national REC level programming consultations workshops. Furthermore, assist in the identification of a host institution, establishing national Partnership Platforms (PPs), which are entrusted with overseeing and monitoring the implementation of country level GCCASP.

The GCCASP process included extensive national consultations in which the participants were given the opportunities to review, enrich and validate the key intervention areas grouped under Sub-Programmes and associated detailed activities, she added.

Moreover, she pointed out that round table discussions have been held with development partners in the some of the countries during the programming workshops while other countries have held similar discussions following the Country workshops. She further noted that the roundtable discussions gave opportunity for development partners to reflect on the GCCASP and for considering alignment with their on-going and planned relevant undertakings.

In a nutshell, Ms. Edna highlighted that the GCCASP process has been extensively participatory and inclusive of relevant stakeholders, especially small holder women farmers. The political will and government ownership of the Programme was demonstrated in the process through taking the leadership by relevant public sector institutions in each of the participating countries. She also noted that the technical support for the GCCASP process was given by African based Consulting Firm (GeoSAS), involving national experts in the five participating countries.

All in all, she underscored that, through such efforts NEPAD Agency has been able to establish country ownership and maintain a network of experts in Africa which can be taken as a basis for ensuring sustainability.

Finally Ms. Edna informed the participants that the outputs of Inception Phase include country level GCCASP documents containing detailed work Programme and budget, proceedings of national GCCASP Programming country level consultation workshops and one Consolidated Continental Programme Document and the proceeding of the present REC Programming consultation workshop.

6.2 Empowering women to cope with climate change – ongoing projects and lessons learnt by COMESA Representative-Ms. Maria Phiri

COMESA's presentation on ongoing projects and lessons learnt regarding its undertaking in the areas of empowering women to cope with climate change was presented by Ms.. Maria Phiri.

Her presentation focused on Policy frameworks and instruments developed and adopted by COMESA and their implementation status and lesson learnt.

She commenced her presentation by indicating that COMESA has played a facilitating role on policies and projects, which include providing technical, financial, policy support and its involvement in monitoring and evaluation while she underscoring that the implementers are Member States.

Ms. Phiri mentioned that COMESA has initiated a number of gender responsive interventions in member states, in collaboration with partners. In this regard, she pointed out the presence of policy documents such as the AU Gender Parity, COMESA Gender Policy and Council Decisions 2011. The



Ms .Maria Phiri

Secretariat provides technical support to Member States in building capacity for integrating gender issues into agricultural Programmes and climate change initiatives, she added.

She further noted that COMESA has also adopted a number of instruments such as Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW), MDGs –Goal 5; Beijing Plan of Action (BPA), United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).

She went on indicating that COMESA works with Secretariat’s programmes focusing on agriculture and climate change such as CAADP, COMESA-EAC-SADC Climate Change Tripartite Program, ACTESA (Seeds and Fertilizers); Sanitary and Phytosanitary (Exports and imports).

COMESA also has facilitated Green – house farming projects in Zambia and Kenya;

Climate Smart Agriculture and Conservation agriculture pilot projects, capacity building trainings, in addition to production of publicity materials such as Climate Smart Agriculture (CSA) documentaries with strong gender dimensions undertaken in Malawi and Ethiopia.

Other activities of COMESA that Ms. Phiri indicated that COMESA facilitates are ground activities in ICT and involvement of women in planning of these programmes, including women with mobile service platform that avail agriculture related information along the value chain, in Uganda and Zambia.

On lessons learnt, she pointed out that there is a need to always start with baseline relevance and impacts. It is also necessary to establish complementarities between policy and practice. It is important also to deliberately ensure that there is national stakeholder involvement to guide

sustainability. Finally, capacity building of focal persons is very important and similarly, the need to target vulnerable populations.

6.3 Presentations on empowering women to cope with climate change – ongoing projects and lessons learnt by ECCAS Representative - Ms. Isabelle Boukinda Nzaou

The key work of ECCAS related to empowering of women to cope with adverse effects of climate change was presented by Ms. Isabelle Boukinda Nzaou. She indicated that ECCAS was formed in 1983 and member countries include Angola, Burundi, Sao Tome and Principe, Chad and others. She also presented the Organogram of the organization. Ms. Isabella also described that land ownership is a very critical issue where less than 1% of land is owned by women in Africa and yet more than 60% of food production is done by the women and that production could increase if women have access to more land and financial resources.



Ms. Isabelle Boukinda

She further said that Central Africa contributes a lot in terms of world regulation of climate, and that more than 120 million people in the Congo basin depend on the forests for food, medicine, money etc. She pointed out that it is central Africa that has huge resources of forestry that contributes a lot on carbon emission; food, housing and medicinal plants and we need to avoid deforestation and promote policies that reduce deforestation.

Central Africa Commission has various tools (legal and policy frameworks) on gender dimensions, ECCAS has developed a Strategy for sustainable management of forests in Central Africa, Gender Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan but the Action Plan has not been implemented yet. The major challenges that she outlined include social and environmental risks; right to resources and carbon emissions; lack of technical and financial support that has led to some projects being discontinued; and the need for more experts in the field.

Finally, in her recommendations, she called for studies mainstreaming gender in political reforms; capacity building on gender and climate change as well as agribusiness; involving women from the onset; enable communication of all women; mobilizing different actors to support agribusiness women financially and technically; document studies on green economy; and monitoring and evaluation.

6.4 Presentation on Institutional Arrangement for REC GCCASP Implementation NEPAD Representative

Ms. Edna started her presentation on institutional arrangement by providing highlights on the implementation strategy of the Programme. Here she indicated that all NEPAD principles will be applied in implementing the GCCASP which include: good governance; African ownership; broad

participation of all sectors of the society; anchoring development on Africa's resources and resourcefulness of its people, partnerships, accelerating regional integration, and linking partnerships with the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and Internationally Agreed Development Goals (IADGs). She also emphasized on African ownership of the Programme and linkages with existing NEPAD Programmes.

With regard to implementation responsibilities she explained that Implementation of the Programme will involve execution of specific but inter-related activities at three levels: NPCA, REC and national levels. NPCA is the executing agency and will serve as the Secretariat of the Programme and activities of the Programme will also be anchored on relevant NEPAD Programmes, notably CAADP, EAP, NPCA Gender Programme, and the Rural Futures Programme, among others.

At Regional level, participating RECs (COMESA, EAC, ECCAS, ECOWAS, IGAD) will play important roles in the implementation of the Programme. At the national level, Ms. Edna highlighted that Programme implementation coordinating ministry have been identified by each participating country during the GCCASP Programming workshops.

In terms of governance, GCCASP will be governed by an Advisory Board (Steering Committee) at NPCA level with the main role of providing guidance on technical issues. She pointed out that the Advisory Board could consist of representatives from NPCA, AUC, funding agency/agencies, the RECs representatives and chairpersons of the PPs in the participating countries.

With regard to the expectations from the REC Workshop, Ms. Edna reminded the participants that the objective of this workshop is to develop detailed bankable projects on priority intervention areas of GCCASP to be submitted for financing the implementation phase of the GCCASP. She then highlighted that from this programming meeting NPCA expects the REC representatives to review, update and validate core areas of REC intervention and institutional arrangements proposed for GCCASP implementation as well as the monitoring and evaluation mechanisms. She finally informed that GCCASP is a five year Programme and its implementation is expected to start by January 2015.

6.5 Presentation of REC level Intervention areas and activities by Mr. Vincent Oparah

Mr. Vincent Oparah started his presentation on "REC Intervention Areas Activities and Priorities" by reflecting on key findings of desk reviews, studies & consultations of the GCCASP assessment phase. He pointed out that the study revealed the fact that the change of climate is observed by variability and change in temperature and rainfall with adverse consequences of floods, crop loss and death of livestock as well as human health problems. The study also showed, that climate change has impacted small holder women farmers through limiting their access to fuel wood, water supply and taking most of their productive time as well



Mr. Vincent Oparah

as increasing physical, economic and health burden, consequently their vulnerability.

He then outlined the underlying gaps and problems that limited the capacity of small holder women farmer to cope up with impacts of climate change including policy and institutional gaps, limited access to and control over livelihood assets, access to agricultural extension service, improved technologies, access to market and rural finance services Credit.

He went on outlining key activities identified under four sub program intervention areas, namely, Policy and Institutional Support, Capacity Building of Women Small Holder Farmers, Creation and Strengthen of Women Led Platform and Scaling up Innovative and Best Practices.

Mr. Oparah further reminded the priority intervention areas and associated activities where RECs reached consensus during the assessment phase consultation as categorized below. These are:

I. Closing institutional and policy gaps

- Capacity building and advocacy towards the revision of existing policies on agriculture and climate change with the aim of integrating gender.
- Dissemination of regional policies were highlighted as examples of regional level activities.
- Organizing and hosting information sharing and advocacy workshops
- Development of REC level tools such as monitoring and evaluation frameworks for climate change related projects, and gender and climate change mainstreaming into member states' policy and strategy documents.
- Harmonization of training material and development of manuals to be used in providing training at the national level.

II. Capacity building

- Building the capacity of RECs towards collecting and disseminating best practices across countries.
- Supporting RECs in their various initiatives such as RECs agricultural chambers,
- Arrange and facilitate experience sharing among member states' small holder women farmers and their representatives
- Establish 'regional training and center of excellence' for gender responsive, climate smart agriculture technologies and best practices
- Mobilize additional resources for the implementation, and out scaling GCCASP into other member states

III. Building synergies and avoiding duplication

- Identifying and building on existing initiatives at REC level
- Serving as platforms to show case good practices at country levels.
- Up scaling of good practices

IV. Implementation modalities

- Establishing some form of working relationship between RECs and implementing countries. e.g involvement of RECs in steering committees which oversee the implementation of the support program in the countries where the program will be implemented.
- Provide guidance on technical issues through participation in the GCCASP Advisory Board

Finally Ms. Edna together with Mr. Vincent highlighted on participating countries and continental levels GCCASP proposed budget requirements.

1.1. Plenary: Reflection on the Presentations by Participants

Following the presentations the delegates raised several pertinent issues, questions, comments and other areas for clarification such as:

- The need to include Monitoring and Evaluation in the GCCASP
- Inclusion of Civil Society Groups in partnership platforms (PPs) deemed necessary
- The need to define institutional scope of the Programme – Host institutions, partnership platforms forms in participating countries
- The need to consider credit schemes was emphasized. Village Savings and Loan schemes play crucial role to empower women economically and this is gaining positive ground as a way out of poverty and hence needs support through GCCASP.
- Need to consider in the GCCASP for the establishment and strengthening cooperatives purely for women farmers and promotion of agribusiness was highlighted.
- The need to provide grants for innovative projects depending on the priorities of implementing countries
- The need to involve the Media (e.g. community radios and print media) for advocacy, awareness raising and dissemination of lessons and best practices on GCCASP activities was highlighted;

For issues raised above, response and examples were given by Malawi delegates that the need to involve civil society to advance the issues of rights and land rights in particular is very critical for this Programme. Again, the need to include value addition projects was highlighted. In addition, providing

credit service and promoting culture of saving through Village Savings was given as one best practice that works in Malawi and should be promoted.

It is worth noting that all the concerns raised are addressed in the country specific GCCASP document in appropriate sections. For instance the need for M&E and inclusion of civil society representatives in PPs is addressed under project management and institutional arrangement. Similarly the need for organizing and strengthening women cooperatives/groups, providing credit service and promoting culture of saving were treated under the Capacity Building Sub-Programme. In addition provision of grants for innovative projects is well addressed under the sub-Programme dealing with up-scaling of innovative and best practices. Therefore, there is need to note that what the countries prioritize will be what will be taken into account

With regard to the use of media, it was pointed out that use of community radios and print media is considered as one of the communication strategy in the Country level Programme document.

A question was raised on why Niger 3N Initiative was identified as host institution in Niger while the other four GCCASP countries are based in Ministries of Gender. Regarding this question representative of 3N Initiative responded that - 3N Initiative has been leading the GCCASP design phase and continue to play lead role in the present Inception Phase. He also reminded the participants that the 3N Initiative was endorsed by the key stakeholders during the Niger GCCASP programming workshop to continue to hold the role of Host institution.

It was proposed and agreed that Focal Points should be designated at REC level to ensure effective communication and followed up on actions.

The response on the question on synergy of the work between COMESA and Member States showed that work is fed to COMESA by Member States and they have separate Secretarial (organ Foras/meetings) with the Permanent Secretaries (PS) and Ministers to review progress on the work that COMESA is mandated to work on. COMESA also works with Development Partners (both funding partners and partners implementing projects on the ground), CSOs, as well as CAADP Focal Points to create synergies and facilitate the implementation of their Programmes in member states.

It was also noted that there is need to learn from ongoing REC level projects. In this connection, it was mentioned for instance that COMESA availed funding to Farmer Based Organization to help with ICT - mobile service customized for the needs of women farmers.

It terms of impacts on the ground COMESA gave an example of a successful project they have had. This is the greenhouse project.

On Policy facilitation COMESA uses the regional guidelines and identifies where there are gaps.

7. DAY 2: RECAP OF DAY ONE AND GROUP DISCUSSION AND PRESENTATIONS

Day two covered two sessions. In the first session, two main workshop activities were covered. The first activity was a recap of the presentations and main discussion points of the question and answer sessions of day one were given as summary of plenary sessions reflection (Section 6.5).

Group Discussion and Presentations

The second activity was group formation. Accordingly, after the recap the participants were divided into two groups to hold discussions on REC level policy issues implementation modalities and coordination mechanism between REC, NPCA and implementing countries.

7.1 Presentation on Group I Discussion

Group I discussed on policy support and capacity building issues and identified the following REC level activities or tasks and concerns for considerations:

- REC should review existing policies to mainstream gender, climate change and agriculture concerns
- RECs need to support participating countries in their effort to review their policies by formulating framework policies that would serve as a model
- Develop tools for monitoring and evaluation with defined indicators for gender, climate change and agriculture
- Harmonize and adopt tools for training in the context agro ecological context of individual member . for instance concerning training manuals it was specifically proposed that it should take into account the ecological zones as the approaches may be different in the countries)
- RECs must build on good practices of implemented Programmes
- Create database and documentation centers
- Establish centers of excellence for capacity building
- Facilitate exchange of experience through field visit and information sharing among women farmers in participating countries and RECs.
- Advocate GCCASP for soliciting fund and additional resource mobilization

7.2 Presentation on Group II Discussion

Group II discussed on the Role of RECs and identified the following REC level tasks and concerns for considerations:

- The need to build on experiences of the pilot countries
- Dissemination of best practices and lessons learnt from the pilot countries to other countries
- Provision of technical assistance to the pilot countries
- Out scaling of relevant components of the GCCASP to other countries within the region
- Involvement in planned monitoring and evaluation
- Assist with resource mobilization
- Ensuring the harmonization with other country projects
- Participation in planned stakeholder reviews of the Programmes in the implementing countries

With regard to Implementation modalities and coordination mechanism between REC, NPCA and implementing countries, the group II members proposed the following;

- NEPAD should ensure that the Programme advisory board constitutes a RECs representation
- At member country level, RECs role should be limited to advisory level
- NEPAD should request RECs to identify and propose a focal person for the Programme
- NEPAD should provide the RECs with GCCASP reports and relevant documents as a source of information so that RECs will understand and play their role in the implementation of the program

There is an urgent need for NEPAD to visit all the participating RECS before implementation starts for buy-in and also to discuss more on the Programme and how the RECs will move forward with the implementation.

7.3 Experiences from country consultations on development partner round table discussion for resources

The GeoSAS consultant, Dr. Daudi from Malawi was asked to give information on how Malawi conducted its Partner Round Table Discussions for the other countries to learn from.

Dr. Daudi elaborated that they sent out invitation letters to the Development partners who availed themselves for the discussions. The Partners that were available included: - UNDP, FAO, Norway, UN

Women, OXFAM, NEPAD and Development Fund Norway. The Permanent Secretary (PS) for the Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Welfare facilitated the discussion.

The PS briefed the partners on the Programme and indicated the role of the Ministry in the GCCASP. The partners were given the floor to explain what they do in the areas of Gender, Climate Change and Agriculture and where they see complementarities. The partners were very grateful and committed to be a part of the Programme. Their request was that when the document is finalized, it should be sent to them so that they can identify areas of collaboration and support.

The other countries were also encouraged to conduct such round table discussions which could be one of the ways for resource mobilization. Cameroon indicated that they are planning to do the round table discussions with the Partners. The RECS were also encouraged to get involved in resource mobilization for the Programme.

8. CLOSING REMARKS

The workshop closing remark was delivered by Ms. Rokhaya Ndiaye of NEPAD. In her remarks, on behalf of the CEO of NEPAD Agency, Dr. Ibrahim Assane Mayaki, and Madame Estherine Fotabong, Director of Programme Implementation Coordination Directorate (PICD), she thanked the participants for their participation in the Inception Phase of the REC workshop.

Ms. Ndiaye indicated that the workshop was very fruitful and congratulated all participants for their hard work and effort towards the development of the GCCASP, as this is an important occasion towards implementation. Ms. Ndiaye also informed the participants that the outcome of this workshop is useful to feed into the final Programme document to be submitted for financing. She finally, concluded her remarks by assuring NEPAD's commitment to working together with the RECs and the Countries to realize the success of this Programme.

9. ANNEXES

ANNEX 1: Workshop schedule

Gender, Climate Change and Agriculture Support Program (GCCASP) Continental Consultation Workshop

Time	Programme Description	Responsible
Monday 06/10/2014		
08:30 – 09:00	Registration	NEPAD
09:00 – 09:20	Introduction of the Workshop and Welcome Remarks	Dr Rokhaya Ndiaye
09:20 – 09:40	Statement	NORAD
09:40 – 10:15	GCCASP Background and Update on the GCCASP	Edna Kalima
10:15 – 10:45	Coffee Break	Organizer
10:45 – 11:30	Presentations on empowering women to cope with climate change – ongoing projects and lessons learnt (COMESA)	Maria Phiri
11:30 – 12:15	Presentations on empowering women to cope with climate change – ongoing projects and lessons learnt (ECCAS)	Isabelle BOUKINDA NZAOU
12:15 – 13:00	Reflection on the Presentations	Participants
13:00 – 14:00	Lunch Break	Organizer
14:00 – 14:30	Presentation on Institutional Arrangements for REC GCCASP	Edna Kalima
14:30 – 16:00	Reflections on the Presentation and sharing of experiences	Participants
16:00 – 16:20	Coffee Break	Organizer
16:20 – 16:40	Presentation of REC level Intervention areas and activities	Vincent Oparah
16:40 – 17:50	Reflection on the Presentation	Participants
16:50 – 17:00	Closing	Edna Kalima
Tuesday 07/10/2014		
08:30–09:15	Recap of Day one	Edna Kalima
09:15–10:30	Group Formation and Guidance on the Presentations	Edna Kalima
10:00–10:30	Coffee Break	Organizer

Time	Programme Description	Responsible
10:30–12:30	Group Discussion and Group Report Preparation	Groups
12:30–13:30	Lunch Break	Organizer
13:30–14:30	Group Reporting and Discussions	
14:30–16:00	Experiences from country consultations on Development Partner Round Table Discussion for Resources	GeoSAS Country Representatives
16:00–16:30	Coffee Break	Organizer
16:30–17:15	Summary and Recommendations	GeoSAS/Rapporteurs
17:15–17:30	Closing	Dr Rokhaya Ndiaye

ANNEX 2: Introduction of the Workshop and Welcome Remarks by Dr. Rokhaya Ndiaye

- ✚ Representatives from Governments
- ✚ Representatives from the RECs
- ✚ NORAD Representative
- ✚ GeoSAS Country Representatives
- ✚ All NGOs present here
- ✚ All invited Guests of various portfolios
- ✚ Our farmers
- ✚ Media
- ✚ Ladies and Gentlemen

On behalf of the CEO of NEPAD, Dr. Ibrahim Assane Mayaki, and the Director of Programme Implementation and Coordination Directorate, Mrs. Estherine Fotabong, I would like to welcome you to the REC Programming Workshop

2014 is a very important Year for Agriculture by the African Union, International Year for Family Farming and also celebrating 10 years of CAADP

What is key is to move from the international discourse to national level and regional levels to take action particularly to addressing challenges women farmers face

In Africa there has been micro economic growth but there has also been increase in rural poverty and this trend is estimated to increase till 2025

Through the GCCASP, we are turning to urgent actions with impact on the ground. It is about empowering women not only on policy and design but supporting their full participation to cope with the effects of Climate Change.

In 2012, NEPAD Agency through GeoSAS Consulting conducted desk reviews, studies and consultations in the five participating countries of Cameroon, Ethiopia, Malawi, Niger and Rwanda. Desk reviews and consultations with the RECs were done. Consultations with the RECs took place in October 2012 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. We had representation from COMESA, IGAD, and ECCAS. Input from the first phase we had in 2012 allowed the NEPAD Agency to develop a Programme document that was submitted to NORAD and NORAD was happy with it, and gave an initial grant to support the implementation of the Programme in the five participating countries and the RECs. The Programme will be implemented in two phases (i) Inception phase (ii) Implementation Phase.

Just to remind ourselves that the issue of Climate Change is cross-cutting and needs to involve all stakeholders. In 2012, we had different stakeholders starting from the Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Welfare, Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Environment, Development partners, NGOS/Civil Society, Women farmers and associations, Academia, researchers and many more.

In this workshop, we are hoping to take stock of what the RECS are currently doing, reminding ourselves of issues that arose in the first phase and this information will enable harmonization of the detailed country and REC level bankable projects (work Programmes) on priority intervention areas and will at the same time enable validation of the REC level priority interventions areas. This work has to be submitted for financing the implementation phase of the Programme.

In the whole process, we are hoping that the RECs will bring in the coordination of all the stakeholders that have to be there. We also need to ensure that best practices from various RECs can be scaled up

There is a lot of work that need more coordination. This Programme (GCCASP) will help identify gaps and see what need to be done to fill up the gaps

In conclusion, from the NEPAD side, we would like to see the following:

1. The core elements of the Programme and implementation plan for the RECs being defined
2. Development of a work plan including a budget (4 Year generic and Year 1, which is a detailed one)
3. Develop a REC resource mobilization strategy for the Programme

In this regard, NEPAD wishes you all successful deliberations in these two days, trusting that the work that will come out in this consultation will inform the consolidated Programme document for Africa.

Your full participation and contribution are greatly appreciated.

Thank you to all.

ANNEX 3: Statement by NORAD Representative Ms. Bodil Maal

It is a pleasure for me to address this regional consultation workshop with the RECs.

Norway appreciates very much the engagement and leadership NEPAD has showed in the development of the Gender Climate Change Agriculture Support Program. The broad participation and involvement of female smallholder farmers and their leaders in the process is a prerequisite for success

The work is in line with Norway's priorities: It is Africa-led, multi-sectorial, focused on women, the interventions will be long-term and NEPAD has taken on the role of coordinating the development partners. Norway has supported NEPAD in the planning of GCCASP since COP 17 in 2011. The process has involved some 1500-2000 people in the five case-countries; Ethiopia, Malawi, Rwanda, Niger and Cameroon - one country each for five Regional Economic Communities (ECOWAS, ECCAS, IGAD, EAC and SADC).

The kick-start of GCCASP was launched during the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) 2013. From 2015 the program will be implemented.

The Challenges

Norway recognizes the complexity of challenges facing African agricultural producers, especially women smallholder farmers. In FAO's "State of Food insecurity in the World" for 2014 it is underlined that one of four people in Sub Saharan Africa remain chronically hungry. The climate change will hit hard on Africa. Some studies already indicate that per capita food production is declining in Sub Saharan Africa, and rain fed crop yields in some African countries are projected to decline by 50% by 2020 due to climate change. Many of the chronically hungry today are smallholder farmers. Reversing this trend is our greatest challenge. A hungry mind does not concentrate. If people are hungry or do not know where they are going to get their next meal, then whatever innovation you pass through to them will not work.

African agriculture is dominated by the smallholder sector, and women constitute the majority of smallholder farmers in the continent. They are responsible for up to 80 percent of food production. Several studies have documented constraints women meet in their production. Both policy and practice in African countries neglect women's needs. The intention of GCCASP is to assist women smallholder farmers.

How can women smallholder farmers be assisted?

In order to end on a more positive tone I will tell you about some women farmers I visited in Zambia who was dealing with conservation agriculture.

- Increase in the production

In a sample of 125 hand-hoe farmers using Conservation Agriculture (CA) it was found that they produced 1.5 tones more maize and 460 kg more cotton per hectare than farmers practicing conventional ox-plough tillage did. Studies of farmers using rippers and farmers using hand-hoe have shown that hand-hoe farmers perform better. Usually the hand-hoe farmers are women.

A female farmer told that her household used to harvest 50 bags of maize on four limas (1 hectare), after adopting CA they manage 120 bags from two limas.

- CA reduces and spreads women's workload over time

For adopters of CA the entire farming calendar is shifted and moved towards the dry season.

Land preparation can start soon after harvest when the land is not too hard. It is maintained that CA takes away the "panic" in the agriculture sector.

It is also maintained that that the CA method means that women use 60% less energy on the preparation of the field, since they only invert parts of the field with the "chaka hoe".

- Reduces women's burden on fetching water

Conservation agriculture saves the time women have to use for fetching water for irrigation of the field. CA entails a form of "water harvesting" the farmers explained.

- More systematic work and planning

The women farmers told that CA had taught them to be more systematic concerning how much they plant and how much you receive in yield. The systematic planting and handling of inputs make it possible to plan.

- Make women less dependent on oxen-or mechanical tillage equipment

Women are less dependent on oxen or mechanic tillage equipment, and can plant earlier.

These are some of the pros for CA. In order for women smallholder farmers to get the opportunity to learn this method of climate smart agriculture, they need training and support from government. Women small holders need to be part of the decision making structures within agriculture; they need secure access to land, to be part of cooperatives - so that they can benefit from government programs. Governance issues in agriculture need to be tackled. Poor women smallholder farmers should not be obliged to pay for extension etc.

The Malabo declaration

NORAD welcomes the Malabo declaration where African Heads of States puts the agriculture in the front and the center, and recognizes the need for a holistic approach to agriculture.

The RECs support to NEPADs GCCASP is crucial in order to reach the goals and targets in the Malabo Declaration.

ANNEX 4. Closing Remarks by NEPAD's Representative Dr. Rokhaya Ndiaye

On behalf of the CEO of NEPAD Agency, Dr. Ibrahim Assane Mayaki, and Madame Estherine Fotabong, Director of Programme Implementation Coordination Directorate (PICD), I would like to thank you very much for bracing some challenges to be here to attend the Inception Phase of the REC Workshop.

It has been a very fruitful two days and I am using this opportunity to congratulate you all for your hard work and effort towards the development of the GCCASP, as we move towards implementation. Thank you very much for your valuable contributions and ideas that you have brought on board in this meeting. The outcome of this workshop is useful to feed into the final Programme document for this Programme. This Programme document will be submitted for financing.

I assure you that NEPAD is committed to working together with the RECs and the Countries to realize the success of this Programme and values your continuous support.

I hereby encourage you to have a good rest tonight and enjoy Durban tomorrow if you can, so as to be fresher for the Conference on Women in Agriculture, coming up from the 9th to 10th of October 2014.

I wish you all the best.

Thank you!

ANNEX 5: List of Participants

No	Name	Organisation	Position	Country	Email	Number
1	Dr.NIGER T. MARGARET AGBAW	Ministry of Women's Empowerment and the Family	Inspector No 1; Focal Point for GCCASP, MINPROFF	Cameroon	nigerm@yahoo.com	+237 75245388
2	Ms NANGA M. BERTHE OWONO	Minister of Environment and Rural Development	Point Focal Adaptationaux Changements Climatique I2	Cameroon	owonob@yahoo.fr	+237 99992714
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11	Mrs. Bodil Maal	NORAD	Senior Advisor	Norway	bodil.maal@norad.no	
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17	Collen Moyo	NEPAD Agency	Finance	South Africa	collenm@nepad.org	+27 11 256 3600
18	Ms Maria D Phiri	COMESA	Gender Climate Change Expert	Zambia	mphiri@comesa.int	+260 229725/32 +260 975429295