



Best practice for inclusive, country-led programme design:

Africa's Gender–Climate Change–Agriculture Support Programme



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Foreword



Climate change is already having a significant impact on agriculture and food security as a result of increased prevalence of extreme events and increasingly unpredictable weather patterns. Smallholder women farmers and pastoralists are affected disproportionately and adversely by impacts of climate change because of their limited adaptive capacity and high levels of vulnerability.

In response to the challenges faced by women smallholder farmers due to climate change and climate variability, the NEPAD Agency developed the Gender, Climate Change and Agriculture Support Programme (GCCASP) – an effort to support women smallholder farmers to cope better with the adverse impacts of climate change and variability while enhancing their social and economic development. In support of this, the African Union Summit of July 2014 endorsed the NEPAD Programme on Climate Change with its components on gender empowerment – GCCASP.

This GCCASP best practice publication documents the innovative process that the NEPAD Agency undertook to develop the GCCASP. It captures the best practices followed throughout the process of developing the programme, and the challenges encountered for lesson learning and sharing.

It is of paramount importance to note that actioning the support of women smallholder farmers requires multi-sectoral and multi-stakeholder approaches.

Dr Ibrahim Assane Mayaki
CEO, NEPAD Agency

Preface



It is often viewed as a purely scientific and technical phenomenon, yet climate change is also a social, economic and political phenomenon with profound implications for social justice and gender equality.

Climate change is increasingly being recognised as a global crisis, but responses to it have so far been overly focused on scientific and economic solutions, rather than on the significant human and gender dimensions. This report highlights the need to put people at the centre of climate change responses, paying particular attention to the challenges and opportunities that climate change presents in the struggle for gender equality.

It advocates for an approach in which women and men have an equal voice in decision-making on climate change and broader governance processes, and are given equal access to the resources necessary to respond to the negative effects of climate change on their productive activities; where both women's and men's needs and knowledge are taken into account and climate change policymaking institutions and processes at all levels are not biased towards men or women; and where the broad social constraints that limit women's access to strategic and practical resources are reduced to a minimum, or no longer exist.

The report shows that there is much to learn from innovative, gender-aware approaches to climate change that are already happening at the local level – led by non-governmental organisations, communities and individuals – some of which are leading to transformations in gender and social inequalities. National, regional and international initiatives are also playing a key role in promoting the need to integrate gender dimensions into all rural transformation, and particularly agriculture and climate change policy and practice. Climate adaptation policies in the agriculture sector too often treat women only as vulnerable beneficiaries rather than as rights-holding citizens who need to be recognised for the agency, skills and experience they can contribute. In cases where women are already playing a crucial role in developing sustainable climate-adaptation solutions as part of local, national and international initiatives, their contributions are often not being recognised. It is the gender disparity in decision-making around agriculture and climate change that is perhaps the most significant factor in the persistent gender blindness of agriculture and climate change policies. Much can be learned from initiatives that are emerging at all levels. In addition to the vital lobbying work of national, regional and global organisations and networks at the policy level, many local organisations are already responding to women's and men's actual needs and promoting gender-aware, transformative approaches. It is now imperative to create stronger links between global policy and these local-level realities and innovations to ensure that policies, programmes and investments are informed by the voices of the women and men who deal with the consequences of climate change every day in their livelihood activities.

Key points

- There is compelling evidence that climate change is happening and is causing significant damage to societies, economies and environments. Despite the continent's low level of involvement in causing climate change, Africa is particularly affected as exposures and vulnerabilities are increasingly high, while capacities to respond are low.

- Smallholder agriculture, the mainstay of most African countries, is the sector most vulnerable to climate change. This sector is dominated by women farmers, who account for over 80% of the continent's food production.
- Climate change affects agriculture, food security, health, water, energy and population movement, with a disproportionate effect on women, whose daily routines are intimately connected to all of these areas.
- The NEPAD Agency's Gender, Climate Change and Agriculture Support Programme (GCCASP) is a five-year undertaking under the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme and the Environmental Action Plan to support regional and country-level interventions to empower women's economic participation through self-organising policy dialogue and investment.
- The GCCASP focuses on the complex relationship between gender, climate change and agriculture. It aims to improve both the visibility of gender issues within relevant policies, and women farmers' access to climate-smart agricultural technologies and finance.
- The programme design phase was carried out in line with NEPAD's principles of African ownership and leadership, inclusiveness, and evidence-based planning. A wealth of knowledge was gathered in five countries representing Africa's five regions (Cameroon, Ethiopia, Malawi, Niger and Rwanda) through desk reviews, case studies, workshops and consultations. This national-level process helped to deepen understanding of the many challenges faced by smallholder women farmers affected by climate change.
- The information generated was used to identify national priorities and specific intervention areas. Innovative and successful practices are being identified from the country studies, and will be shared regionally as well as up-scaled within countries.
- A total of 170,000 women (36,000 in Cameroon; 36,000 in Ethiopia; 36,000 in Niger; 50,000 in Malawi; 12,000 in Rwanda) will benefit from agricultural support in various interventions against the negative impacts of climate change.
- This publication details the innovative programme design process and examples of best practices and lessons learned, the key intervention areas identified, and the resource mobilisation process currently under way.

Estherine Lisinge-Fotabong
Director Programme Implementation and Coordination
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Acknowledgements

This best practice document summarises the research and consultations conducted in the initial participating countries of the Gender, Climate Change and Agriculture Support Programme (GCCASP) – Ethiopia, Cameroon, Malawi, Niger and Rwanda. The NEPAD Planning and Coordinating Agency commissioned Green Ink to produce this report.

The document was prepared under the overall Coordination of Dr Ibrahim Assane Mayaki, NEPAD CEO. The NEPAD Agency Director Mrs Estherine Fotabong, with the support of Edna Kalima (programme officer), provided overall technical support and editorial oversight for the production of this document.

Many people have supported the development of the GCCASP from its inception to the present. We would like to thank Ms Bodil Gudrun Maal of Norad for her unwavering support; Mr Odd Eirik Arnesen, Senior Advisor, Department of Climate, Energy and Environment, Norad; Professor Peter Ewang; Dr Menghestab Haile; Rudo Makunike, Senior Programme Officer NEPAD; Mr Mohamed Abdisalam, Head of Programme Management Office, NEPAD; Mr Martin Bwalya, Senior Advisor to the CEO on Program Development; and all NEPAD colleagues who have contributed in one way or another to the development of this programme.

The NEPAD Agency would also like to extend its appreciation to the consultants who helped in the development of the programme, especially in the production of country reports, the lead consultants – Geospatial Analytical Services (GeoSAS) from Ethiopia, Africa Resource Group (ARG-CAM) from Cameroon, Wathu Investments Consulting from Malawi, Réseau MARP Consulting from Niger, and Entreprise de Consultance et d'études from Rwanda.

NEPAD specifically acknowledges support given by the Honourable Ministers of the Gender Ministries and the focal point persons of the GCCASP in the five countries for their support in ensuring the programme is owned by the governments. At the same time, we acknowledge the support by key stakeholders such as the Ministries of Agriculture and Environment as well as everyone who, in one way or another, contributed directly or indirectly to the existence of this document.

Above all, special thanks go to the Government of Norway and in particular Norad for the financial support rendered towards the development of the GCCASP.

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Photo credits

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Pictured on the cover (*left to right*)

Row 1: (1) Mrs Estherine Lisinge Fotabong, Director Programme Implementation and Coordination, NEPAD Agency; (2) woman collecting fuelwood in Cameroon; (3) stakeholder discussion in Rwanda; (4) Ms Edna Kalima, Programme Officer, NEPAD Agency

Row 2: (1) Dr Mary Shawa, Principal Secretary of the Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Welfare, Republic of Malawi; (2) Dr Martha Mbatha, Chairperson, Agriculture Development Agency Board of Trustees, KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa with Mrs Estherine Fotabong; (3) a farmer from Cameroon; (4) workshop participants in Niger

Row 3: (1) collecting water in Ethiopia; (2) Ms Bodil Gudrun Maal, Senior Adviser, Department for Climate, Energy and Environment, Section for Environment and Food Security, Norad; (3) H.E. Zenebu Tadesse, Minister of Women, Children and Youth Affairs, Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia; (4) workshop participants in Cameroon

Row 4: (1) workshop participants in Rwanda; (2) Dr Ibrahim Assane Mayaki, CEO, NEPAD Agency with workshop participants in Niger; (3) conducting household surveys in Cameroon; (4) Dr Margaret Niger Thomas, Inspector No.1 Ministry of Women's Empowerment and the Family, Yaounde and Senior Lecturer, Women and Gender Studies, University of Buea, Cameroon

Glossary

adaptation	Adjustments in human and natural systems in response to actual or expected climate stimuli or their effects that moderate harm or exploit beneficial opportunities. (IPPC)
CEDAW	The Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women, an international treaty adopted in 1979 by the United Nations General Assembly.
climate-smart agriculture	An approach that helps to guide actions needed to transform and reorient agricultural systems to effectively support development and ensure food security in a changing climate. (FAO)
COP	A Conference of the Parties is the governing body of an international convention.
IPCC	Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change
mitigation	Actions that reduce our contribution to the causes of climate change. This means reducing emissions of greenhouse gases, such as carbon dioxide, through energy efficiency and using alternative forms of transport and energy.
NAPA	A National Adaptation Plan of Action identifies the urgent and immediate needs of a country to adapt to the present threats from climate change. The process is uniquely for the Least Developed Countries as they have the least capacity to deal with climate impacts.
NAMA	A Nationally Appropriate Mitigation Action refers to a set of policies and actions that countries undertake as part of a commitment to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. The term recognises that different countries may take different nationally appropriate action on the basis of equity and in accordance with common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities. It also emphasises financial assistance from developed countries to developing countries to reduce emissions.
REDD+	Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation-plus: includes conservation, sustainable management of forests and enhancement of forest carbon stocks. It is expected that support for REDD+ should achieve cost-effective emission reductions, as well as biodiversity and livelihoods benefits.
resilience	The ability of a system and its component parts to anticipate, absorb, accommodate or recover from the effects of a hazardous event in a timely and efficient manner, including through ensuring the preservation, restoration or improvement of its essential basic structures and functions. (IPPC)
smallholder	The definition differs between countries and between agroecological zones. In favourable areas with high population density, smallholders often cultivate less than 1 ha of land, whereas in semi-arid areas they may cultivate 10 ha or more, or manage up to 10 head of livestock. The term 'women smallholders' may refer to women who are self-employed in the agriculture sector, female-headed households relying on agriculture, women who operate separate plots within a marriage, and women who work on family land (Dixon et al., 2004).
subsidiarity	The principle that a central authority should have a subsidiary, supporting function, performing only those tasks that cannot be performed effectively at a more immediate or local level.
vulnerability	The ability of individuals and social groups to respond to (in the sense of cope with), recover from, and adapt to any external stress placed on their livelihood and wellbeing.

Acronyms

Agric-CC Framework	Agriculture Climate Change Adaptation-Mitigation Framework
AU	African Union
CAADP	Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme
CEDAW	Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women
COMESA	Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa
COP	Conference of the Parties
CSO	Civil society organisation
EAC	Economic Community of Central African States
ECCAS	Economic Community of Central African States
ECOWAS	Economic Community of West African States
GCCASP	Gender, Climate Change and Agriculture Support Programme
GeoSAS	Geospatial Analytical Services
IGAD	Intergovernmental Authority on Development
IPCC	Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change
NAPA	National Adaptation Plan of Action
NAMA	Nationally Appropriate Mitigation Action
NEPAD	New Partnership for Africa's Development
NGO	non-governmental organisation
Norad	Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation
REC	Regional Economic Community of the African Union
REDD+	Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation-plus
SADC	Southern Africa Development Community

Context

Smallholder farmers and pastoralists in Africa, particularly women, are being especially hard hit by the effects of climate change. Many of these small-scale producers are already coping with a degraded natural resource base. They often lack knowledge about potential options for adapting their production systems, and have limited assets and risk-taking capacity to access and use technologies and financial services.

Recognising the impact of climate change on African agriculture, and the heightened impact on women smallholder farmers and pastoralists, the NEPAD Planning and Coordinating Agency is implementing the Gender, Climate Change and Agriculture Support Programme (GCCASP) with support from the Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation.

The GCCASP supports regional and country-level interventions to empower rural women and other vulnerable sections of communities to cope with the adverse impacts of climate change while enhancing women's economic empowerment and participation in the agriculture sector. The programme operates within the context of NEPAD's Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP), Environmental Action Plans, and Rural Futures Programme, and has clear policy implications for other sectors and for the design and funding of climate programmes.

The design process for the GCCASP is driven by the African Union's principles of ownership and leadership of the continent's development process, through engaging African professionals and stakeholders at all levels from participating AU member states, in close partnerships with global stakeholders.

The programme's vision is to achieve the effective and more equitable participation of African women smallholder farmers, youth and other vulnerable groups in the economy through policy changes and access to climate-smart agricultural technologies, finance, agricultural extension services, input and output markets, and agricultural inputs.

Part 1 Shared challenges

In the olden days, we could determine when the rains were coming throughout the Malawi seasons. At home there were some birds and insects that, when you hear their music or noise, parents could confidently say the rains are near and the season will be good. These days, rains come when we do not need them, in July, August or September, and when we plant our crops, dry spells abound – and women are more affected than men. Men run away from their responsibilities and women are left in the homes looking after their families.

Dr Mary Shawa, Secretary for Gender, Children and Social Welfare, Malawi

1.1 Agriculture – the backbone of Africa

Agriculture is the mainstay of most African economies. On average, it contributes 30–40% to gross national product, accounts for as much as 60% of total export earnings, employs 70–80% of the total labour force, and provides over 50% of household food needs and an equivalent share of income in sub-Saharan Africa, where the reliance on agriculture is highest (FAO, 2012). In most African countries agriculture is mainly subsistence, with over 90% rainfed.

As a result, agricultural production and therefore access to food is projected to be severely and increasingly compromised by climate variability and change. Climate change is evidently having a significant impact on agriculture (Lobell *et al.*, 2011), with major effects, both direct and indirect, for food production. The extent of these impacts will depend not only on the intensity and timing of the changes but also on their combination, which is more uncertain. Some studies indicate that per capita food production is already declining in sub-Saharan Africa (Grainger-Jones, 2011), and rainfed crop yields in some African countries are projected to decline by 50% by 2020 due to climate change (IFAD, 2012). In contrast, food production must increase to feed the growing population.



Women's voices will be key to confronting the challenges of climate change – GCCASP in discussions with women in agriculture in Cameroon

Women's voices

We are not only looking at plants killed because of the heavy rains [...] in Lebialem insects destroy crops, and many different crops cannot grow, like beans which has always been a considerable source of income since it was exported to different regions in Cameroon, but now despite insecticides the insects still destroy the crops.

Mme Nayah Lekunze, representative of women's organisation, Cameroon 2014 stakeholder workshop

African agriculture in the twenty-first century is thus facing significant challenges. On one hand there is the need to increase production, while on the other there is the need to adapt to climate change and ensure long-term ecosystem sustainability. To meet these challenges, African agriculture will need to be transformed through innovative technical, institutional and financial approaches, and through strategic approaches to empowering the women farmers who constitute the bulk of smallholder farmers in the continent.

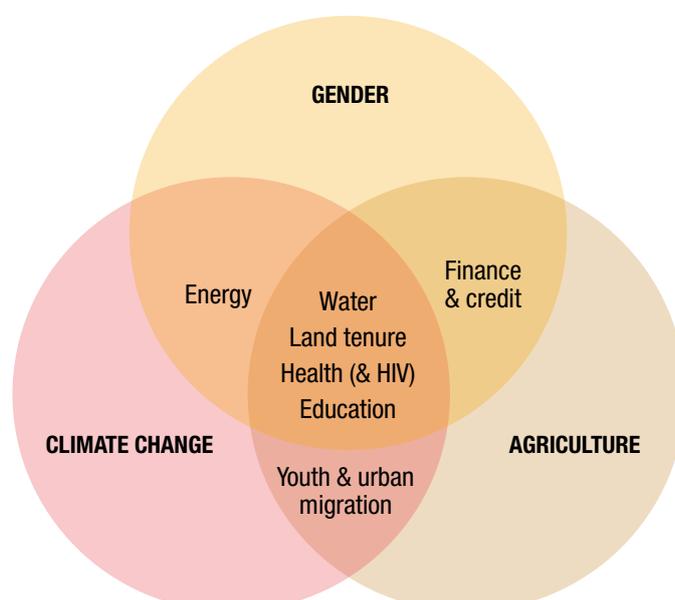
1.2 Gender – the limitations placed on women

1.2.1 A question of access

African agriculture is dominated by the smallholder sector, and women constitute the majority of smallholder farmers in the continent. In many African countries women are responsible for up to 80% of food production, 100% of the processing of basic foodstuffs, 80% of food storage and transport from fields to villages, 90% of hoeing and weeding work, and 60% of harvesting and marketing activities.

Tackling the barriers that hold back agricultural production and the productivity of women smallholder farmers and pastoralists in Africa could both enhance gender equality and lead to broader economic growth of rural communities. But any attempt to do so must take into account the gender–climate change–agriculture nexus (Figure 1).

Figure 1 The gender–climate change–agriculture nexus



The major challenges faced by women smallholder farmers and pastoralists in Africa can be summarised as a lack of access to:

- decision-making
- land ownership
- agricultural inputs, extension and appropriate technologies
- markets
- finance.

Access to decision-making

Despite the critical role women play in rural agriculture and managing family food security, their role in agricultural planning and decision-making and in national policy formulation is marginalised. Agricultural policy decisions are often planned and implemented without the participation of women, and as a result most policies fail to target the priority areas of intervention that would optimise return of investment.

Despite African countries' increasing awareness of gender issues, establishment of gender ministries and agencies, and clear intention to mainstream gender issues, a number of institutional barriers remain to making a real difference to this situation:

- gender-responsive and long-term adaptive strategies to address women's vulnerabilities are not clearly articulated in many policy documents
- women are under-represented in policy-making forums
- sex-disaggregated data are lacking in all sectors (livelihoods, disaster preparedness, environmental protection, health and wellbeing), leading to underestimation of women's roles and contributions.

This situation tends to result in gender-blind agriculture and climate change policies and programmes that do not take into account the gender-differentiated roles of women and men and their distinct needs, constraints and priorities.

Access to land ownership

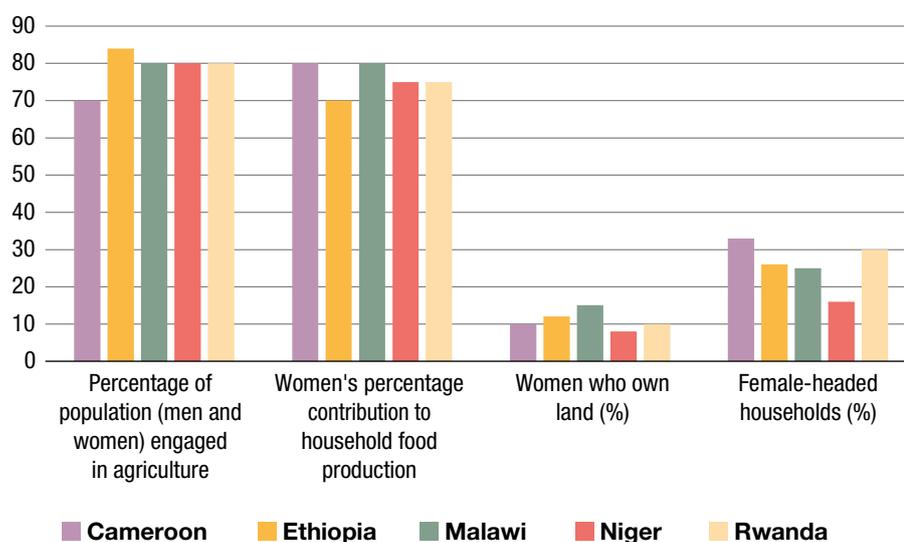
In sub-Saharan Africa, women produce as much as 80% of food crops but possess only about 15% of agricultural land. They rarely have security of tenure, and they have less fertile and smaller plots than men. If women farmers in developing countries had the same access to productive resources as men, they could increase yields on their farms by 20–30%. This could raise total agricultural output in the developing countries by 2.5–4%, which could in turn reduce the number of hungry people in the world by 12–17% (FAO, 2011).

In all five participating countries, and generally throughout Africa, land tenure is a major issue that affects women's ability to practise agriculture and to take adaptive conservation actions in response to climate change. Without land holdings, women are unable to invest in long-term agricultural inputs and land conservation. They also lack the collateral needed to obtain credit. As Figure 2 shows, African women's ownership of land is severely restricted.

The national desk reviews conducted by the five participating countries (section 2.3) all describe relatively recent legal changes to improve women's landholding status – but local customs and long-held traditions in some areas mean these changes are generally slow to come into practice.

In Malawi, land ownership varies depending on the family system of inheritance and succession (matrilineal or patrilineal) (Esser et al., 2005). However, in both systems male family members retain the role of main decision-makers. With the high number of deaths due to the HIV/AIDS pandemic, it is increasingly difficult for land to devolve to a surviving spouse and children, whether male or female. And grabbing of agricultural property (land, oxen, ploughs, inputs, maize fields) by relatives of the bereaved after the death of a male spouse is another gender issue that contributes to poverty.

Figure 2 The contrast between women's contribution to national and household security, and their decision-making power



Source: data from GCCASP 2012 country desk reviews (see section 2.3),¹ noting that women's percentage contribution to food production is probably underestimated because of the overlap between so-called productive activities and household activities.

In Cameroon, the law on land tenure is gender-neutral, but does not legally enforce equal land ownership rights between men and women. And customary law in Cameroon generally favours men and male children by giving them the absolute right to land ownership, while limiting women's rights just to access rights (Fon, 2011). In Niger, succession to agricultural land is subject to three categories of rights: Islamic law, modern law and customary law. Islamic law recognises the possibility for women to inherit, but gives one share to female heirs against two to male heirs. However, especially in rural areas, in practice the inheritance of land is considered to be exclusive to male heirs. Modern law recognises that men and women should receive the same share of inheritance, whether for land or other property. But the pure customary law places great emphasis on the patriarchal system in which girls do not inherit from their father and women do not inherit from their husband.

In Ethiopia, the land registration and certification process has improved the status of women and their bargaining power in relation to their husbands and the community at large (Deininger et al., 2009). The second phase of land certification will involve mapping of land holdings using GPS technology, intended to provide clearer conditions for land redistribution to prevent abuse and reduce tenure insecurity. In Rwanda, a number of laws to remedy the inheritance situation have been adopted since the late 1990s. Upon entering marriage, spouses have now the option to choose one of several matrimonial regimes: community of property; limited community of assets; or separation of property. However, as the constitution recognises only civil marriages, women in polygamous unions are not protected by this law. The National Land Policy 2004 and Land Law 2005 stipulate that all Rwandans should enjoy equal rights of access to land without discrimination, enabling widows and female orphans of the 1994 genocide to secure land (GMO, 2010). However, the actual process of securing land tenure in Rwanda is through land registration and titling, and participation in this process is limited by women's generally low level of literacy.

¹ Current and regularly updated country statistics can be obtained at <http://faostat3.fao.org> (agricultural production and emissions); www.fao.org/gender-landrights-database/data-map/statistics/en (agriculture and landholding by gender); <http://genderstats.un.org> (gender); and <http://data.worldbank.org/topic/climate-change> (climate change).

Access to agricultural inputs, extension and appropriate technologies

Agricultural inputs tend to be consistently less accessible for women smallholders. For example, in Niger the women surveyed had less than half the men's level of access to improved seeds, fertilisers and pesticides. In Cameroon some women reported working on the same piece of land for 30 years, resulting in poor yields that are now compounded by extreme weather conditions. Their need for farm inputs has been growing over the years, but ineffective and corrupt input subsidy schemes often leave inputs in the hands of speculators, making them particularly difficult for women to obtain.

Both the content and delivery of extension services determine their accessibility. Although a service may be nominally available, the manner of delivery may result in excluding women. According to studies, only 5–10% of women farmers in Africa access extension services in the areas of agriculture, agribusiness and health (Anon., 1997; Worldwatch Institute, 2011). This picture is mirrored at country level, for instance in Malawi only 14% of women report having access to extension services. The reasons include the tendency among (male) extension workers to approach male farmers rather than females; to target those (usually male) farmers with sufficient resources; and to focus on cash crops which are mainly produced by men. Women's general lower level of education and their heavy burden of household labour also limit their active participation in training.

The gender gap also exists for a wide range of agricultural technologies, including machines and tools, improved plant varieties and animal breeds, and management techniques (IFAD, 1998). Women farmers primarily use simple tools such as hand hoes, ox-drawn implements and human labour. Most improved technologies include ploughs, cultivators, planters, harvesters and irrigation equipment. Women farmers lack the know-how and confidence to use them, and find most new technologies too expensive or too difficult to handle.

Access to markets

In general, the lack of adequate infrastructure makes market access difficult in many areas. In Ethiopia, for example, some farming communities and pastoralists in the areas surveyed did not have access to roads that were passable even in the dry season. In some of the communities, most farming and herding households live 3–5 hours from a market centre.

Women's access to markets is even more limited, as they tend to be confined to local markets where prices are generally lower than in urban markets (FANRPAN, 2010). And a lack of market research and information limits women's knowledge regarding pricing, business skills, managing risks, etc. The structural division of labour in agriculture whereby lucrative cash crops are reserved for men while crops for home consumption are produced by women restricts women's access to remunerative markets.

Access to finance

Women often cannot access credit as the banks consider them to be high-risk borrowers. Without cooperatives, they are unable to access other sources of credit. Women's lack of property to offer as collateral means it is much more difficult to obtain loans, and interest rates tend to be higher. Also, married women often cannot get credit without their husband's approval. Most credit is offered to facilitate the production of cash crops, which are typically the domain of men.

Women's voices

It isn't easy to start repayment of an agricultural loan one month after you have received it.

Participant in 2014 stakeholder workshop, Rwanda

In the informal microfinance sector, which is largely dominated by women, interest rates are often high, varying between 1% and 7.5% monthly (12% and 90% per annum), exacerbated by the liberalisation of interest rates. There is also increasing demand for tangible guarantees where the required loan is considered high or too risky. Binding repayment terms and the lack of a grace period, along with high interest rates, can lead to debt and increase poverty.

The same difficulty applies to women's inability to take out insurance. If, for example, a crop is destroyed after a farmer has acquired a loan to cultivate it, without insurance they will be unable to pay back the loan. If women farmers and vulnerable groups can be assisted to obtain insurance, this will reduce the risk of taking out loans to invest in farming.

1.2.2 Women's double burden of work

In addition to their major contribution to food production, rural women in Africa are generally responsible for the life of the household and its members, particularly children and the sick. Adverse effects of climate change can impact all the vital areas of life:

- water
- energy
- health
- education
- urban migration.

Water

All of the country reviews described the increasing amount of time women in some areas have to spend collecting water for the household and farm due to changes in rainfall patterns. In addition to taking up women's valuable time that is needed for other farming and household tasks, the lack of access to a clean water supply in rural areas also reduces hygiene standards and exacerbates dysentery and bronchial diseases, especially among children, and other major health problems (see below).

Energy

Most rural populations rely entirely on firewood for their fuel requirements. In Rwanda, for example, collecting fuelwood is becoming increasingly difficult and expensive due to severe deforestation. This

Women's voices

At times of drought or little rains, we have to venture far and long in the rocky mountainous area to fetch water. We usually have to wait three or four hours waiting in the queue to fill one or two water containers.

Household survey respondent, Chiro, Ethiopia



situation further compounds women's and children's burdens as collecting firewood is primarily their role. They usually walk long distances daily to find firewood. The next alternative to firewood is charcoal, but its high cost is often beyond the means of rural dwellers. As a coping measure, some families are skipping meals every now and then in order to save on scarce firewood.

Health

Existing health challenges, including malaria, HIV/AIDS and malnutrition, are all affected by climate change, and have a disproportionate effect on women and girls. Rising temperatures are causing diseases such as malaria to spread to new areas as heavy rainfall and droughts alter the landscape and create good breeding grounds for the mosquitoes. In Rwanda, for example, studies project a potential increase in the rural population at risk of malaria by 150% by the 2050s and anticipate that this will burden the government with economic costs of over \$50 million a year (REMA, 2009).



Women's work – collecting firewood in Cameroon

HIV/AIDS is a gendered issue: in Malawi, for example, HIV prevalence among women was 13% compared with 8% among men (MoH, 2014). The impact of the disease reduces available labour for agricultural activities, and also increases women's domestic workload in caring for the sick and taking more responsibility for the household. As HIV-positive people need more water and better nutrition due to their weak health condition, they will be disproportionately affected by impacts of climate change on the food and water supply (Fernando et al., 2010; Zhou, 2015). And their fragile immune system means that they are more susceptible to waterborne diseases, which are becoming more prevalent due to climate change (see above). Here the cross-cutting issues of gender, climate change, agriculture, food security, water supply and health all interact.

Animal health is also affected by climate change. Warm weather increases transmission of livestock diseases, and certain existing parasitic diseases may also become more prevalent if rainfall increases. When the wells dry up and the grass dries, feeding livestock becomes a problem. Along with the impact on crop production noted above, this contributes to reduced food security, malnutrition and all its attendant diseases.

Education

Education, more important than ever in light of the changing situation and the need for new skills to adapt to climate change, is one of the first casualties of reduced household security. This particularly affects girls' education, as they are more likely to be pulled out first from school to assist their mothers with household chores such as water and fuel collection.

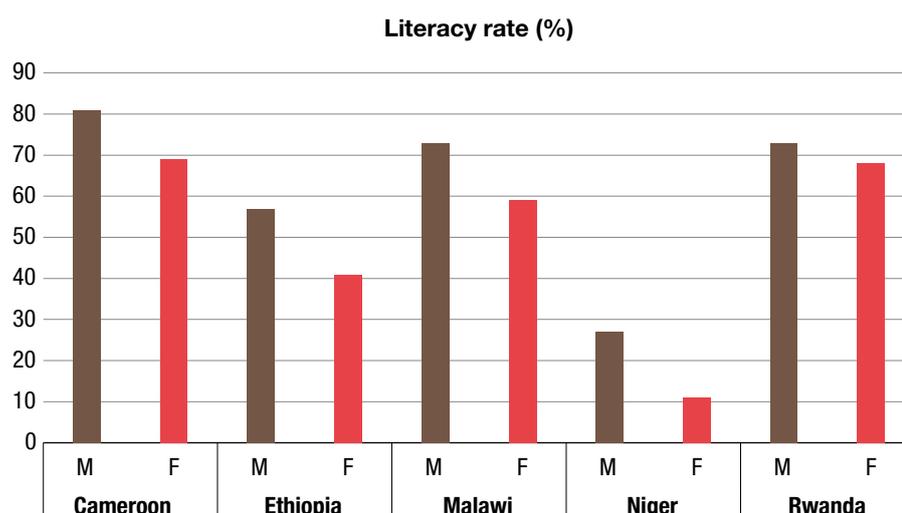
Figure 3 shows the consistent disparity between male and female literacy rates in the participating countries. Literacy affects many areas of life for women smallholders, including the ability to secure land holdings through land registration and titling, and to access credit (see below). Lacking education means that women remain in subsistence agriculture, receive low prices for their products due to lack of market intelligence, lack the capacity to participate in agribusiness, and are employed in low-paid positions in secondary agriculture. All these result in a vicious cycle of poverty that transcends generations.

Women's voices

Now the rain does not come when we expect it, and when the rain comes it's so heavy that it destroys the crops, and at the end of the day we cannot pay school fees for our children.

Mrs Taku Maria, representative of women's organisation, Cameroon 2014 stakeholder workshop

Figure 3 Female literacy rates lag behind those of males in all the participating countries (UNESCO Institute for Statistics, www.uis.unesco.org)



On a national and regional scale, there is a pressing need for more women to receive sufficient education to feel empowered to participate in local, regional and national institutions for improved policy-making and practice.

Youth and urban migration

Where resources such as pasture are limited, or crops are failing due to excessive or insufficient rainfall, men have the option to seek work elsewhere, whereas women are tied to the household and agricultural land, with an increased workload. Increased rural–urban migration poses a real risk for the food supply, with a growing number of young men migrating to urban areas to seek work and opportunities, posing a particular threat for the future of rural areas.

Several respondents to the household surveys (section 2.3) raised the issue of ‘de facto household heads’ – women whose husbands have temporarily migrated and may or may not send some remittances for the use of the household. In these cases, statistically a household may be perceived as being male-headed, but all the roles are performed by the woman, including coping with vulnerabilities brought about by climate change.

1.3 Climate change – localised and complex

Climate change is already having, and will continue to have, multiple and interactive effects that vary between and within African countries, and that are difficult to predict (Thornton et al., 2014). Increases and variability in mean temperature, changes in rainfall patterns and water availability, the frequency and intensity of extreme events, sea-level rise and salinisation, and perturbations in ecosystems will all have profound impacts on agriculture, forestry and fisheries.

The effects of climate change are extremely localised and vary not only between African countries, but between regions and areas. The example of one country, Cameroon, is presented in Box 1.

Detailed statistics on the observed effects of climate change in each of the five GCCASP participating countries can be found in each country's Submitted National Communications to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change.²

Box 1 Africa in miniature – the climate experience of Cameroon

Cameroon is often described as 'Africa in miniature' as the country exhibits all major climates of the continent. The south-west littoral contains coastal, rainforest and mountain ecosystems characterised by hot and humid conditions; the mountains in the north have a mild climate; and the northern desert regions are hot and dry.

Thus the country has experienced a variety of climate irregularities and physical phenomena that have been attributed to global warming:

- in the coastal region, rising sea levels, erosion, **flooding** and landslides
- in the forested areas, **deforestation** and a shift in the distribution of tree species
- in the savannah region, erosion, **droughts** and desertification.

The coastal cities of Douala and Limbe in Cameroon are susceptible to losing significant infrastructure as climate change events intensify. In 1995, the Bessengué Bridge collapsed as a result of river flooding. Deido, Bonamoussadi, Youpwé, the Bonaberi industrial area and Douala International Airport are vulnerable areas that may be hit by significant floods and storms as a result of climate change (MINEF, 2001). And studies on the coastal zone of Cameroon suggest that farming and fishing activities will be affected by retreating mangroves resulting from erosion and rising sea levels (Ellison, 1992).

The southern part of Cameroon is located partly in the Congo Basin forest area, which is one of the Earth's major carbon sinks after the Amazon Basin forest and the Borneo Mekong forest basin. Between 1990 and 2010 Cameroon lost 18.1% of its forest cover, equivalent to 4,400,000 ha (FAO, 2010).

Low rainfall in 1997 in northern Cameroon directly affected crop yields and caused livestock deaths, leading to hunger and triggering the need for food aid from the World Food Programme. In March 2005 northern Cameroon was again hit by food shortages, requiring external intervention from international aid agencies. In addition to directly affecting crop yields, drought has triggered increased migration of pastoralists and nomads from the northern part of the country to the south. The observed decline in rainfall in the region is thought to contribute to the increasing desertification in northern Cameroon (Molua and Lambi, 2006). Cameroon is a country of extreme contrasts, and climate change is expected to make these differences more pronounced.

Source: data from 2012 desk research (see section 2.3).

² Submitted National Communications to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change: http://unfccc.int/national_reports/non-annex_i_natcom/submitted_natcom/items/653.php

Part 2 Designing the GCCASP – a participatory process

The principles and values of NEPAD are owned by every citizen of Africa (including the diaspora) across various groupings and levels – the private sector, governments, regional economic communities and non-state actors. The relevance and success of NEPAD depends on the extent to which the African people and particularly civil society are involved in the process of implementing NEPAD.

Dr Ibrahim Assane Mayaki, Chief Executive Officer, NEPAD Agency

2.1 African, regional and national ownership

For the initial programme planning exercise, five countries were selected to ensure representation of the different African regions, with a view to scaling up and scaling out successful practices and lessons through the enrolment of new countries in the future. In the long term, the GCCASP will be implemented in most African countries engaged in the CAADP.

Where possible, the relevant African Union (AU) Regional Economic Communities (RECs) were involved in various stages and events in the planning process, with contributions and participation by representatives of the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA), Economic Community of Central African States (EAC), Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS), Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), and the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD).

The participating countries are Cameroon, Ethiopia, Malawi, Niger and Rwanda (Figure 4). Each of the five countries has a CAADP country programme and is a signatory to the Maputo Declaration on Agriculture and Food Security in Africa.

In line with NEPAD's principles of African and national ownership, the process was facilitated by an African consultancy firm, GeoSAS, which selected and worked alongside national consultants in each of the five participating countries.

BEST PRACTICE:

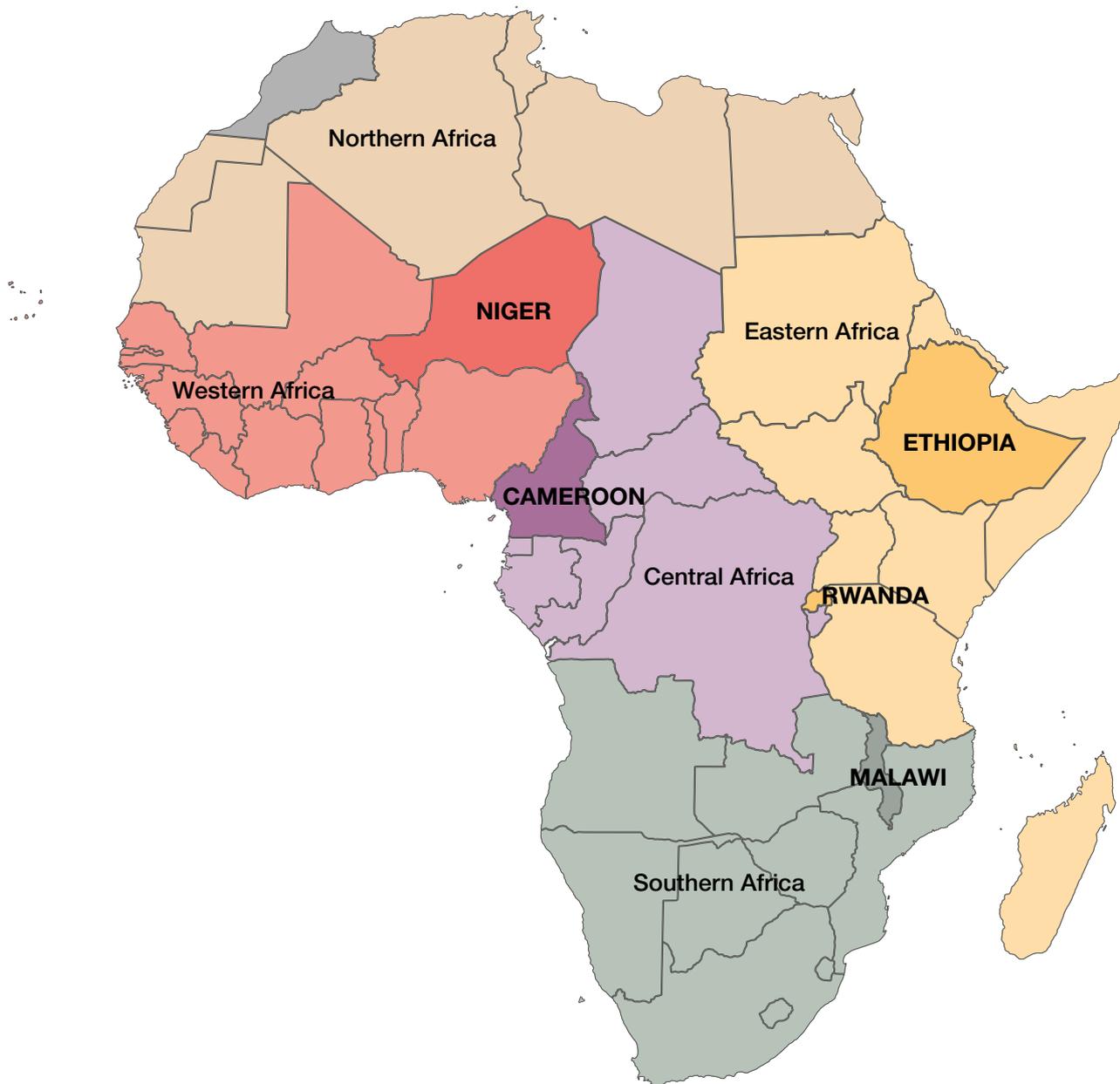
- **African ownership and leadership**
- **inclusiveness**
- **subsidiarity**

Applying a shared methodology, each country therefore determined its own approach and focus depending on the context. The wider remit was to include:

- desk reviews of relevant national policies and programmes
- field-based empirical studies
- national consultation workshops.

The final output from each country is a national GCCASP supported by results-based management.

Figure 4 The five participating countries representing different African regions



2.1.1 NEPAD principles

As a blueprint for the continent's development in the twenty-first century, the NEPAD programme is about transforming Africa. Its agenda, adopted in 2001 at the highest political level of the AU, calls for reforms in the priority areas of agriculture and food and nutrition security; regional integration and infrastructure; climate change and environment; and human development, as well as good governance, gender/youth and capacity development.

The design process for the GCCASP has been closely aligned with the stated principles and values of the AU, NEPAD and the CAADP (see Box 2).

The vision of the AU is that of 'An integrated, prosperous and peaceful Africa, driven by its own citizens and representing a dynamic force in the global arena.'

Box 2 NEPAD and the CAADP

The **New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD)**, an African Union strategic framework for pan-African socioeconomic development, is both a vision and a policy framework for Africa in the twenty-first century. NEPAD is a radically new intervention, spearheaded by African leaders, to address critical challenges facing the continent.

NEPAD's operational pillars are:

- Agriculture and food security
- Climate change and national resource management
- Regional integration and infrastructure
- Human development
- Economic and corporate governance
- Cross-cutting issues including gender, capacity development and ICT.

Within the area of natural resources and food security, NEPAD's **Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP)** has been described as the most ambitious and comprehensive agricultural reform effort ever undertaken in Africa.³ It represents a fundamental shift toward development that is fully owned and led by African governments, and reflects African governments' recognition of agriculture as central for the alleviation of poverty and hunger.

CAADP highlights the following principles and values:

- African ownership and leadership
- accountability and transparency
- inclusiveness
- evidence-based planning and decision making
- harnessing regional complementarities

to be achieved through the promotion of people-centredness; private sector-driven development; systemic capacity building; subsidiarity; peer learning; and multi-sectoralism.

Sources: www.nepad.org; www.nepad-caadp.net/about-us

2.2 GCCASP methodology

The GCCASP planning process has aimed to exemplify the best practices summarised in Figure 5.

BEST PRACTICE:

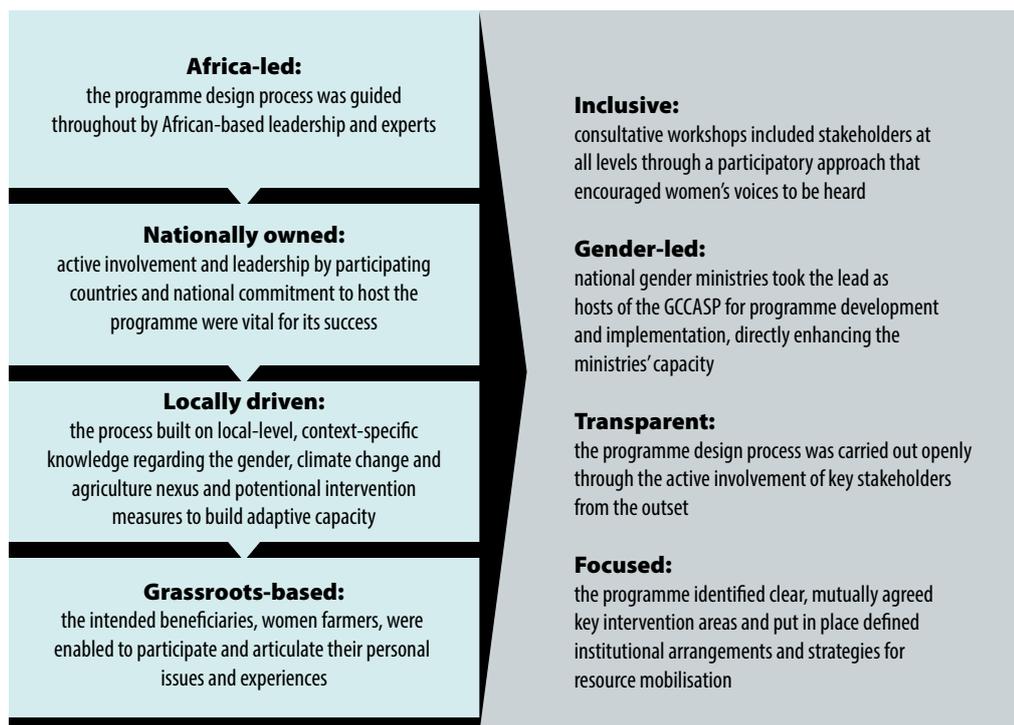
- **inclusiveness**
- **people-centredness**
- **evidence-based planning and decision making**

For each of the five participating countries, the programme planning exercise had three main components:

- **desk review:** existing studies, research and knowledge about smallholder women farmers and climate change
- **situational analysis:** in-country surveys and interviews on local experiences and women's own accounts of their lives and livelihoods
- **consultations:** two stakeholder meetings in each country, in 2012 and 2014.

3 'What is CAADP?': www.future-agricultures.org/policy-engagement/caadp/547-what-is-caadp

Figure 5 Best practices in programme design followed by the GCCASP



As a final output, each participating country produced its own national programme. Finally, these national programmes were consolidated into a single overarching GCCASP.

2.2.1 Desk reviews

During 2012 each participating country, with the assistance of GeoSAS, conducted a desk review that examined its policies, plans, strategies and programmes around gender, environment and climate change in terms of their soundness in addressing gender issues individually, as well as the gender–agriculture–climate change nexus. Evidence was collected and reviewed on national policy responses to agricultural and environmental issues, climate change, growth and transformation planning, and food security programmes, with a particular emphasis on women's empowerment and equality, the situation of women farmers, knowledge gaps, and the extent to which the needs of women farmers are incorporated in policy. The institutional context, and legal and traditional practices, were also investigated in each country.

The main national policies addressed are listed in Table 1. The reviews offered a critical consideration of existing policies, including their practical effectiveness and gaps in implementation. In particular they noted the gender blindness of many policies on agriculture, environment and climate change, and a general lack of gender-disaggregated data. As Ethiopia's desk review points out, a major problem for many efforts to deal with the gender dimension of agricultural production and climate change adaptation is the tendency to focus just on the particular vulnerability of rural women and girls, and to treat women as merely victims of environmental change. If women farmers are provided with adequate information, agricultural resources and services, and their unique capabilities and experiential knowledge are taken seriously, they can be powerful agents and catalysts for climate change adaptation and rural transformation.

The national reviews of the background economic situation of each country, and the situation of smallholder women farmers, revealed many parallels and shared problems, summarised above in

Part 1. Each country's detailed desk review also highlighted aspects of the specific local context, including a profile of access to and control of resources and the influencing factors, and existing climate change adaptation strategies.

2.2.2 Situational analyses

In line with NEPAD's principles of inclusiveness, people-centredness, and evidence-based planning and decision making, detailed analyses of smallholder women farmers' situation were carried out in each country. Although the methodologies differed depending on the local context, the following key data collection approaches were adopted.

Key informant interviews

Key informant interviews and consultations were held with resource persons at the relevant ministries (Agriculture, Gender, Children, Youth and Environment), women's development groups, and representatives of CSOs and NGOs. Similar interviews were conducted with staff members of relevant subnational administrative structures, including gender focal persons and food security experts from agricultural offices, leaders of women's development groups, smallholder farmers' cooperatives, and representatives of CSOs/NGOs. A common interview format was available for use in each of the five countries, although the focus differed depending on the context.

Household mini-surveys

Structured household surveys were conducted among selected women and pastoralists. Although the survey content was common to the five countries (see Box 3), the process for selecting sites and respondents differed depending on the agroecological context of each country.

Focus group discussions

Focus group discussions were conducted with selected women farmers, pastoralists and leaders of women's associations. The information obtained from participants in the groups was then cross-checked and further debated with the focus group members. This system helped to eliminate the possibility of exaggerated responses.

The combination of different methodologies gave depth and veracity to the situational analyses. Researchers within each country were aware of the complexity and difficulties in attempting to gather information representative of that country's situation in an inclusive and participatory manner. Examples of issues encountered included:

- coverage and scope – it was not possible to reach all parts of the country, although there are major specificities related to agroclimatic characteristics for each region
- accessing women participants – in some locations, due to sociocultural considerations that do not facilitate contact with women, strict adherence to 50/50 men's and women's participation was not always possible
- perception – in some contexts, profound inequalities are part of day-to-day life and appear normal, even to those who suffer from them, thus in some cases inequalities against women can be underestimated
- illiteracy – in many cases, rather than handing questionnaires to respondents, interviewers had to interpret their responses and fill in survey forms on their behalf.

Cameroon

Household surveys were conducted in two subdivisions of the two major agroecological zones – Ndu in the North West Region (high plateau savannah), and Muyuka in the South West Region (humid forest). Respondents were randomly chosen within the selected subdivisions. A total of 200 questionnaires

Box 3 The household mini-survey

In addition to detailed questions on the age and gender of household members, the division of labour, and the services accessed, representatives of selected households were asked a range of questions about ownership and equity, including the following (for reasons of space this is a brief selection from the longer list of questions).



- Access to and control of resources:
 - ^a Who owns the land?
 - ^a Who owns the big cattle?
 - ^a Who owns the small cattle?
 - ^a Who controls the household's means of survival?
- Power of decision – can you decide by yourself about:
 - ^a household expenses (food, education, health, etc.)?
 - ^a the sale of livestock?
 - ^a to take out credit?
 - ^a how to use the harvest?
 - ^a whether to sell dairy products (milk, cheese, etc.)?
 - ^a whether to sell agricultural products?
 - ^a the number of children in your household?
- Do you debate household questions (use of agricultural income, inputs, etc.) with your spouse?
- Do the women have the same inheritance rights as the men?
- Should the women have the same power of decision as the men on household resources?
- Do you believe that the men and women should have the right to hold the same positions in society?

The survey then moved on to questions about farmers' perceptions of climate change and its various effects, protective actions that could be taken to preserve the environment, and potential adaptation strategies.

(100 in each subdivision) were completed. The questionnaires contained both structured questions with multiple choice answers, and open-ended questions requiring short answers.

Focus group discussions were held both at the level of data collection and for validation of findings. At the data collection level, discussions were held with a group of individuals experienced in issues of gender, agriculture and climate change drawn from the ministries of Agriculture and Rural Development,

Research, Environment and Nature Protection, etc. In addition, focus group discussions were held during other events in the extreme north for the Sahel Savannah.

Ethiopia

Field research was conducted in selected sites in Afar Region (Awash Fentale woreda),⁴ Oromia Region (Gemeches and Gojola woreda of Chiro Zone) and in Tigray Region (Enderta and Mekelle). The sites selected are all climate hotspots where climate change has already brought about obvious adverse impacts on livelihoods of smallholder women farmers and pastoralists.

Household mini-surveys were carried out with 30 representatives each from Chiro Zone and Awash Fentale woreda, and 10 members of women's development groups in Enderta in Tigray. To support the data from these sites, household survey results from previous studies conducted in Borena (Oromia Region), South Omo (Southern Nations, Nationalities and People's Region, SNNPR), Raya Azebo (South Tigray) and Meket (Amhara Region) were included.

In each of the sample kebele, between five and eight women farmers and pastoralists participated in focus group discussions. A total of four focus groups were conducted with selected women farmers, pastoralists and leaders of women's associations.

Selected case stories of individual women farmers and pastoralists from the study sites were documented for a further longitudinal examination of the lived experiences of women farmers and pastoralists. This method assisted informants to look back in detail across their entire life course with respect to their experiences, vulnerabilities and capabilities in adapting to and coping with climate variability and change. The cases were selected from different target and age groups of women in the study sites.

Malawi

The situational analysis covered three sites, one in each of the three administrative regions of the country: South, Centre and North. Due to time constraints, the study was limited to selected stakeholders involved in climate-smart agriculture and women farmers from three districts and villages served by public extension workers. However, the findings from these selected participants were validated and enriched through the national consultative workshop (see next section), and were representative of a cross-section of women farmers and service provider stakeholders in Malawi.

The household mini-survey targeted selected villages in Mzimba (Lusangazi), Lilongwe (Ndevu and Chikwawa), and Machinga (Mliwo) districts. The study was designed to cover 12 purposely selected households in each of the sites. The household survey was complemented by the key informant interviews and focus group discussions in order to validate some of the collected data.

Niger

Survey sites were chosen to cover the main agricultural production areas of the west, south and centre of the country, in which a large part of the country's agriculture is concentrated.

A household mini-survey was conducted among 600 small-scale rural producers:

- Tillabery Region: 45 people from five villages
- Niamey Region: 240 people from three peri-urban villages
- Dosso Region: 90 people in five villages
- Tahoua Region: 45 people
- Maradi Region: 240 people from six villages.

⁴ Districts or *woreda* are the third-level administrative divisions of Ethiopia. They are composed of a number of wards (*kebele*) or neighbourhood associations, which are the smallest unit of local government in Ethiopia.

Rwanda

The study sites selected cut across rural areas of the four provinces, and included the districts of Nyamagabe (Southern Province), Kayonza (Eastern Province), Karongi (Western Province) and Musanze (Northern Province). Interviews were conducted with eight farmer cooperatives. The farmers interviewed represent the vast majority of Rwanda's population, whose livelihood depends on agricultural and rural activity. The methods used included focus group discussions with women and men smallholder farmers, and open-ended interviews with key stakeholders. The agendas for the focus group discussions and interviews were prepared in English and then translated into Kinyarwanda. The Kinyarwanda versions were then translated back into English for final checking. Each focus group was made up of six to nine participants and included both men and women, with women making up 73% of respondents. The discussions typically lasted 2–3 hours.

Detailed results of the surveys are available in the respective countries' GCCASP consultation reports.

2.2.3 Stakeholder consultations

National consultation workshops were organised and held jointly by NEPAD and country GCCASP host institutions in the five selected countries in 2012 and 2014. Care was taken to ensure a high number of those attending the workshops were women, to provide an environment within which women felt able to speak and discuss the issues freely. Particular emphasis was placed on including representatives of women's farmer groups and other cooperatives, to hear their first-hand views and experience.

The series of five national consultations held in 2012 aimed to obtain views and feedback from stakeholders on the situational analysis (desk reviews and field studies) and to identify gaps in addressing the concerns of women smallholder farmers in the context of climate change impacts at policy, institutional and service delivery levels. Through plenary sessions and breakout groups, discussions were also held on identifying national investment programme needs. Through a participatory process, priority projects for intervention were identified with a view to drawing up a joint action plan with major development stakeholders including representatives of women farmers' platforms, government ministries, civil society, grassroots organisations and NEPAD.

A regional level consultation was held in October 2012 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia to consolidate the outcome of the country-level assessments and case studies into a programme document designed to build capacity and share knowledge and best practices at national and regional levels. The inclusiveness of the consultation was demonstrated by the presence of regional bodies and national stakeholders including from the RECs IGAD, COMESA and ECCAS, representatives of women farmers' and farmers' groups, civil society, and the Gender and Agriculture ministries of the five participating countries. Partners including UN agencies, Norad, the Norwegian and Spanish Embassies and others also participated. This consultation workshop validated the findings from the five country reports and produced one harmonised programme document. It also facilitated the collection of inputs from the regional bodies on regional activities and the potential role of the RECs in implementing the GCCASP.

A second series of stakeholder workshops was held in 2014 – an important year for the AU because of the celebration of the tenth anniversary of the CAADP and the Year of African Food Security. The objectives were to:

- obtain views and feedback from stakeholders on the intervention areas identified during the assessment phase that should be considered during the detailed work programme development
- discuss and agree on the institutional arrangements, including the establishment of national Partnership Platforms, and identification of key stakeholders and their defined responsibilities during project development and implementation

- create common understanding on the GCCASP work programme for the eventual delivery of a joint programme document.

Participants in these meetings were drawn from representatives of national Ministries of Agriculture, Gender and Environment; institutions relevant to climate change and gender, development partners, research institutions, women's groups, women farmers' groups and NGOs. Each workshop also included a round table discussion with prospective development partners.



Rwanda stakeholder consultation 2012: working group

Among numerous other topics, the 2014 workshops considered specific coping strategies that women were currently using, or could deploy, in response to the effects of climate change (Box 4).

The workshops were followed by a pre-implementation or bridging stage to mobilise resources to support implementation of the GCCASP (see section 2.4).

2.2.4 National programmes

The outputs of the 2014 workshops were programme documents, written by participating countries that included detailed priority intervention areas with defined budgetary requirements. The national priorities were then consolidated into four key intervention areas or service lines, described in detail in Part 3.

2.3 Approach

2.3.1 Multisectoral and multidisciplinary approach

The GCCASP is designed in an innovative manner with gender at the centre, and the nexus with agriculture and climate change established in a three-way, interdependent and complementary relationship (see Figure 2). Institutions responsible for gender equality and empowerment act as coordinating agencies of the programme, in contrast to the conventional sector-based approach where control lies elsewhere and gender is treated as a cross-cutting issue.

BEST PRACTICE:

- **harnessing regional complementarities**
- **multi-sectoralism**
- **peer learning**

2.3.2 Inter-ministerial coordination structures

While the lead ministry or agency for each national GCCASP is gender-based, there will be strong links with other relevant ministries and institutions in the fields of agriculture, environment, climate change, energy, transport, education, health and other relevant sectors (see Table 1).

Box 4 Current and potential coping strategies

CROP PRODUCTION

- kitchen gardens and irrigation systems
- using greenhouses with drip irrigation so that crops can be harvested throughout all seasons
- opportunistic farming
- growing crops in wetlands during the dry season
- adopting hay production and storage techniques

LIVESTOCK

- herd diversification and splitting
- reduction of herd size through sale
- sending animals to areas where water and pasture is available
- rearing cattle in sheds as opposed to open-land grazing
- improving breeds to enable zero grazing

ENVIRONMENT

- replanting trees where they have been cut
- resource management

HOUSEHOLD

- preparing large meals that can last for days
- covering the cooking pot so that food cooks faster
- seasonal water harvesting practices such as roof water harvesting and water catchments

ALTERNATIVE ACTIVITIES

- selling charcoal and firewood
- selling fish
- harvesting wild fruits
- petty trading
- ganyu or piece work
- fetching water for others
- brewing and selling banana, sorghum and pineapple juices and alcohol

GROUP ACTIVITIES

- joining cooperatives to get better access to inputs, training and information
- creating storage facilities at sector levels where reserve food can be stored
- developing local irrigation schemes
- constructing wells

EXTREME MEASURES

- migration, for men, to seek employment elsewhere
- going out of production and selling labour for cash or food
- selling assets
- borrowing money from lenders and social groups
- reducing food intake
- skipping a meal every few days to save on firewood.
- food aid/productive safety net programmes
- getting assistance from well-to-do relatives

However, not all current local coping strategies are efficient or appropriate for long-term adaptation as they are based on short-term considerations, survival needs, lack of information and imperfect foresight. If strategies that are not well planned are being implemented, they can worsen environmental degradation, diminish future adaptive capacity and erode future livelihood options. Sustainability of coping strategies also depends on the intensity, duration and frequency of hazards. In addition, there are constraints to the development of non-farm and off-farm activities due to cultural gender bias, poverty and illiteracy, aid-dependency syndrome, lack of market opportunities, poor infrastructure and a fragile environment.

2.3.3 Convergent with other continental and regional frameworks

The involvement of the RECs in programme planning helped to ensure coordination and collaboration with existing continent-wide and regional frameworks. This is central to the GCCASP to ensure coordination of effort and avoid duplication.

As the programme enters its implementation phase, coordination will be facilitated by:

- plans to involve High-Level Champions to advocate for the GCCASP, ensuring the programme receives buy-in from various stakeholders in the countries and RECs
- plans to form a high-level GCCASP Coordinating Committee, with members drawn from relevant sectors in the programme by participating countries, will give strategic direction and oversee programme implementation in a coherent and integrated approach
- national Partnership Platforms will also serve as a forum for exchange of ideas and experience from which to draw lessons for coherent (integrated) implementation.

There are several existing frameworks dedicated to addressing gender issues at both continent and REC levels. These collectively aim at improving the socioeconomic condition of women and promoting the human rights of women in the continent.

Continental frameworks

The major frameworks at continent level include:

- Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa (Maputo Protocol) (2003)
- Solemn Declaration on Gender Equality (2004)
- Sirte Declaration (2009)
- AU Gender Policy (2009)
- African Women's Decade (2010–2020) and Fund for African Women.

In addition, documents such as the African Union Constitutive Act and the NEPAD foundational document have sections dedicated to the promotion of gender equality.

Maputo Protocol (2003)

The Maputo Protocol advocates equal economic opportunities for women and emphasises the right to food security (Article 15) (AU, 2003: 16). It calls for women's improved access to sources of domestic fuel, land, and the means of producing nutritious food and establishing adequate systems of supply and storage to ensure food security. The Protocol also aims to 'ensure greater participation of women in the planning, management and preservation of the environment and the sustainable use of natural resources at all levels' (Article 18); and to 'promote women's access to and control over productive resources such as land and guarantee their right to property' (Article 19).

Solemn Declaration on Gender Equality (2004)

The Solemn Declaration on Gender Equality (AU, 2004) calls for governments to actively promote the implementation of legislation to guarantee women's land, property and inheritance rights (point 7).

Sirte Declaration (2009)

Similarly, the Sirte Declaration on Land Issues and Challenges in Africa calls on African governments to 'ensure that land laws provide for equitable access to land and related resources among all land users including the youth and other landless and vulnerable groups such as displaced persons' and 'strengthen security of land tenure for women which requires special attention' (AU, 2009a). And the Sirte Declaration on Investing in Agriculture for Economic Growth and Food Security also calls for agricultural development strategies and investment programmes to identify the most vulnerable sections of society, including women, children and the physically challenged, and ensure their special needs are embraced and supported (AU, 2009b).

AU Gender Policy (2009)

The AU Gender Policy (AU, 2009c) stipulates equal access to resources for women and men. The policy is anchored on all major gender-related commitments within the continent as well as international

commitments such as the Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW), the **Beijing Platform for Action**, and the Millennium Development Goals. The main purpose of the AU Gender Policy is to establish a clear vision and make commitments to guide the process of gender mainstreaming and women's empowerment in Africa. One objective of the policy with direct relevance to women farmers in the continent relates to the aim to promote, for both women and men, equitable access to and control over resources, knowledge, information, land and business ownership, and services such as education and training, healthcare, credit, and legal rights (AU, 2009c: 13).

African Women's Decade (2010–2020)

The African Women's Decade is intended to reinvigorate commitments to accelerated implementation of agreed global and regional commitments of gender equality and women's empowerment. Its objectives are presented as ten themes that incorporate the gender–climate change–agriculture nexus, in particular under themes 2 and 5, both of which focus on women's needs and roles. Theme 2, Agriculture and Food Security, seeks 'Increased women's access to agricultural land, farm inputs, credit, technology, extension services, irrigation and access to water through water harvesting, boreholes, etc'; and 'Link women to markets through value addition of their products including agro-based supply chain, creating new markets for their produce including organic food stuffs'. And theme 5, Environment and Climate Change, focuses on women's contribution: 'Identify women's role in mitigating climate change, as custodians of the environment, making sure they benefit from the new global packages to fight climate change' (AU, 2010). In each Member state, a national committee composed of all segments of the society is intended to propose one good practice project for each theme per year, which will be supported by the AU Fund for African Women.

Agenda 2063

Launched by the AU in September 2013, Agenda 2063 is a strategic framework for the socioeconomic transformation of the continent over the coming 50 years. It builds on, and seeks to accelerate, the implementation of past and existing continental initiatives for growth and sustainable development, including the CAADP, particularly in the context of the Programme on Climate Action in Africa (AU, 2015: 16). The GCCASP chimes with the seven stated aspirations of Agenda 2063, particularly Aspiration 3: 'Africa shall have a universal culture of good governance, democratic values, gender equality, respect for human rights, justice and the rule of law'; and Aspiration 6: 'All the citizens of Africa will be actively involved in decision making in all aspects. Africa shall be an inclusive continent where no child, woman or man will be left behind or excluded, on the basis of gender, political affiliation, religion, ethnic affiliation, locality, age or other factors.'

Regional frameworks

At the REC level, various frameworks towards promoting gender equality have been adopted.

COMESA

The main instruments of the COMESA Framework are the Gender Policy and the Regional Strategy for mainstreaming gender into COMESA's agriculture and climate change programmes. The COMESA Gender Policy, adopted in 2002, aims to facilitate mainstreaming of gender perspectives in all COMESA's policies and programmes. An assessment of the progress in implementing the policy within agriculture, carried out by COMESA in 2010, identified the main challenges for female farmers as market-related challenges, technological obstacles and policy constraints (COMESA, 2011a). This led to COMESA's Regional Strategy for Mainstreaming Gender in Agriculture and Climate Change, which identified opportunities for adding value by twinning the gender agenda with existing programmes (COMESA, 2011a,b).

ECOWAS

ECOWAS deals with gender mainstreaming as a cross-cutting issue. Women's economic empowerment is viewed as a key to development, and in line with this ECOWAS has repositioned gender issues for

injection into its frameworks and initiatives. ECOWAS adopted its Gender Policy in 2004, together with the institutional frameworks required to implement the policy (ECOWAS, 2012).

SADC

SADC's Protocol on Gender and Development, in a section dedicated to equal access to property and resources, addresses the unequal rights of women to productive assets such as land, credit and technology (SADC, 2008: Article 18).

2.3.4 Links with existing NEPAD programmes

As noted above, the GCCASP is aligned with the aims and vision of the AU and NEPAD, and with existing NEPAD programmes including

- CAADP
- Rural Futures Programme
- Action Plan for the Environment Initiative
- Agriculture Climate Change Adaptation–Mitigation Framework and Programme.

Comprehensive African Agriculture Development Programme

CAADP is a framework for economic growth and poverty reduction, and for improving trade and other core issues related to agricultural development of the African continent. Within the framework of the AU and NEPAD, CAADP is a country-led and country-owned process where RECs play coordination and facilitation roles. The four pillars of CAADP are closely aligned with the major constraints that women smallholders face in the sector in Africa:

- Extending the area under sustainable land management and reliable water control systems
- Improving rural infrastructure and trade-related capacities for market access
- Increasing food supply, reducing hunger, and improving responses to food emergency crises
- Improving agriculture research, technology dissemination and adoption.

Recognising these gendered constraints, CAADP takes gender as one of its cross-cutting issues, and highlights gender under sections on 'sustainable productivity and competitiveness' and 'access to and investment in land and water resources' (AU and NEPAD, 2003: 84, 86).

Rural Futures Programme

This programme was launched in 2010 by the NEPAD Agency, the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa and the Worldwide Fund for Nature.⁵ Rural Futures supports the acceleration and diversification of economic growth in rural areas by expanding employment and livelihood opportunities, thereby reducing inequalities between rural and urban areas and strengthening environmental sustainability. Like the GCCASP, Rural Futures takes a multi-sectoral and integrated approach to new thinking on Africa's development pathways. It recognises that to boost agricultural growth, farmers need access to facilities as well as markets, thus growth depends not only on the agricultural sector itself, but also on the infrastructure and on other sectors including health and education.

The Rural Futures Programme enhances the work of the CAADP by identifying the linkages in multi-sectoral integration that agriculture needs in order to realise the goal of social and economic development. Data from its outputs, such as a statistical atlas of rural change in Africa (Losch et al., 2013), are being used to inform the development of the GCCASP.

⁵ 'Rural Futures Programme: Building a renewed rural Africa': www.nepad.org/content/rural-futures-programme-building-renewed-rural-africa

Action Plan for the Environment Initiative

NEPAD's Action Plan for the Environment Initiative is a coherent, strategic and long-term programme of action aimed at promoting Africa's sustainable development.⁶ It is the guiding document for AU/NEPAD's activities in the sector of environment and climate change. In addition, sub regional Environmental Action Plans have been developed and adopted by many of the sub-regions. The Action Plan focuses on fostering regional cooperation on transboundary environmental issues. It also identifies cross-cutting issues that include gender, health, trade, and technology transfer.

Agriculture Climate Change Adaptation-Mitigation Framework

The AU-NEPAD Agric-CC Framework supports country and regional initiatives to integrate climate change in agricultural development, and agricultural development objectives in climate change initiatives, in order to enhance and scale-up agricultural productivity while promoting environmental resilience and protecting biodiversity. The AU-NEPAD Agric-CC Framework aims to provide tools, platforms and guidelines to enable country/regional initiatives to embrace knowledge- and evidence-based analysis, and holistic and integrated programme approaches. The framework is an integral component of the first pillar of the CAADP (Extending the area under sustainable land management and reliable water control systems).

2.4 Partnerships

2.4.1 Partnerships with other organisations

Through the processes outlined in Part 2, each participating country has identified potential partners and national programmes, as well as in-country examples of good practice with which the national GCCASP could be aligned. A few selected examples of programmes and projects that align well with the aims and vision of the GCCASP are described below.

South West Women's Forum (Cameroon)

The South West Women's Forum facilitates networks of rural women at regional, divisional and subdivisional levels. It comprises one Regional Forum, six Divisional Forums and 31 Subdivisional Forums, whose activities are coordinated at all levels by the Ministry of Women Empowerment and the Family. Specific actions to empower these rural women include educational radio programmes in local languages, planting trees with the slogan 'cut one plant five', and workshops on new technologies such as the 'wonder bag' – food is half cooked and put in a bag made of a plastic paper which preserves the heat and continues the cooking process, saving both time and fuel.

Women Fuel Wood Carriers project (Ethiopia)

This project was formulated to improve the lives of women fuel wood carriers (15,000 in Addis Ababa and 15,000 in seven other cities). The components were rationalisation of the women fuel wood carriers' supply and marketing system, income diversification and institution building, and human development support.

- 111 saving and credit cooperatives in eight cities were organised and provided with loans for over 8,000 women to run income-generating activities (e.g. pottery, food processing, petty trade, poultry production, kerosene outlets, fruit selling, sheep fattening, basketry, planting and selling seedlings).
- Each of the members received basic business skills training.
- A market business plan was developed for each member.

⁶ 'Action Plan for the Environment Initiative': www.nepad.org/resource/action-plan-environment-initiative-0

Rural Livelihoods Support Programme (Malawi)

The primary goal of Malawi's Rural Livelihoods Support Programme (2003–12) was to sustainably reduce poverty of a target group of approximately 50,000 households through investments in human capital, food production and income-generating activities. The programme was particularly successful in targeting poor households, with a focus on women and youth, through decentralised community structures based on a decentralised framework and policy, which entailed devolution of power and function to the Local Assembly (district level). This ensured the participation and empowerment of people in the identification, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of their own development activities. The decentralised planning structure is shown in Figure 6.

The programme's achievements included improved food security due to an increase in yields of food crops; increased income that enabled them to accumulate household assets and to invest in their children's education; a revolving fund for each Village Development Committee; and improved water supply through contributions to boreholes/shallow wells.

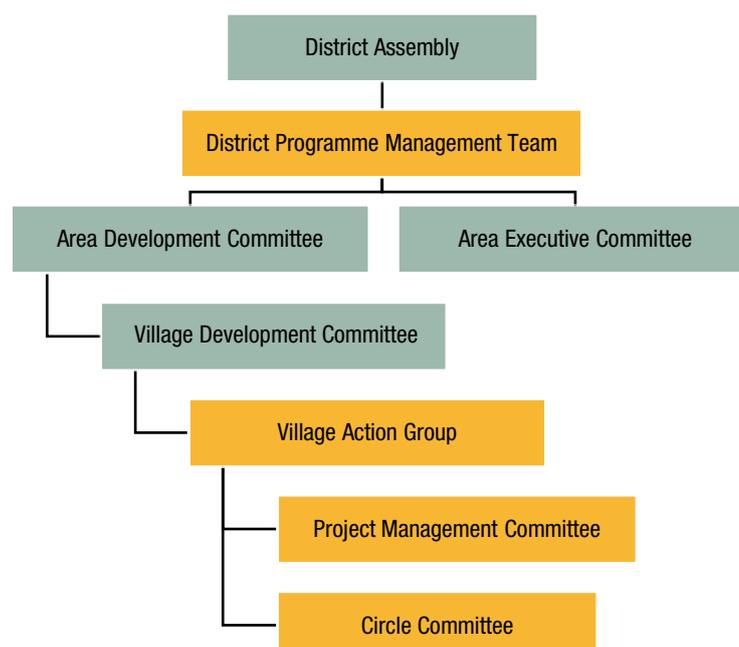
3N Initiative (Niger)

In 2011, in the face of persistent food production deficits and significant levels of food insecurity, the President of Niger initiated an ambitious agricultural transformation plan called the 3N Initiative – *Nigériens nourrissent les Nigériens* (Nigeriens Feeding Nigeriens). 3N is a multi-sectoral programme linking different initiatives under a common framework aiming to strengthen the agriculture sector while building resilience to food crises and improving nutritional status.

The GCCASP complements the 3N strategic axes:

- growth and diversification of agricultural livelihoods
- access to agricultural markets
- improving resilience to climate change, crises and disasters.

Figure 6 Rural Livelihoods Support Programme implementation structure (blue, existing structures; orange, structures added by the programme)



3N follows five guiding principles, which mirror the values of the GCCASP:

- taking account of gender
- concentration of actions
- targeting of support
- sustainability of the productive base
- mobilisation and empowerment of stakeholders.

COPEDU Ltd (Rwanda)

COPEDU Ltd is a microfinance institution that offers savings and credits services for its shareholders and customers. It is registered as a company by the Rwanda Development Board and licensed by the National Bank of Rwanda. It was initiated by a non-profit-making organization, DUTERIMBERE, in 1997.

DUTERIMBERE and therefore COPEDU Ltd are committed to improving the living standards of Rwandans, in particular Rwandan women experiencing both economic and social problems caused by the war and genocide of 1994. Currently, there are many widows heading households and countless orphans following the deaths of over 1 million people. The survival of families in both rural and urban areas depends on income from agriculture and small businesses. As part of its mission geared towards providing financial services to low-income people in general and to women in particular, COPEDU Ltd grants, through individual projects and joint liability groups, loans to low-income women who cannot be served by traditional banks for lack of guarantees.

According to testimonials, this type of loan has succeeded in enabling low-income women to have access to loans and helped them improve their lives.⁷

2.4.2 Collaboration with think tanks

In line with the GCCASP's multi-stakeholder approach, collaboration with think tanks at country level involves the inclusion of actors such as NGOs/civil society, private sector, academia and researchers. These stakeholders have a critical role to play in implementing the programme. Each host Ministry is encouraged to ensure they are taking functional roles in the implementation of the GCCASP.

2.4.3 Collaboration with development partners and GCCASP donor working groups

At country level, there has been collaboration with development partners through a donor-mapping exercise and round-table discussions in all five participating countries. The mapping exercise sought to establish the pattern for potential funding of technical collaboration for the implementation of gender, climate change and agriculture programmes. The findings from the mapping exercise also served as a source of information on the GCCASP-related ongoing programmes by development partners to help define possible areas for partnership, with a view to enhancing evidence-based planning and implementation through effective use of resources.

More specifically, the donor-mapping exercise was carried out to identify potential donors/development partners for GCCASP; establish the pattern of funding for GCCASP-related programmes; enhance alignment and complementarity of donor development priorities with country-level priorities and programmes; and promote partnership in resource mobilisation.

In addition, round-table discussions with development partners were conducted in the countries where partners were able to indicate areas of technical and/or financial support to the GCCASP programme.

⁷ COPEDU Ltd: www.coopedu.rw

Table 1 GCCASP participating countries, their national GCCASP host institutions, and complementary national and continental initiatives

Country	National GCCASP host institution	Complementary national/continental initiatives			
		Gender	Agriculture, land and environment	Climate change	Overarching
Cameroon	Ministry of Women Empowerment and the Family (MINPROFF)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Policy declaration on the Integration of Women in Development • Multi-sectoral Plan of Action on Women and Development • National Plan of Action on the Integration of Women in Development 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cameroon country programme of CAADP • National Environment Management Plan • Agricultural Policy of Cameroon • Institute of Agricultural Research for Development 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cameroon's NAPA • REDD pilot project • Initiatives and achievements of the Japanese-funded Africa Adaptation Programme and Cool Earth Partnership (2008–13) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper (Element 6: integration of disadvantaged groups in the economy)
Ethiopia	Ministry of Women, Children and Youth Affairs (MoWYCA)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National Policy on Ethiopian Women • Development and Change Package of Ethiopian Women • Development and Transformation package for Ethiopian Pastoralist and Semi Pastoralist Women 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ethiopia country programme of CAADP and agricultural sector Policy Investment Framework • Rural Land Administration and Use Proclamation • Agricultural Growth Program • Sustainable Land Management Program • Food Security Program • Environmental Policy of Ethiopia 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ethiopia's NAPA • Climate-Resilient Green Economy strategy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Federal Constitution of Ethiopia • Growth and Transformation Plan (2010/11–2014/15)
Malawi	Ministry of Gender, Children, Disability & Social Welfare (MoGCDSW)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gender and HIV and AIDS strategy • National Gender Policy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Malawi country programme of CAADP • Agriculture Sector Wide Approach – takes account of gender/health (specifically HIV/AIDS) and climate change • Land Policy • Farm Inputs Subsidy Programme • Rural Livelihoods Support Programme 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Malawi's NAPA 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Malawi Growth and Development Strategy II (2011–16) • Millennium Villages Project
Niger	Ministry of Population, Women Promotion and Children Protection (MPF/PE)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National Gender Policy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ECOWAP National Charter/CAADP Niger Compact – establishes framework for National Plan for Agricultural Investment • Rural Development Strategy • National Environmental Plan for Sustainable Development • Strategy for Sustainable Development of Livestock 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Niger's NAPA • National Programme for Adaptation • Pilot Programme on building resilience to Climate Change 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Accelerated Development and Poverty Reduction Strategy • Economic and Social Development Plan
Rwanda	Ministry of Gender and Family Promotion (MIGPROF)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vision 2020 • National Gender Policy • Gender Monitoring Office • National Women's Councils • Law on Matrimonial Regimes, Donations, Succession and Liberalities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rwanda country programme of CAADP • Strategic Plan for Transformation of Agriculture III (2013–17) • Agriculture Gender Strategy • Rwanda Environment and Natural Resource Strategic Plan • Organic Land Law • Farmland use and land consolidation policy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rwanda's NAPA • Green Growth and Climate Resilience National Strategy for Climate Change and Low Carbon Development • Rwanda Environment Management Authority 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rwandan Constitution 2003 • Economic Development and Poverty Reduction Strategy II (2013–17)

A Partners Working Group was established at NEPAD level. This is a group of donor partners that came together to discuss the GCCASP and the way forward in terms of the financial and technical support needed. The first working group meeting was conducted in the Hague, Netherlands with NEPAD and representatives of five donor partners. The objectives of the meeting were to identify funding options for the GCCASP; adopt the governance structure for the GCCASP; and discuss the road map for securing funding.

2.5 Resource mobilisation

The GCCASP is now in the process of mobilising both technical and financial support.

- The provision of climate-smart technical skills capacity-building through training and experience-sharing opportunities is sought from bilateral development partners as well as international, regional and national NGOs through alignment with existing programmes and establishment of operational linkages.
- The total amount of funding required for implementation of the GCCASP in the five countries of the five RECs over five years is estimated at US\$83 million. Resources are being jointly mobilised both by participating countries and by the NEPAD Agency as described below. The pre-implementation phase of the programme aims to support participating countries to play their respective roles in resource mobilisation domestically for implementation of the programme. The NEPAD Agency is also engaged in advocating for the GCCASP at various donor conferences to make contact with potential development partners.

2.5.1 National resource mobilisation

Participating countries are encouraged to generate resources from domestic sources by engaging donors (especially financing agencies) working within or supporting similar activities in the country, by securing pledges. This is in addition to the expected country budgetary allocations from treasury as a counterpart fund, as an indication of ownership and commitment. Domestic resources mobilisation therefore includes funding from development partners plus government budgetary allocation in cash, in kind, or a combination of both. Funds raised locally are considered as co-financing from partners within the country, and will be used to support programme implementation according to each country's financial procedure.

Participating countries are required to ensure streamlining and harmonisation of existing relevant projects and programmes to strengthen the financial basis for implementation of the GCCASP.

2.5.2 International resource mobilisation

The NEPAD Agency will continue to engage with multilateral and bilateral donor agencies as well as other development partners to mobilise resources at international level. The aim is to solicit external resources to fill the resource gap between what is raised by participating countries and the estimated budget to implement the respective country's GCCASP. Thus potential funding made available by the NEPAD Agency to each country will be determined once the funding gap has been identified, and based on the volume of available resources generated from international donors.

Resources mobilised through the NEPAD Agency will be placed in a (pooled) Multilateral Trust Fund that the Agency has established at continental level to support implementation of the GCCASP.

Part 3 Defining the programme – impact on the ground

Through the GCCASP, we are turning to urgent actions with impact on the ground. It is about empowering women in a range of areas through skills development; organising; networking; and also supporting policy reforms that enhance their economic and political participation, while addressing the climate change challenges faced by women smallholder farmers that the NEPAD Agency identified in 2012.

Mrs Estherine Fotabong, NEPAD's Director of Programme Implementation

Specific activities have been identified by the five participating countries within their specific annual work plans. The following summarises the types of activity under each of the four key intervention areas (Box 5).

Box 5 The four key intervention areas of the GCCASP

- closing policy and institutional gaps
- capacity building of women smallholder farmers
- creation and strengthening of women's platforms
- investments/upscaling of innovative and successful practices

3.1 Closing policy and institutional gaps

Women's voices



Despite the critical role women play in rural agriculture and managing family food security, their role in agricultural planning and decision-making and national policy formulation is marginalised. Agricultural policy decisions are often planned and implemented without the participation of women, and as a result most policies fail to target the priority areas of intervention that would optimise return of investment.

H.E. ZenebuTadesse, Minister, Ministry of Women, Children and Youth Affairs of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia

This intervention area includes

- activities related to the mainstreaming of gender issues into agriculture, climate change and environment policies, programmes and actions at national, subregional and regional levels
- actions aimed at strengthening the coordination role of governments to ensure coherence and build synergies among the different actors in the areas of gender, climate change, agriculture and environment.

Existing agriculture, climate change and environment-related policies, strategies and programmes will be reviewed in order to identify gaps in gender sensitivity and inclusiveness. Training will be provided to government officials and other stakeholders on gender equity and women's empowerment, and on the theory and practice of coordinating development.

The programme will also support the creation of gender- and sex-disaggregated data on vulnerability to the multifaceted impacts of climate change. This will promote gender-sensitive and evidence-based decision-making on measures to adapt to and mitigate the impacts of climate change.

Budgetary allocations will be made available for strategies with direct impacts on women farmers' activities such as increasing awareness of land rights, and issues such as gender analysis and budgeting in the agriculture, climate change and environment sectors.

3.2 Capacity building of women smallholder farmers

Women's voices



When I began cultivating cassava, I was using traditional farming methods without using any fertiliser. I worked hard but the production was not sufficient. But now due to the training I received, I'm using modern techniques of farming and applying fertiliser, and am happy with the increased yields of cassava. From the improved production, I am able to pay for health insurance for my family, pay school fees for my children, I have purchased an extra plot of land and two cows, and built a second house.

Mrs Saverine Nyirangirumwami, representative of a women farmers' cooperative from Bugesera District, Rwanda

This intervention area includes:

- provision of access to new technologies and new markets
- advocating for improved access to land
- training of smallholder farmers and other vulnerable groups on
 - sustainable agricultural practices and diversification of agriculture-based livelihoods
 - communicating weather and climate change information
 - management of contract farming
 - value addition activities and equipment.

Training on gender equity and women's empowerment will also be provided to extension workers as part of this programme. In addition, the possibility of providing scholarship support to rural youth interested in becoming extension workers will be explored. Farmers' groups, associations and cooperatives will be trained on group development and ways of enhancing entrepreneurial skills.

Overall, activities under this intervention area will aim at making equipment available to farmers and training them to use and maintain it; overcoming difficulties in accessing loans to purchase or rent equipment; empowering farmers to adopt techniques such as greenhouse farming and drip irrigation systems; and promoting practices to reduce deforestation in rural areas such as the use of biogas and energy-saving stoves. The programme will support farmers' guarantee schemes and low-interest loans for farmers. It will also provide training to farmers on business skills and development of business plans.

3.3 Creation and strengthening of women's platforms

Enhancing the participation of women in local, national and regional knowledge-sharing and decision-making processes on gender, climate change and agriculture will require the existence of strong gender groups at all levels. The programme will therefore support the establishment of gender, climate change and agriculture platforms and will undertake activities to enhance their capacity. For instance, training on networking will be provided to women's cooperatives.

Women's voices

The Women's Development Army (WDA) in Tigray is a non-political, local level, women member-based association. Through assistance from the Women Affairs Bureau, the WDA works closely with sectors during formulation of various sectoral plans or packages. The sectors then allocate budget, WDA works closely to mobilise women's group and facilitate the implementation of sectoral budget, and is involved in the evaluation. However, budget is still a limitation to work at full capacity or to build the requisite capacity.

Mrs Keria Ibrahim, Head of Bureau of Women Children Affairs, Ethiopia

Conferences for Women in Agribusiness

As part of the GCCASP, the NEPAD Agency has so far organised two conferences for women in agribusiness, with financial support from Norad.

The theme of the inaugural conference in October 2014 was 'Investing in African Women: Opening Space for Agribusiness'. The main outcome was a Call to Action, to:

- increase support for women farmers, particularly in agribusiness activities
- strengthen inclusive growth, employment generation and sustainable livelihoods for African women producers and agribusiness entrepreneurs
- facilitate and support skills building for women through access to vocational training
- make the Women in Agribusiness Conference an annual event.

In November 2015, the theme was 'Women in Entrepreneurial Development: A Must for Success of the Sustainable Development Goals in Africa'. The conference aimed to:

- provide a platform for dialogue between relevant stakeholders in the field of the economic participation of women
- share experiences and best practices on gender-sensitive financial and business services
- identify new and innovative opportunities to improve women's entrepreneurial skills and development
- support the strengthening of networking, strategic alliances and advocacy for women's entrepreneurship to encourage progressive integration of rural women's businesses into the formal economy.

Participants in the conferences include women farmers and women in agribusiness, government ministries, RECs, private sector, civil society, researchers/academia, and development partners from various parts of Africa and beyond.



Participants in the 2015 Women in Agribusiness Conference visit Cappeny Estates, the only strawberry-growing farm in the KwaZulu-Natal region of South Africa

3.4 Investments/upscaling of innovative and successful practices

The programme will provide grants for the implementation of flagship initiatives. Innovative projects could be in – but not limited to – any of the following areas:

- conservation agriculture
- sustainable small-scale irrigation and use of gender-responsive technology
- management of natural resources
- livestock productivity with minimal use of resources and greenhouse gas emissions
- integrated agriculture
- crop diversification including drought-tolerant crops
- cultural practices and land-use policies that promote access to and control over land by women smallholder farmers.

Women's voices



Excess water from the hills/slopes can be a solution rather than a problem – water can be retained in reservoirs and used for small-scale irrigation, reducing the problem of soil erosion and risk of landslides.

Agroforestry protects soils from erosion and enhances soil fertility. And agroforestry trees can be used for different purposes to respond to the population needs and increase resilience to climate change.

Dr Rose Mukankomeje, Director General,
Rwanda Environment Management Authority

3.5 Programme implementation and management

In line with the NEPAD principles described in section 2.1, emphasis will be placed on African ownership of the programme and linkages with existing NEPAD programmes (see section 2.3). To this end, African experts and institutions will be used, to the extent possible, in delivering the programme.

Implementation of the GCCASP will involve execution of specific but inter-related activities at three levels:

- NEPAD Agency
- RECs
- national level.

The NEPAD Agency will serve as the Programme Secretariat, and the programme will be implemented within NEPAD's CAADP and Environment and Climate Change programmes. As the main beneficiaries are smallholder women farmers, youth, and other vulnerable groups in African countries, implementation will take place mostly at the national level.

The participating RECs will play important roles in implementing the programme, as follows.

Knowledge sharing:

- replicating best practices
- facilitating country-to-country exchanges
- disseminating innovations to relevant top-level political and technical leaders.

Institutions and policy:

- reviewing and revising REC policies and plans to mainstream the needs of gender and climate-smart agriculture.

Capacity-building:

- undertaking training, capacity-building and research activities
- facilitating and engaging with regional centres of excellence for training, information exchange, gender-responsive climate-smart agricultural technologies and best practice incubation
- conducting action research and studies on gender-responsive climate change and agriculture.

Monitoring and evaluation:

- implementing the frameworks developed by NEPAD.

Resource mobilisation:

- mobilising complementary funds for gender, climate change and agriculture within countries of the respective regions.

Governance:

- participating in the programme's Advisory Board and Multilateral Trust Fund Governing Board
- reporting on mobilised and allocated resources.

At the national level, a coordinating ministry has been identified by each participating country (see Table 1), decided on by the participating countries themselves with only technical backstopping support from the NEPAD Agency. As gender is at the forefront of the GCCASP, each national programme is hosted or co-hosted by the ministry responsible for gender issues.

Each coordinating ministry has now established a national Partnership Platform – an open-ended, multi-stakeholder forum for those involved in the areas of gender empowerment, climate change and agriculture. Stakeholders include government agencies, NGOs, civil society organisations, women's groups, higher learning institutions, development partners, members of the private sector, and renowned individuals. Each national Partnership Platform is being chaired by a representative of the programme coordinating ministry.

The Partnership Platforms' remit is to:

- serve as a forum for exchanging ideas, information and best practices for enhanced implementation of the programme
- ensure transparency and accountability in programme implementation
- share experience and provide feedback (learning, policy and strategies) on implementation of the programme
- work towards partnership building and strategic alliances to facilitate the engagement of various sectors, with their diverse perspectives, comparative advantages, institutional mandates and core principles and commitments
- influence positive changes through concerted and coordinated efforts, particularly in policy planning and decision-making processes.

In addition, the NEPAD Agency will identify, constitute and engage High-Level Champions for advocacy and future outscaling of the programme into other African countries. These will be high-level government officials and personalities in Africa and will play important roles in policy advocacy, resource mobilisation, African ownership, and upscaling and long-term sustainability of the programme. Development partners and international organisations working on issues related to agriculture, climate change, and gender equity and women's empowerment will also be engaged with, in order to build synergies with existing initiatives.

Governance

The GCCASP will be governed by an Advisory Board (Steering Committee), which will provide guidance on technical issues, endorse work plans, review programme implementation, deliberate on the annual performance of the programme, provide a mechanism for continuous monitoring and oversight, monitor the requirements and availability of resources for the programme, and oversee its resource mobilisation strategy.

Sustainability

The best way to ensure sustainability is through the commitment of African governments to lead on issues related to the continent's development in general, and in supporting gender mainstreaming in climate-smart agricultural practices in particular. This will be complemented by partnerships with development organisations both within Africa and outside the continent.

As the programme is anchored on the CAADP, the Rural Futures Programme and the Environmental Action Plans, among others, it is envisaged that existing partners will be brought on board. The strategy of institutional strengthening of relevant government offices, as well as gender groups, will ensure that the results achieved by the programme are sustained and built upon.

Monitoring, evaluation and reporting

In accordance with the results-based management approach, monitoring and evaluation of the GCCASP will be based on a logical framework. In addition to tracking the implementation of planned activities, considerable effort will be devoted to monitoring the extent to which expected outputs and outcomes are achieved. Performance indicators will form the basis of measuring progress towards stated expected results.

Monitoring and evaluation will be an integral part of the programme and will benefit from existing systems in the NEPAD Agency, in addition to arrangements put in place specifically for ongoing tracking of elements of the programme's results framework. Reporting requirements will comply with existing NEPAD reporting processes.

The results-based management approach involves defining anticipated risks and formulating an appropriate risk management strategy. Each national programme has carried out a risk assessment specific to the country's context which defines potential risks, probabilities, assumptions and mitigation measures. These have been consolidated into a single list for the programme as a whole. The anticipated risks are associated with the executing agency, the beneficiaries and the programme partners.

Part 4 Learning from the process

Women are frontline agents for the fight against climate change, since they possess knowledge and significant expertise in what concerns adaptability and the reduction of risk to climate change. Just as the international community holds, there is no sustainable development without the full participation of women.

Cameroon's Minister of Women Empowerment and the Family HE Prof Marie Therese Obama (2014)

4.1 Best practices – summary

The GCCASP development process has aimed to exemplify the following best practices.

- **Africa-led:** the entire programme design process, from conception through the pre-implementation and implementation phases, has been guided by the pan-African spirit and used African-based leadership and experts.
- **Nationally owned:** national ownership is instrumental in gaining political will in participating countries, as expressed in active involvement and leadership, as well as the national commitment shown to host the programme.
- **Locally driven:** assessment reports, field studies and reports of stakeholder meetings built on local-level, context-specific knowledge regarding the gender, climate change and agriculture nexus, and potential intervention measures to build adaptive capacity.
- **Grassroots-based:** representatives of the intended beneficiaries, women farmers, were consulted in their home villages and enabled to articulate their personal issues and experiences.
- **Inclusive:** a series of successful consultative workshops was central to the programme. These included stakeholders at all levels, including women farmers themselves, through a participatory approach that encouraged women's voices to be heard.
- **Gender-led:** as both agriculture and climate change policy can often be gender blind – or may attempt to take account of gender issues but fail to implement this on the ground – it was important that national gender ministries took the lead as hosts of the GCCASP for both programme development and implementation (see Table 1). This approach also directly enhances the capacity of gender ministries, which are often marginalised in terms of resources.
- **Transparent:** the programme design process was carried out openly through the active involvement of key stakeholders from the outset.
- **Focused:** the programme identified clear, mutually agreed key intervention areas, put in place defined institutional arrangements and strategies for mobilising resources and establishing Partnership Platforms, and set in motion the process of engaging development partners and donors.

4.2 Lessons learned

4.2.1 Challenges

- At the REC level, progress has been slow and tangible support has been difficult to obtain. Participation by the RECs was a challenge as different RECs were available for different meetings. However, the programme has achieved representation from COMESA, EAC, ECCAS, ECOWAS and IGAD in different meetings and consultations throughout the process.
- Initial government response was also slow and demanded high-level engagement by the NEPAD Agency due to many competing demands on government representatives' time and availability.
- Securing financial support requires a good understanding of domestic financial procedures and donor engagement.
- Managing high expectations of government and key stakeholders can be demanding, especially in the absence of concrete and predictable financing.
- Establishing gender-led institutions as host and as the entry point for an integrated gender, climate change and agriculture programme raised sectoral resistance regarding ownership of the programme in some countries.

4.2.2 Learning

- **Gender-based programmes must have a high level of women's involvement at all levels.** The involvement from the start by women themselves, and by government institutions responsible for women's empowerment and equality, was critical to ensure vulnerable smallholder women farmers benefit from the programme. Talking with target vulnerable smallholder women to articulate their specific problems, issues and experiences helped NEPAD to identify gaps, formulate need-based interventions, and eventually design a country-driven and nationally owned GCCASP.
- **A multi-stakeholder approach is key to success.** The engagement of beneficiaries and stakeholders through consultative workshops and meetings is a testimony to the participatory nature and inclusiveness of the GCCASP process. Arrangements for the establishment of national GCCASP coordinating committees and broad-based Partnership Platforms is a further multi-stakeholder approach contributing to successful implementation of the programme. Involving many different stakeholders also ensures proper use of resources and alignment of interventions by state and non-state actors working in the areas of gender empowerment, climate change and agriculture, and prevents duplication of effort.
- **Ownership by government is critical to muster the political will that is decisive for effective and successful implementation and to ensure sustainability of the programme.** This has been achieved through:
 - establishment of national GCCASP coordinating bodies, technical advisory committees, national Partnership Platforms, and sub-national structures necessary to implement the programme
 - hosting and institutionalisation of the GCCASP through each country's full-time project implementation unit, and establishing functional coordination at sub-national level where programme interventions will be implemented
 - making efforts to allocate and mobilise resources domestically from both national treasury and through national engagement of donors, other partners and key sectors to support implementation
 - establishing links and registering with national priority development plans and programmes
 - establishing, spearheading and operationalising Partnership Platforms
 - ensuring good governance during the implementation phase.

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About the GCCASP

The **Gender, Climate Change and Agriculture Support Programme** is a flagship programme of the NEPAD Agency, a technical arm of the African Union. It supports women and other vulnerable farming groups in dealing with the effects of climate change on agriculture. The vision of the programme is to see farming women empowered for effectiveness and efficiency in dealing with the vagaries of climate change through policy changes and access to climate-smart agricultural technologies and finance. Recognising women's key role in African agriculture and the social and structural disadvantages many women farmers face, the programme aims to integrate gender issues and specific concerns of women small-scale farmers in responding to climate change in agriculture.

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