



Photo: G. Smith (CIAT)

Metrics to measure progress towards climate-smart agriculture (CSA) goals



About CCAFS

The CGIAR Research Program on Climate Change, Agriculture and Food Security (CCAFS), led by the International Center for Tropical Agriculture (CIAT), brings together some of the world's best researchers in agricultural science, development research, climate science and Earth System science, to identify and address the most important interactions, synergies and tradeoffs between climate change, agriculture and food security. www.ccafs.cgiar.org.

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Climate-smart agriculture (CSA) aims to achieve the goals of increased productivity / food security, adaptation / resilience, and mitigation. The different weights put on each goal depends on the context. CSA investors and implementers are now seeking methods and sets of indicators to monitor progress towards achieving CSA goals and outcomes as a result of interventions.

CSA indicators

The CGIAR Research Program on Climate Change, Agriculture and Food Security (CCAFS) has developed a Public access CSA Programming and Indicator Tool to support investors and implementers such as governments, multi-and bilateral donors, development agencies, NGOs and the private sector, in identifying common metrics and tracking the CSA related outcomes and impacts of their interventions. The tool is supported by a database of over 378 indicators gathered from international development agencies such as the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the United Kingdom Department for

International Development (DFID), the Adaptation for Smallholder Agriculture Programme of the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), the World Bank and the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and revisited through a CSA lens to identify their relevance to its three pillars.

The database has been further developed into a publicly accessible CSA programming and indicator tool. The tool proposes a shared framework for agricultural programmes to:

- i. examine to what extent current or planned intervention(s) address each CSA pillar
- ii. compare the scope and CSA intentionality among different project designs to make future programming more climate-smart, and
- iii. support the identification and selection of an appropriate set of indicators to measure and track CSA-related outcomes.

Download the CSA Planning and Indicator Tool:

<http://bit.ly/CSA-PNI-Tool>



Photo: IRRI

The indicators are currently being used to work with key partners in the public sector (such as USAID) and private sector (including the World Business Council for Sustainable Development) to support their CSA measurement and monitoring approaches.

Types of indicators:

Three different types of indicators have been identified:

- **Readiness indicators:** Allows decision makers to understand if supporting structures are in place for implementing a particular CSA intervention.
- **Process indicators:** Provides insights into implementation processes involved in achieving selected outcomes
- **Outcome indicators:** Measures medium/long term impacts of interventions.

Ongoing development

In response to the demand for CSA metrics from investors and implementers, CCAFS will continue to work on metrics that support wider CSA planning and implementation. In particular, this will be done as part of the CSA PLAN approach, which has been developed for planning, implementing and monitoring CSA projects and programmes. Further development of metrics will be undertaken to support investors and implementers along the implementation cycle. Tailoring the CSA Programming and Indicator Tool to different user groups through innovative partnerships is also a priority to scale up robust CSA planning.

Partnerships to scale up CSA monitoring and measurement approaches

Collaboration with USAID Feed the Future on the design of the CSA Programming and Indicator tool

The CSA Programming and Indicator Tool has been designed in the context of a collaboration with USAID's Feed the Future program. The tool helps to examine the scope of a given programme across the three goals of climate-smart agriculture and supports the selection of appropriate indicators to measure outcomes. The tool has been designed to address good instruments for programming and better metrics for tracking outcomes and impact. Building on the collaboration with USAID Feed the Future in the design stage, it is expected that the next version of the tool could support the design and monitoring and evaluation of the USAID portfolio as the agency endeavours to make its development assistance more climate-resilient. Wider use of the tool will allow multiple development agencies and agriculture-focused programmes to share a common framework on implementation and measurement of climate-smart agriculture.

Improving businesses' ability to measure and monitor CSA progress

In December 2015 the World Business Council for Sustainable Development (WBCSD) launched an ambitious Climate-Smart Agriculture Initiative, which aims to raise availability of nutritious food by 50%, reduce food system emissions by 30% and raise the resilience of millions of farmers by 2030. The initiative is co-chaired by Olam, Monsanto, Pepsico, and Kellogg and supported by PricewaterhouseCoopers. Other companies involved in the initiative include Banamex, Coca-Cola, Diageo, Du Pont, Novozymes, Old Mutual, Starbucks, Syngenta, Tyson Foods, Unilever, Walmart and Yara. Within this initiative, CCAFS as the knowledge partner is leading the work on Improving Businesses' Ability to Trace, Measure and Monitor CSA progress. The focus is on identifying a set of outcome and process indicators to help companies to monitor and measure the progress of company level CSA efforts, as well as the progress towards global ambitions set out in the WBCSD CSA Action Plan.

The CSA Indicator and Programming Tool was developed by CCAFS with the support of its donors, the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) and the technical assistance from the International Center of Tropical Agriculture (CIAT).

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Learn more and get updates:

<https://ccafs.cgiar.org/csa-programming-and-indicator-tool>

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Collaborators

