THE CHALLENGE AND OUR APPROACH

P4S seeks to address gaps in data availability and adequacy for decision-making. Many agricultural management options are available, leading to an equally rich set of possible outcomes. For project planners, investors and policy makers, this creates challenges in identifying—in a cost- and time-effective manner—what will work where and the costs associated. Moreover, scientific data is usually published in outlets that require long processes before the information can be used in decision-making (traditionally low journal review speed). The research then gets filed—oftentimes behind firewalls—and unavailable for use by non-technical audiences.

Evidence for Resilient Agriculture (ERA) disrupts this routine and supports decision-makers by giving them access to already-published data, which is packaged into ready-to-use, actionable information. The web app tool allows users to select and analyse relevant topics and then, through analytical and data visualization tools, translates the relevant scientific information into actionable information.

OBJECTIVE

To engage in on-going development and private sector initiatives to assist in the prioritization of best bet options and in policy development.

EXPECTED OUTPUTS

Five best-fit investment options for programs and policies in East and West Africa

EXPECTED OUTCOMES

- State of the art on best-bet CSA options and information to support these investments for target geographies and beneficiaries; and
- Updated CSA compendium online.

ACTIVITIES

1. Identification of climate-smart business models and finance mechanisms
   - Assess business models and financing mechanisms in use today for impact on productivity and resilience on smallholder farmers.
   - Integrate risk profiling into large investments and financial services (e.g., development banks, private sector, etc.) to identify the risks and opportunities for building resilience across agricultural value chains and helping to allow for more appropriate and affordably priced financial products and services.
   - Establish best bets for how the private sector can engage to help scale up CSA.

2. Scaling up the use of evidence in projects, policies and with the private sector
   - Strengthen and expand the CSA Compendium database of the impact of farm management on productivity, resilience and greenhouse gas emissions beyond existing 1,500 studies conducted.
   - Using new analytical and data visualization tools, translate the Compendium into a series of ready-to-use data products
   - Provide technical support to NGOs, government and private sectors actors to modify service design and delivery processes and tailor implementation for locations
   - Bringing lessons to national and regional science-policy processes to stimulate policy development, improved prioritization and enhanced investment. This will also include
   - South-South learning.

SOCIAL INCLUSION

The above-mentioned project components do not yet explicitly incorporate assessments of gender into the outcomes mapping of practices and technologies. However, we are exploring possibilities to include gender-sensitive statistics (data disaggregated by sex) and social data into the database, to add context to analyses enabled by ERA. More specifically, we are developing ways to integrate data on barriers to adoption based on economic household data from over 150 studies, including information on demographics, shocks, wealth and assets, information, social networks, market access.