

Evidences

Study #3643

Contributing Projects:

- P1604 - Digitally integrated approaches for managing climate risk and increasing food security
- P263 - RPL EA: Regional and national engagement, synthesis and strategic research
- P266 - [Flagship Leader] FP4: Engagement, synthesis and support
- P262 - Research and engagement for scaling climate-smart agriculture in Latin America

Part I: Public communications

Type: OICR: Outcome Impact Case Report

Status: Completed

Year: 2021

Title: ACToday Columbia World Project leveraged CCAFS collaboration and research to develop capacity, support national-level policy development, and deploy curriculum, bringing enhanced climate services and knowledge to governments, other stakeholders, and communities in multiple countries.

Short outcome/impact statement:

The ACToday project has leveraged and deepened the collaboration between CCAFS and the International Research Society for Climate and Society (IRI) at Columbia University. Together, CCAFS and IRI have developed capacity, delivered tools, supported policy development, and deployed curriculum around climate services in multiple countries and at regional levels.

Outcome story for communications use:

The five-year ACToday initiative, funded by Columbia University at the level of \$20 million and led by IRI, develops climate service solutions in Bangladesh, Colombia, Ethiopia, Guatemala, Senegal and Vietnam (1, 2). ACToday's work adapted tools and approaches developed previously through collaboration between CCAFS and IRI and utilized synergies between IRI and CCAFS to deploy such approaches and tools more widely. ACToday draws upon the strong IRI collaboration with CCAFS since 2010 (3, 4).

IRI developed the NextGen forecast system for the generation of a consistent and high-performance climate outlook through ACToday (5, 6). Together, IRI and CCAFS have supported trainings in this approach at national and regional levels. In Latin America, training on NextGen was conducted in the Central America Council, the Regional Committee of Hydraulic Resources, national meteorological services and agricultural ministries at the SICA level (8 countries) in the Central America Climate Outlook Forum context. Training has been provided to Guatemala's meteorological service, which now uses seasonal forecasts based on NextGen and, jointly with the Ministry of Agriculture, interacts with stakeholders to produce and disseminate agro-climatic recommendations that are advancing in the National Framework for Climate Services (NFCS) formulation. In Ethiopia, 56 staff from the National Meteorological Agency at the central and regional level were trained (7, 8).

This collaboration has brought the Local Technical Agroclimatic Committee (LTAC) approach, developed by CCAFS, to a national level in Guatemala and Colombia. In Guatemala, ACToday and CCAFS supported the establishment of 19 LTACs, covering the entire country, with 90+ institutions delivering advisories to 37,000 farmers (9)

ACToday has also developed curriculum on climate risk management, which was used in a training of trainers on climate risk management for 15 participants, supported by CCAFS. This has started with CCAFS organizing a consultation meeting with eight universities to explore deploying this curriculum more widely through the country.

IRI and CCAFS also supported the development and launch of the NFCS in Ethiopia (9).

The collaboration has enabled the scale up of tools for participatory design of agricultural index insurance, reaching approximately one million households in 2020-2021, including through integration into a national-level program in Zambia and collaboration with the WFP's R4 program in four countries. CCAFS provided initial support to IRI to develop these tools, which, with ACToday support, were scaled up through multi-stakeholder workshops as well as interactive online tools to help stakeholders work through key index design decisions, (10, 11).

Links to any communications materials relating to this outcome:

- <https://iri.columbia.edu/news/partners-in-growth/>

Part II: CGIAR system level reporting

Link to Common Results Reporting Indicator of Policies : No

Stage of maturity of change reported: Stage 2

Links to the Strategic Results Framework:

Sub-IDOs:

- Enabled environment for climate resilience
- Enhanced capacity to deal with climatic risks and extremes (Mitigation and adaptation achieved)

Is this OICR linked to some SRF 2022/2030 target?: Too early to say

Description of activity / study: <Not Defined>

Geographic scope:

- Multi-national

Country(ies):

- Mozambique
- Zambia
- Guatemala
- Ethiopia
- Senegal
- Madagascar
- Colombia

Comments: <Not Defined>

Key Contributors:

Contributing CRPs/Platforms:

- CCAFS - Climate Change, Agriculture and Food Security

Contributing Flagships:

- FP4: Climate services and safety nets

Contributing Regional programs:

- EA: East Africa
- LAM: Latin America

Contributing external partners:

- Columbia University

CGIAR innovation(s) or findings that have resulted in this outcome or impact:

LTACs

Innovations:

- 1310 - Agriculture and Food Security Maprooms (<https://tinyurl.com/2kobktw6>)

Elaboration of Outcome/Impact Statement:

The five-year ACToday initiative, funded by Columbia University at the level of \$20 million and led by IRI, develops climate service solutions in Bangladesh, Colombia, Ethiopia, Guatemala, Senegal and Vietnam (1, 2). ACToday's work adapted tools and approaches developed previously through collaboration between CCAFS and IRI and utilized synergies between IRI and CCAFS to deploy such approaches and tools more widely. ACToday draws upon the strong IRI collaboration with CCAFS since 2010 (3, 4).

IRI developed the NextGen forecast system for the generation of a consistent and high-performance climate outlook through ACToday (5, 6). Together, IRI and CCAFS have supported trainings in this approach at national and regional levels. In Latin America, training on NextGen was conducted in the Central America Council, the Regional Committee of Hydraulic Resources, national meteorological services and agricultural ministries at the SICA level (8 countries) in the Central America Climate Outlook Forum context. Training has been provided to Guatemala's meteorological service, which now uses seasonal forecasts based on NextGen and, jointly with the Ministry of Agriculture, interacts with stakeholders to produce and disseminate agro-climatic recommendations that are advancing in the National Framework for Climate Services (NFCS) formulation. In Ethiopia, 56 staff from the National Meteorological Agency at the central and regional level were trained.

This collaboration has brought the Local Technical Agroclimatic Committee (LTAC) approach, developed by CCAFS, to a national level in Guatemala and Colombia. In Guatemala, ACToday and CCAFS supported the establishment of 19 LTACs, covering the entire country, with 90+ institutions delivering advisories to 37,000 farmers (7)

ACToday has also developed curriculum on climate risk management, which was used in a training of trainers on climate risk management for 15 participants, supported by CCAFS. This has started with CCAFS organizing a consultation meeting with eight universities to explore deploying this curriculum more widely through the country.

IRI and CCAFS also supported the development and launch of the NFCS in Ethiopia (8).

The collaboration has enabled the scale up of tools for participatory design of agricultural index insurance, reaching approximately one million households in 2020-2021, including through integration into a national-level program in Zambia and collaboration with the WFP's R4 program in four countries. CCAFS provided initial support to IRI to develop these tools, which, with ACToday support, were scaled up through multi-stakeholder workshops as well as interactive online tools to help stakeholders work through key index design decisions, (9).

References cited:

- [1] ACToday Columbia World Project adopts and scaled out agricultural climate service innovations in Bangladesh, Colombia, Guatemala and Ethiopia (<https://tinyurl.com/y8z2yvr6>)
- [2] 2021 ACToday Report: From Two Countries to Ten: A Region Receives Powerful Climate Forecasting Boost (<https://tinyurl.com/y6r6ahh7>)
- [3] Partners in Growth: Video about CCAFS - IRI collaboration (<https://iri.columbia.edu/news/partners-in-growth/>)
- [4] Strengthening the climate services chain in Central America (<https://hdl.handle.net/10568/114111>)
- [5] ACToday website (<https://iri.columbia.edu/actoday/>)
- [6] NextGen Info Sheet (<https://tinyurl.com/yasl3a66>)
- [7] ACToday annual report (<https://features.iri.columbia.edu/actodayreport2021/>)
- [8] Ethiopia's government adopts a National Framework for Climate Services (NFCS) through consultative processes (<https://tinyurl.com/ybaqcpcpk>)
- [9] Tools for participatory design of agricultural index insurance supported projects reaching one million households (<https://tinyurl.com/yaoa2ufb>)

Quantification: <Not Defined>

Gender, Youth, Capacity Development and Climate Change:

Gender relevance: 0 - Not Targeted

Youth relevance: N/A - Not applicable

CapDev relevance: 1 - Significant

Main achievements with specific **CapDev** relevance: Training on Next Gen

Climate Change relevance: 2 - Principal

Describe main achievements with specific **Climate Change** relevance: climate adaptation

Other cross-cutting dimensions: <Not Defined>

Other cross-cutting dimensions description: <Not Defined>

Outcome Impact Case Report link: [Study #3643](#)

Contact person:

Walter Baethgen, baethgen@iri.columbia.edu