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**Climate Change,
Agriculture and
Food Security**



Workshop report: Rwanda Climate Services for Agriculture Pilot District Selection

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Gloriose Nsengiyumva, Desire M. Kagabo and Eliud Birachi



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Kigali, Rwanda, February 2016

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CGIAR Research Program on Climate Change, Agriculture
and Food Security (CCAFS)

Gloriose Nsengiyumva
Desire M. Kagabo
Eliud Birachi

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Contact:

CCAFS Coordinating Unit - Faculty of Science, Department of Plant and Environmental Sciences, University of Copenhagen, Rolighedsvej 21, DK-1958 Frederiksberg C, Denmark. Tel: +45 35331046; Email: ccafs@cgiar.org

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Abstract

This report presents the outputs of the site selection workshop that brought together experts and users of climate services for agriculture in Rwanda. The aim of the half-day workshop was to introduce the Rwanda Climate Services for Agriculture project to key partners and identify four pilot districts to start with during the first year of the project's implementation. The pilot districts were identified based on key criteria set by the project team with participants adding their views. The criteria were set in a way that will lead to quick wins by the end of the first year of the project's implementation. The selected districts include Kayonza located in the Eastern agro-ecology, Nyanza located in the Southern agro-ecology, Burera located in the Northern agro-ecology, and Ngororero from the Western agro-ecology. The report summarizes also the recommendations from the participants and the way forward.

Keywords

climate services, site selection

About the authors

Gloriose Nsengiyumva is the CCAFS Rwanda Climate Services for Agriculture Project – Outcome 1 Coordinator based at the International Center for Tropical Agriculture (CIAT), Kigali, Rwanda. Contact: g.nsengiyumva@cgiar.org

Kagabo Desire Mbarushimana is the CCAFS Rwanda Climate Services for Agriculture Project Coordinator based at the International Center for Tropical Agriculture (CIAT), Kigali, Rwanda. Contact: d.kagabo@cgiar.org

Eliud Birachi is a Market Economist at the International Center for Tropical Agriculture (CIAT), Kigali, Rwanda. Contact: e.birachi@cgiar.org

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Acronyms

CCAFS	CGIAR Research Program on Climate Change, Agriculture and Food Security
CIAT	International Center for Tropical Agriculture
RCSA	Rwanda Climate Services for Agriculture
RAB	Rwanda Agriculture Board
REMA	Rwanda Environment Management Authority
MINALOC	Ministry of Local Government
MINAGRI	Ministry of Agriculture and Animal Resources
MIDIMAR	Ministry of Disaster Risk Management
MINEDUC	Ministry of Education

Introduction

This report describes a half-day workshop that was held with climate scientists and experts in order to select pilot sites for the Rwanda Climate Services for Agriculture (RCSA) project first year's implementation. The workshop introduced the RCSA project to twelve participating experts on climate-related issues in the agriculture sector, and involved them in the process of selecting target districts for the first year of activities in the RCSA project.

Workshop Process

Climate Services for Agriculture project presentation

The Climate Services for Agriculture project was presented to participants. The presentation focused mainly on the four outcomes of the project, project's governance structure, activities by outcome for the first year of the project, time line, and monitoring and evaluation strategy. The purpose of the project is to increase the resilience of Rwandan farmers to the changing climate through improved climate risk management leading to an increase in agricultural productivity. The overall aim is to develop a fully functional and sustainable climate service that provides a range of information products and services to inform and support the various technical officers, policy and decision-makers within the Government of Rwanda (GOR), farmers, and others working in the agricultural sector in Rwanda. Ultimately, they will be able to make informed decisions and improve climate risk management in the face of a variable and changing climate. Instrumental to achieving this goal will be the development of a coherent institutional framework that includes clear roles and responsibilities and a mechanism for coordination among the relevant agencies of the GOR and other key stakeholders, which will sustain delivery and improvement of these services.

Participants gave their views and comments on the project. The discussion highlighted the need to align the institutions involved, and related initiatives. This is emphasized on Outcome 4: Climate Services Governance. An in-depth desk review should be done about the current institutions having mandates on climate issues in Rwanda. This will avoid duplication of efforts.

A participant suggested that the Ministry of Natural Resources (MINIRENA) and a representative of REMA should be in the advisory committee because REMA has the national mandate on climate change and climate related activities. The steering committee will operate at a higher level between all involved institutions focussing on advisory roles. Another argued that the “Twigire model” could enable the RCSA project will be more effective and sustainable. The project needs to provide the right information to deliver to agronomists and farmer promoters who in turn will deliver the information to farmers (this enables reaching as many farmers as possible). This information needs to be simplified and easily understandable by farmers. It was stated that there was no information about climate services provided to farmers through the national “Twigire model”.

A few other suggestions came out of the discussion: First, CIAT should write to the appropriate institutions asking for the nomination of project steering committee members. Second, sustainability of the project should be highly considered; the project team needs to provide up to date version of the project documents to Rwanda Meteorology Agency (Meteo Rwanda) and to all partners. Third there should be adequate budget to allow the implementation of all activities to the targeted number of farmers.

Pilot district selection

In order to achieve quick wins by September 2016, the site selection activity was done considering the following criteria: presence of development partners and NGOs, effective extension system, where climate issues are more prominent (easily affected region), farming diversity, strong farmer organisations (cooperatives, etc.), presence of related interventions, climate data and meteorological stations, and regional representativeness.

The *Twigire* model was suggested to be a better model to use to reach the targeted farmers and to ensure sustainability of the project. The project will therefore adopt this model. Next, for pilot sites selection, it was suggested to have districts from drought prone areas and districts from flood prone areas, which meet the above-mentioned criteria. Finally, four districts were selected: Kayonza, Nyanza, Burera and Ngororero (Fig. 1).

Figure 1 shows the map of Rwanda with highlighted pilot districts.



Source: <http://www.ambarwanda-paris.fr/images/stories/carte.jpg>

The way forward

Participants outlined the way forward. First, farmer and institutional needs assessment workshops will take place during the second week of March. Second, a list of potential participants for both farmers and institutions needs assessment will be developed soon after this meeting. Finally, participants agreed to start preparations for the Rwanda Climate Services for Agriculture project launch.

Conclusion

The workshop brought together the main partners for the Rwanda Climate Services for Agriculture project to identify pilot districts for the first project year, and discuss how to implement project activities effectively in those districts. The four pilot districts – Kayonza, Nyanza, Burera and Ngororero – were selected based on agreed criteria, with priority given to obtaining quick wins by end of the first year of the project. Representatives from the selected districts will participate in the coming climate services needs assessment workshops. It was

recommended that the RCSA project will be more effective and sustainable through the *Twigire Muhinzi* extension model. The project needs to provide the right information to deliver to agronomists and farmer promoters who in turn will deliver the information to as many farmers as possible. This information needs to be simplified and easily understandable by farmers.

Appendix 1: Workshop program

Time	Activity	Responsible
11:30 - 12:00	Registration	Gloriose
12:00 - 12:10	Introductions and opening remarks	Eliud
12:10 - 12:50	Presentation of the project to participants	Desire
12.50-13.00	Group photo	Gloriose
13:00 - 14:00	Lunch break	Gloriose
14:00 - 14:30	Feedback and discussions from the participants	Desire
14.30-15.30	Site selection activity	Desire
15:30 - 15:45	Way forward and concluding notes	Eliud
15.45-16.00	Break and departure	Gloriose

Appendix 2: Participants

Name	Position	Organization
Aimable Gahigi	Researcher in Agro-meteorology and Climate Change program	RAB
Bernard Musana	Researcher in Soil and Water Management program	RAB
Desire Kagabo	Senior Principal Research Fellow - Soil Conservation and Participatory Integrated Watershed Management	RAB
Didace Musoni	Division Manager	Meteo Rwanda
Eliud Birachi	Agroenterprise Marketing Specialist	CIAT
Faustin Munyazikwiye	Director of Climate Change and International Obligations	REMA
Gloriose Nsengiyumva	Rwanda Climate Services for Agriculture	CIAT
Ignace Kanyangira	Sectoral Decentralization Coordination Specialist	MINALOC
Innocent Bisangwa	Environment and Climate Change Specialist	MINAGRI
Jean Baptiste Nsengiyumva	Director of Risk Reduction and Preparedness	MIDIMAR
Jimmy Gasore	Climate Observatory Secretariat	MINEDUC
Moussa Senge	Twigire Muhinzi coordination team	RAB