Evidences

Study #2583

Contributing Projects:

- P266 - [Flagship Leader] FP4: Engagement, synthesis and support

Part I: Public communications

Type: OICR: Outcome Impact Case Report

Status: On-going

Year: 2018

Title: Participatory Integrated Climate Services for Agriculture (PICSA) methods and materials scale out to 17 countries, reaching 140,850 farmers in Africa, Latin America and Asia

Short outcome/impact statement:
CCAFS supported the development and scaling up of the PICSA approach through funding for methodology testing and innovation, development of the PICSA Field Guide, resource mobilization, and project implementation. Through CCAFS and other University of Reading partnerships, PICSA has been scaled out to 17 countries in Africa, Latin America and Asia reaching 140,850 farmers and more than 2,000 intermediaries.

Outcome story for communications use:
"From my experience, if the climate continues to change as it does now, this will make things harder for us. The training helped us to understand things we did not understand before, and also to know how to plant to avoid loss. We hope that other farmers are trained, and in this way they can adapt themselves to the climate change" (1).

This Haitian farmer is one of the 140,850 farmers around the world who have participated in a process developed by the University of Reading in partnership with CCAFS. Participatory Integrated Climate Services for Agriculture (PICSA) is a participatory climate service extension process that combines historical climate data and forecasts with farmers' knowledge, and uses participatory planning methods to help them make informed decisions about their agricultural practices (2).

"I can say [the PICSA process] has influenced my yield because if I still planted local maize last season, I would not have been speaking of one bag that I harvested" (Malawian farmer) (3).

Following initial work in Zimbabwe funded by Nuffield Africa, CCAFS has partnered with University of Reading to develop and implement PICSA, including developing the PICSA Field Manual (training materials) launched in 2015, several enhancements to the PICSA process, pilot demonstrations, progress in scaling, and evidence of its effectiveness. The PICSA manual is available in five languages (English, Spanish, French, Kinyarwanda, and Bengali). PICSA has been integrated into six CCAFS projects in 11 countries in Africa (Rwanda, Ghana, Mali, Senegal, Tanzania, Malawi), Latin America (Colombia, Honduras, Nicaragua, Guatemala) and South Asia (Bangladesh). Through other University of Reading partnerships, the PICSA approach has been scaled out to additional countries (Lesotho, Haiti, Guyana, Zimbabwe, Niger, and Kenya), and further expanded in Tanzania and Malawi.

Through PICSA, CCAFS has contributed to the capacity of numerous organizations to support farmers' access to climate information and risk management decisions. This work has trained more than 2,000 intermediaries from Ministries of Agriculture, National Meteorological Services, NGOs, producer organizations, local government, universities, and Local Technical Agro-Climatic Committees; and strengthened the capacity of the national extension services of Rwanda, Ghana, Senegal, and Bangladesh. The evidence available so far indicates that the great majority farmers who participate in PICSA adjust their agricultural practices in response, and percieve a range of livelihood and social benefits.

1) http://blogs.ifas.ufl.edu/ufifasglobal/2019/03/06/haitian-farmers-learning-ways-to-manage-climate-risks/

2) https://research.reading.ac.uk/picsa/

3) https://hdl.handle.net/10568/100218

Links to any communications materials relating to this outcome:

- https://guyanachronicle.com/2017/05/16/guyana-to-tap-assistance-in-climate-agriculture
- https://ccafs.cgiar.org/blog/how-explain-climate-information-farmers#.XIqS-S3Myi4
- http://www.gy.undp.org/content/guyana/en/home/presscenter/articles/2018/Women_In_Disaster_Risk_Management_Agriculture.html
- https://ccafs.cgiar.org/news/new-partnerships-launched-bolster-climate-services-rwanda#.XIqR8S3Myi4
- https://tinyurl.com/y4sub2ge
- https://ccafs.cgiar.org/es/blog/procesos-sostenibles-en-manos-de-actores-locales-0#.XIqTEy3Myi5
- http://agriculture.gov.gy/2017/05/16/picsa-workshop-underway-guyana-identified-as-pilot-country-for-caribbean/

Part II: CGIAR system level reporting

Link to Common Results Reporting Indicator of Policies : No

Stage of maturity of change reported: Stage 3

Links to the Strategic Results Framework:

Sub-IDOs:

- Gender-equitable control of productive assets and resources
- Enhanced capacity to deal with climatic risks and extremes (Mitigation and adaptation achieved)

Is this OICR linked to some SRF 2022/2030 target?: Yes

SRF 2022/2030 targets:

- # of more farm households have adopted improved varieties, breeds or trees

Description of activity / study: <Not Defined>

Geographic scope:

- Multi-national

Country(ies):
- Zimbabwe
- Mali
- Rwanda
- Malawi
- Nicaragua
- Haiti
- Tanzania, United Republic
- Bangladesh
- Guatemala
- Honduras
- Niger
- Lesotho
- Senegal
- Guyana
- Colombia
- Kenya
- Ghana

Comments: <Not Defined>

Key Contributors:

Contributing CRPs/Platforms:
- CCAFS - Climate Change, Agriculture and Food Security

Contributing Flagships:
- FP4: Climate services and safety nets
- FP1: Priorities and Policies for CSA

Contributing Regional programs:
- EA: East Africa
- SAs: South Asia
- WA: West Africa
- LAM: Latin America

Contributing external partners:
- University of Reading

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

PICSA is a participatory climate service extension approach, developed by researchers at the University of Reading, that combines historical climate data and forecasts with farmers' knowledge, and then uses participatory planning methods to help them make informed decisions about their agricultural practices. Following initial funding by Nuffield Africa in Zimbabwe, in partnership with the University of Reading, CCAFS supported the development of PICSA, its training materials, several enhancements, pilot demonstrations, progress in scaling, and evidence of its effectiveness.

Innovations:
- 417 - Participatory Integrated Climate Services for Agriculture (PICSA) (https://marlo.cgiar.org/summaries/CCAFS/projectInnovationSummary.do?innovationID=417&phaseID=294)

Elaboration of Outcome/Impact Statement:
The PICSA approach (1) to climate services and extension has been scaled out through CCAFS and the University of Reading (UoR)'s other partnerships to 17 countries in Africa, Latin America, and Asia. PICSA has been integrated in six CCAFS projects in 11 countries, reaching 129,593 farmers to make better-informed agricultural decisions. These countries are: Rwanda (2), Ghana, Mali, Senegal (3), Tanzania, Malawi (4), Colombia, Honduras, Nicaragua, Guatemala (5, 6, 7), and Bangladesh (8).

Through other UoR partnerships, the PICSA approach has also reached Lesotho (9), Haiti (10), Guyana (11), Kenya, Zimbabwe, and Niger (1) with expanded work in Tanzania and Malawi (12). Beyond CCAFS, projects using PICSA have been implemented by WFP, UNDP, IFAD, the University of Florida, and the Caribbean Institute for Meteorology & Hydrology, including with funding provided by USAID, the Government of Japan, UNDP, IFAD, NORAD, the Green Climate Fund, and The Nature Conservancy.

Through PICSA, CCAFS has contributed to the capacity of numerous organizations to support farmers' access to climate information and risk management decisions, including through the training of over 2,000 intermediaries. PICSA implementation helps men and women farmers adapt agricultural practices based on improved climate information. Evaluations of PICSA in Malawi and Tanzania (13), Ghana (14), Senegal and Mali (15), and Rwanda (16) show that most participating farmers adjust their management practices in response, perceive a range of livelihood and social benefits, and share the information with their peers.

Starting in 2012, Flagship 1 provided support for PICSA development as the researchers tested and refined the methodology. Activities funded included training and capacity building of staff and farmers in 5 countries (Zimbabwe, Ghana, Ethiopia, Niger and Tanzania) over several years that aided in PICSA development through design, implementation and reflection.

Following a workshop that reviewed available climate service extension approaches, Flagship 4 decided to adapt PICSA for its work in with the GFCS Adaptation Program in Africa, in Tanzania and Malawi. Flagship 4 supported the University of Reading to produce the PICSA Field Manual (17), launched in October 2015, that has since been translated into 5 languages and used in 14 countries. Flagship 4 engagement and support strengthened and expanded PICSA: introducing Planning and Review Days in Tanzania and Malawi (in partnership with WFP) (19); and in Rwanda integrating Radio Listening Clubs with PICSA (18), and using Meteo-Rwanda's gridded data and online Maprooms to provide analyses and graphs for any location (2).

References cited:

1) PICSA website: https://research.reading.ac.uk/picsa/
2) Rwanda USAID donor report: https://pdf.usaid.gov/pdf_docs/PA00TJRH.pdf
3) Cascaid project page:
https://ccafs.cgiar.org/building-climate-risk-management-capacity-west-africa#.XIqfiC3Myi4
4) GFCS project information:
https://ccafs.cgiar.org/building-climate-services-ground-tanzania-and-malawi#.XI_mgy3Mx-U
5) Agroclimas: https://ccafs.cgiar.org/blog/how-explain-climate-information-farmers#.XIqlRi3Myi6
6) Agroclimas:
https://ccafs.cgiar.org/es/blog/procesos-sostenibles-en-manos-de-actores-locales-0#.XIqTEy3Myi5
7) Ortega LA, Paz L, Giraldo D, Cadena M. 2018. Implementación de Servicios Integrados Participativos de Clima para la Agricultura (PICSA) en el TESAC – Cauca Colombia.
https://hdl.handle.net/10568/93424
8) CSRD Bangladesh Annual Report: https://hdl.handle.net/10568/99276
9) Lesotho: https://operations.ifad.org/documents/654016/39abc216-9b1a-4f3f-9451-22a442ab4ab9
10) Haiti:
http://blogs.ifas.ufl.edu/ufifasglobal/2019/03/06/haitian-farmers-learning-ways-to-manage-climate-risks/
11) Guyana: https://guyanachronicle.com/2017/05/16/guyana-to-tap-assistance-in-climate-agriculture
12) GFCS2: Email from Graham Clarkson to Jim Hansen:
https://cgiar.sharepoint.com/:b:/s/CCAFS/ERGDkKSnlYhBv5RZVa5QX0MB6VLfIvUqOwyICKtuqfnQWQ?e=rzu6sY
13) Evaluation of Climate Services Interventions in the GFCS Adaptation Programme for Africa:
https://www.wmo.int/gfcs/sites/default/files/projects/Climate%20Services%20Adaptation%20Programme%20in%20Africa%20-%20Building%20Resilience%20in%20Disaster%20Risk%20Management%2C%20Food%20Security%20and%20Health//Final%20report_1%20Nov%202017.pdf
14) An investigation of the effects of PICSA on smallholder farmers' decision-making and livelihoods when implemented at large scale – the case of Northern Ghana: http://centaur.reading.ac.uk/82121/
15) Assessment of the use of Participatory Integrated Climate Services for Agriculture (PICSA) approach by farmers to manage climate risk in Mali and Senegal: https://hdl.handle.net/10568/96995
16) Clarkson G, Dorward P, Kagabo DM, Nsengiyumva G. 2017. Climate Services for Agriculture in Rwanda: Initial findings from PICSA monitoring and evaluation. CCAFS Info Note.
https://hdl.handle.net/10568/89122
17) Dorward P, Clarkson G, Stern R. 2015. Participatory Integrated Climate Services for Agriculture (PICSA): Field Manual. Walker Institute, University of Reading. https://hdl.handle.net/10568/68687
18) Climate Services for Agriculture: Empowering Farmers to Manage Risk and Adapt to a Changing Climate in Rwanda, Quarterly Report, October – December 2018,
https://pdf.usaid.gov/pdf_docs/PA00TJRG.pdf
19)Hansen J, Fara K, Milliken K, Boyce C, Chang'a L, Allis E. 2018. Strengthening climate services for the food security sector. WMO Bulletin 67(2):20-26. https://hdl.handle.net/10568/100218

Quantification: <Not Defined>

Gender, Youth, Capacity Development and Climate Change:
Gender relevance: 1 - Significant
Main achievements with specific **Gender** relevance: PICSA implementation helps men and women farmers adapt agricultural practices based on improved climate information.
Youth relevance: 0 - Not Targeted
CapDev relevance: 2 - Principal
Main achievements with specific **CapDev** relevance: This work has trained more than 2,000 intermediaries from Ministries of Agriculture, National Meteorological Services, NGOs, producer organizations, local government, universities, and Local Technical Agro-Climatic Committees; and strengthened the capacity of the national extension services of Rwanda, Ghana, Senegal, and Bangladesh and reached 140,850 farmers to help them make informed decisions about their agricultural practices.
Climate Change relevance: 1 - Significant
Describe main achievements with specific **Climate Change** relevance: Through PICSA, CCAFS has supported farmers' access to climate information and risk management decisions.

Other cross-cutting dimensions: Yes

Other cross-cutting dimensions description: Evaluations of PICSA have included gender disaggregated data to explore equity dimensions of climate information.

Outcome Impact Case Report link: Study #2583

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