CGIAR
INITIATIVE ON
Diversification in East and Southern Africa

The 2023 CGIAR Ukama Ustawi Research Initiative *Pause and Reflect* Event at Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

6-8 February 2024



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ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS

ACASA	Accelerating the Impacts of CGIAR Climate Research in Africa
ACC	Agricultural Commercialization Cluster
ACTN	African Conservation Tillage Network
AICCRA	Accelerating Impacts of CGIAR Climate Research for Africa
BMGF	Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation
CA	Conservation Agriculture
CCARDESA	The Centre for Coordination of Agricultural Research and Development for Southern Africa
CFSA	Climate and Food Systems Accelerator
CIAT	International Center for Tropical Agriculture
CIMMYT	International Maize and Wheat Improvement Center
CoS	Community of Spirit
CSA	Climate Smart Agriculture
EAC	East African Community
EOIO	End of Initiative Outcome
ESA	East and Southern Africa
ESG	Environmental Social Governance
GALS	Gender Action Learning System
GIS	Geographic Information System
GSI	Global Systems Initiative
IITA	International Institute of Tropical Agriculture
ILRI	International Livestock Research Institute
IWMI	International Water Management Institute
KALRO	Agricultural and Livestock Research Organization, Kenya
MMO	Munda Makeover
MoA	Ministry of Agriculture
NARES	National Agricultural Research Extension Services
NDC	National Determined Contributions
PABRA	Pan-Africa Bean Research Alliance
RIIs	Regional Integrated Initiatives
SADC	Southern African Development Community
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
UU	Ukama Ustawi initiative
WFP	World Food Program
WPs	Work packages of UU

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1. BACKGROUND

Ukama Ustawi: Diversification for Resilient Agribusiness Ecosystems in East and Southern Africa

East and Southern Africa (ESA) is a climate hotspot, with more than US$45 billion in agricultural production at risk from higher temperatures, shorter growing seasons, and more extreme droughts and floods. Maize, a staple crop covering up to 75% of cropland in parts of the region, is particularly vulnerable, projected to face yield declines of 15%, among other climate impacts. Many of the affected areas already have serious levels of hunger and malnutrition, with the highest burden experienced by women and youth from marginalized, vulnerable communities.

The current decade is critical for strengthening food, land, and water systems in ESA. The region's agribusiness ecosystem has been identified as a crucial engine for agricultural and economic development, climate change adaptation, and gender and youth empowerment. Investment in innovation, capabilities, and supportive environments is essential for driving sustainable growth.

Ukama Ustawi (UU) is currently supporting climate-resilient agricultural livelihoods and agribusiness ecosystems in 12 East and Southern African countries to help millions of vulnerable smallholder farmers transition from maize-mixed systems to sustainably intensified, diversified, and de-risked agrifood systems.

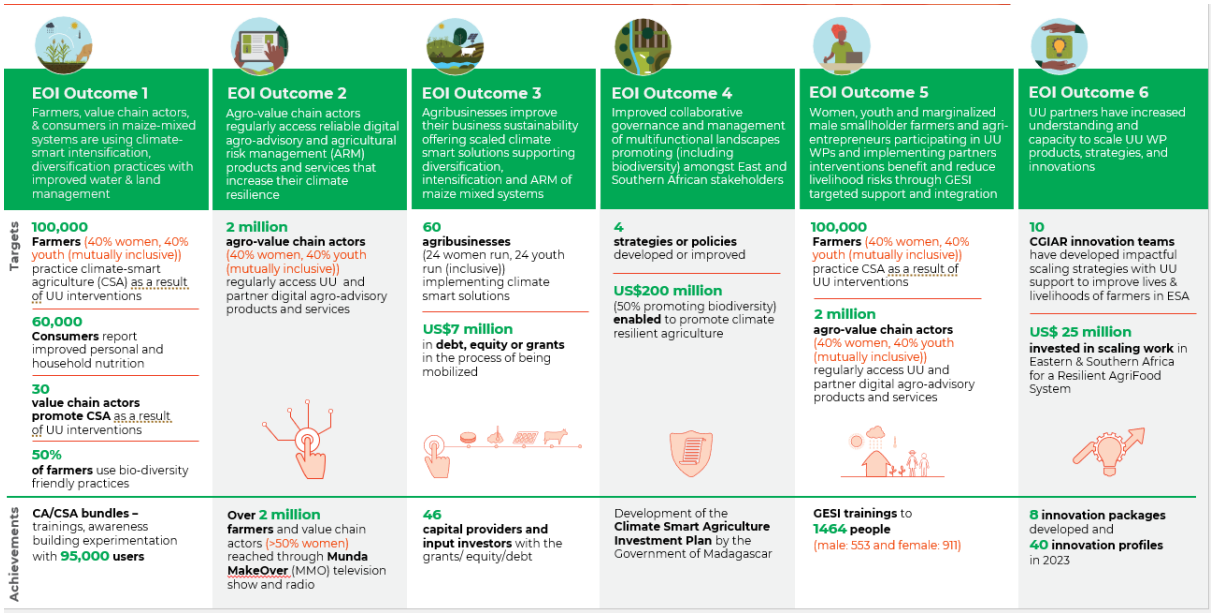


Figure 1: Ukama Ustawi (End of Initiative Outcome) EOIO's

A critical delivery mechanism is UU's large network of partners consisting of farmers, NARES, government agencies at all levels, research institutions, the private sector, non-governmental organizations, and regional organizations. The UU Community of Spirit (UU CoS) was designed to:

- Engage and align: The creation of more synergies between work packages; better coordination of work across the different work packages and synergetic and efficient delivery of the Initiative
- Strengthening relationships and collaboration: Intentionally build team spirit and interaction across work packages to create foundations for strong working relationships.
- Information and knowledge sharing: Understanding respective technical capacities and interests of the UU community.
- Build leadership capacity: Empowering young researchers, especially women, to grow in their roles and develop their expertise so they are developed to become senior researchers and work package leads in the future.

Since its inception in 2021, the UU leadership team has drawn on and fed back into the UU CoS. A critical part of this has been the adaptive management mechanisms in the CGIAR, Pause and Reflect. The first Pause and

Reflect was held in 2023, reflecting on 2022, and the second in 2024, reflecting on 2023, each with about 100 participants from across the region. This report presents the second event.

2. Ukama Ustawi 2023 PAUSE AND REFLECT

The Ukama Ustawi's (UU's) 2023 Pause and Reflect was held from the 6th to the 8th of February 2024, at the International Livestock Research Institute (ILRI) Campus, in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

As per the CGIAR Guidelines, the Pause and Reflect allows the UU CoS to reflect on the accomplishments in 2023 and the challenges, so as to improve and plan accordingly for 2024. UU had also received a large amount of funding from the New Zealand Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade (MFAT) prior to the event which meant re-planning and adjustments were necessary.

Pause and Reflect Week Approach

The UU Pause and Reflect Week was planned in line with the CGIAR Pause and Reflect guidelines and the needs of the initiative. To achieve the below outlined objectives:

1. Reconnect as a Community of Spirit and introduce new team members
2. Recapitulate UU in 2023
3. Follow up on 2022 kick-off resolutions (communications strategy and data management)
4. Critical reflect on UU in 2023
    a. Past performance
    b. Changes in context
    c. Changes in outlook
5. Re-plan for 2024
    a. Priorities
    b. Reassign roles and responsibilities
    c. Processes
    d. Risks
    e. Budget
6. Clarify roadmap and 2024 implementation

The leadership team met for five days and invited the UU CoS to join for three days at the International Livestock Research Institute (ILRI) Campus, in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. In total about 100 people met during the week. Since UU functions through the CoS, a relatively large weeklong Pause and Reflect was felt core to the success of the Initiative.

While there was an agenda and defined desired outputs, generally, the atmosphere in UU is cordial, fun, respectful and allows for open, uninhibited, and critical discussions.

The program started with two days reflect sessions, followed by three days of planning as outlined in Annex 1: Program.

3. Day 1 (6 February 2024)

3.1. WELCOME

Following her introduction by Dr. Inga Jacobs-Mata (IWMI), UU Lead and Executive for Water-Growth and Inclusion, Dr Namukolo Covic (ILRI), Director General's Representative in Ethiopia made a welcoming statement to the participants of the Ukama Ustawi Pause and Reflect 2023, and congratulated the UU team leads for the achievements of the initiative. In her welcoming remark, Dr. Covic encouraged meaningful dialogue and the forging of new connections, emphasizing the collective responsibility to advance sustainable development and success.

Following the welcoming remark, Dr Maya Rajasekharan (Alliance Bioversity-CIAT), Senior Director for Integrated Systems and Scaling for the CGIAR and leader for the six Regional Integrated Initiatives (RIIs), officially opened the Ukama Ustawi Pause and Reflect 2023. In her opening remarks, Dr. Rajasekharan emphasized the importance of regional initiatives within the CGIAR portfolio. She highlighted three key points: firstly, the significance of connecting various components of the food system and innovations within regions; secondly, the challenge of delivering and scaling innovations effectively; and thirdly, the need for rigorous prioritization to maximize impact given limited resources.

Dr. Rajasekharan commended the exemplary work of the UU team in Eastern and Southern Africa (ESA) and encouraged continued engagement and strategic thinking amidst uncertainties regarding the upcoming Portfolio 2025. She assured support for regional initiatives and urged teams to focus on evidence-based prioritization, engagement with stakeholders, and maintaining resilience in the face of change.

3.2. ICE BREAKER: PLAYFUL SOLUTIONS

The ice breaker (Figure 2) was an opportunity for all participants to pause and connect to stimulate motivation, actively explore collaboration opportunities, and foster the exchange of valuable feedback. Find the Playful Solutions report here: Ukama Ustawi - East and Southern Africa RII - IWMI GAME Report.



Figure 2: Icebreaker exercise (Source: Playful Solutions)

3.3. THE UU OVERVIEW: HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE 2023 PRESENTATION

The presentation provided an overview of UU highlights from 2023 and was presented by the UU leadership team. The overview incorporated the purpose of UU: Diversify and sustainably intensify maize-mixed system for climate resilience and nutrition in ESA; The UU Approach in a Nutshell; and the EOI outcomes. The progress of every work package (WP) for 2023 was provided. Additionally, some key lessons learned were presented.

Ukama Ustawi strategically aligns itself with major bilateral scaling projects, leveraging synergies and fostering collaboration to enhance its impact.

3.3.1. Highlights of 2023 and plans for 2024

The WPs delivered a detailed overview of highlights from 2023 and their plan for the year 2024.

The UU overview highlights from the 2023 Presentation are available here.

Following the presentations, participants forwarded their comments and questions which are captured below.

Comments, reflections and questions

- As an external partner, it is so exciting to see what you guys have done. In terms of monitoring and reporting, we just went through our CGIAR reporting. It is phenomenal when you see all the data coming together, what you achieved is remarkable. I hope you are super proud of yourselves.
- As a partner we work with a lot of initiatives, and we see UU being at the forefront in terms of the state of innovation. You are willing to take risks and try new things.
- How are we showing leverage to bilateral projects?
    - There's a climate-smart agriculture investment plan that's been developed for Madagascar, and that's being used to inform the Food Systems Resilience Program.
- How are we aligning our priorities with funders so we can access funding for our partners from the billions of adaptation funds pledged to countries in the region?
    - The WP2 team are trying to align the finances with what they do, with the World Bank Food System Resilience program.
    - We are working to support green climate plan projects, and I think that's a big opportunity. And so, some are actively being worked on right now, for example, a $50 million project in Uganda, another one in Tanzania and Kenya.

Following the presentations, a group photo session[1], and networking event took place.

3.4. ROLE OF RIIS IN LINKING CGIAR SCIENCE AND IMPACT IN REGIONS

This session was presented by Dr. Evan Girvetz (Alliance Bioversity-CIAT), UU Initiative Co-Lead, Principal Scientist and Global Program Leader. The presentation covered significant achievements across the six EoI outcomes showcasing the positive transformations instigated by the Initiative.

The full presentation on Progress towards End of Initiative Outcomes can be accessed here.

3.5. WORLD CAFE: CROSS-WP COLLABORATION FOR 2024

The World Café session was held with five breakout sessions (organized by End of Initiative Outcome (EOIO) to discuss how WPs can further collaborate for 2024 through two themes to ensure UU meets the EOIOs. The two themes were:

1. How can we tell the story of EOIOs achievement?

[1] The group photo was used on the cover to this publication.

2. Wat activities can we do together?

3.5.1. Group 1: End of Initiative Outcomes 1 and 6

Facilitators: Dr. Christian Thierfelder (CIMMYT) and Mr. Chris Hurt (ILRI) (WPs 1 & 6)

1. **How can we tell the story of the EOIO's achievement?**
   Aimed at reaching 100,000 farmers (40% women, 40% youth, mutually inclusive) practice CSA to those associated with UU and utilizing UU technologies. Strategies involve demonstrating financial gains, understanding farmer needs, enhancing tracking, promoting cooperatives, clear communication, diverse outreach channels, and bundling innovations for widespread and sustainable agricultural adoption, aiming to maximize impact and sustainability.

2. **What activities can we do together?**
   Innovation workshops have proven successful, showcasing specific stories and bundled innovations from WP1-6 and Global Systems Initiatives (GSIs). Through thorough network analysis and partnership exploration, delivery mechanisms aligned with stakeholder preferences have been developed. Scaling approaches, including failure documentation for improvement, ensure ongoing success and sustainability.

3.5.2. Group 2: End of Initiative Outcome 2

Facilitators: Dr. Blessing Mhlanga (CIMMYT) and Mr. Pedro Chilambe (Alliance Bioversity-CIAT)) (WPs 1 & 2)

1. **How can we tell the story of the EOIO's achievement?**
   Letting farmers who practice climate–smart agriculture (CSA) get access to finance to increase yields. Prioritizing strategy, developing risk transfer mechanisms, and Capturing farmers' experiences who access good agricultural practices, agro-advisory services, and financial tools to intensify production.

2. **What activities can we do together?**
   Localized digital agro-advisories aid smallholder farmers, supported by financing for mechanization services and modern farming practices adoption. WP1 groups receive CSA and financial risk management training, empowering sustainable farming. Entrepreneurial skill development and flood/crop mapping enhance water management, while collateral diversification and index-insurance linkages facilitate credit opportunities for CSA/CA practitioners.

3.5.3. Group 3: End of Initiative Outcome 3

Facilitators: Mr. Hauke Dahl (IWMI) and Dr. Iddo Dror (ILRI) (WPs 3 & 6)

1. **How can we tell the story of the EOIO's achievement?**
   Facilitating science expertise, scaling CGIAR research, including climate risk in agribusiness assessment, and informing investment decisions through science-based evidence.

2. **What activities can we do together?**
   Collaboration across WPs amplifies climate-smart agriculture impact. Livestock and Climate Initiative teams merge with Agthrive and Global Livestock Advocacy, enhancing Livestock Systems expertise. WP5 integrates Rallying Cry into GESI TA, fostering peer networks. WP4 includes climate risk assessments for agribusiness value chains. WP6 identifies accelerator groups for shared learning, maximizing sustainable agriculture impact.

3.5.4. Group 4: End of Initiative Outcome 4

Facilitators: Dr. Evan Girvetz (Alliance Bioversity-CIAT) and Dr. Idil Ires (IWMI) (WPs 2 & 4)

1. **How can we tell the story of the EOIO's achievement?**
   Effective communication of policy impact involves storytelling tailored to diverse political parties, emphasizing direct benefits to farmers. Engaging Members of Parliament and utilizing digital platforms expand outreach beyond traditional television. Tailored communication methods for stakeholders, while leveraging policy champions, ensuring effective policy communication, and maintaining a clear separation between policies and politics.

2. **What activities can we do together?**
   Policy financing spans sectors such as seed, food security, mechanization, and drought planning, alongside UU's contributions to digital finance and farmer support programs. Utilizing television for non-political impact communication, and collaborations with major initiatives ensures alignment with thematic priorities, scalability, and risk management. National Determined Contribution (NDC) Capacity Scorecard informs future climate commitments.

Group 5: End of Initiative Outcome 5
Facilitators: Dr. Boaz Waswa (Alliance Bioversity-CIAT) and Dr. Karen Nortje (IWMI) (WPs 1 & 5)

1. **How can we tell the story of the EOIO's achievement?**
   In WP1, agricultural technology's value emphasizes diversification, with attention to gender roles. Sharing information beyond project boundaries and collaborating with WP3 to engage youth is crucial. Addressing gender disparities, boosting women's confidence through targeted services, and amplifying their voices promote agricultural innovation and participation, supported by WP2 and WP4 collaborations.

2. **What activities can we do together?**
   GALS Capacity building tackles gender issues in farming communities, intensifying gender training in Kenya and linking activities across countries. It addresses financial literacy, social norms, and gender-based violence, targeting gatekeepers. Income generation strategies and collaboration on gender issues are emphasized, along with youth inclusion through cooperatives and knowledge-sharing platforms.

3.6. GROUP FEEDBACK SESSION

Ms. Nora Hanke-Louw (IWMI) presented a group feedback session survey aimed at understanding partners' involvement with CGIAR and UU in particular. Partners were asked to fill out the survey, highlighting their level of engagement with UU and the impact of UU in their organizations.

The results for the UU Partner Survey:

https://forms.office.com/Pages/AnalysisPage.aspx?AnalyzerToken=oNn08inCazd2m0OxOB4FvgX3PfFlplrc&id=AA76ahT6t0CKLiKn-MNX1eWs7xa_vxREpApxSgkFf01UM05EWTlEQjdQTDBXRVFFUk41Vzg3M0NIOC4u

4. Day 2 (February 7, 2024)

4.1. OPENING REMARKS

Day two of the UU Pause and Reflect 2023 was opened by Dr Harold Roy-Macauley, CGIAR Managing Director, Regions and Partnerships. In his opening remarks, Dr Roy-Macauley commended UU for its significant achievements since its launch in 2023. He emphasized the importance of ongoing stakeholder engagement, resource leveraging, and local scientific anchoring to drive meaningful change and urged alignment with CGIAR's new vision, advocating for collaboration, technological innovation, and climate adaptation efforts. Additionally, Dr Roy-Macauley highlighted the necessity of enhancing resource capacity and encouraged deep reflection during the workshop to align with CGIAR's 2030 Strategy, aiming for impactful outcomes to enhance CGIAR's science solutions for partners and stakeholders.

4.2. WORKING IN PARTNERSHIPS TO TRANSFORM FOOD SYSTEMS

Dr Inga Jacobs-Mata (IWMI) moderated a panel discussion held with partners to discuss; i) the most significant areas for partnerships; ii) how each panelist organization is engaging with the UU; iii) how CGIAR can better align to support their needs; and iv) whether the panelist has a reporting system that other organizations can use.

Panelists included:

- **Purity Njambi Mugo:** Agri-Investment Analyst - Kenya IFDC
- **Mulundu Mwila:** Farming system Agronomist - Zambian Agriculture Research Institute (ZARI)
- **AnnRita Njiru:** Business Growth Strategist - The Rallying Cry
- **Telvin Denje:** African Group of Negotiation Experts Support (AGNES)
- **Bridget Kakuwa**: Centre for Coordination of Agricultural Research and Development for Southern Africa (CCARDESA)

Purity Njambi Mugo: Agri-Investment Analyst - Kenya IFDC

We did a great job in partnership and raised more than 11 million USD in the year 2023 for the UU-supported agribusinesses. We were able to connect and work with four partners to raise funds and distribute them to the beneficiaries. We can link private investors with the agribusiness. Climate change and social responsibilities are some of the issues we use to link and attract private investors.

Mulundu Mwila: Farming system Agronomist - Zambian Agriculture Research Institute (ZARI)

Capacity building of CGIAR centers and public institutions. Core planning is the most important by declaring the intent of each sector and setting goals and the creation of a common platform.

AnnRita Njiru: Business Growth Strategist - The Rallying Cry

The Rallying Cry ecosystem initiative focuses on gender and climate. We focus on social inclusion and use various strategies to include the voices of marginalized women and youths. We effectively integrated our program starting from planning. With GESI strategy we say all researchers have to embrace the GESI strategy. How to do it is a challenge because most of them do not know how. We changed the view on the beneficiaries; we called them accelerated partners or Solutionaries. We are looking at them as co-creators.

Telvin Denje: African Group of Negotiation Experts Support (AGNES)

AGNES is an expert group and think tank that plays a crucial role in shaping policies for governments, particularly in the agricultural sector, by integrating scientific insights. The group not only aids in policy creation but actively supports the implementation of these policies. Their approach is tailored to align with a country's

priorities in a practical and testable manner. AGNES is actively involved in supporting African negotiators on the international stage, representing the continent's interests. AGNES generates valuable information, structures it into policy frameworks, and assists in the practical application of these policies. They emphasize collaboration with policymakers, providing in-depth analyses and assessments to equip them with efficient knowledge for informed decision-making.

To engage with governments, AGNES strategically approaches existing structures. For instance, when dealing with a country's parliament, they target relevant committees, such as the agricultural committee, which holds the mandate for agricultural affairs. This targeted approach ensures the effectiveness of their interventions. AGNES stands as a key player bridging science, policy, and implementation, particularly in the agricultural domain.

Bridget Kakuwa: Centre for Coordination of Agricultural Research and Development for Southern Africa (CCARDESA)

CCARDESA is the center of coordination agriculture, research, and development in southern Africa and a subsidiary of SADC where we coordinate 16 member states. We just signed a contract with UU. CCARDESA is serving as a stop center in the region, over a thousand pieces of research and knowledge found on our website. We developed a knowledge management center back in 2021.

Learning Alliance - we developed the African knowledge management agriculture framework in 2022 which started as a declaration and it was signed. The Learning Alliance is a consortium to share information, knowledge, and resources. We identified the gap around information and knowledge sharing. We also train scientists, leverage different projects and bring different stakeholders together.

4.3. WORLD CAFÉ: COUNTRY COORDINATION

The country coordination world café was held aiming to learn about the country's priorities, align UU activities, and plan accordingly. This session enables the initiative to reach smallholder farmers with impactful projects to support them in overcoming challenges related to food security, gender inclusivity, and technological support. Participants were grouped and placed into five rooms where there were two main focus areas of discussion:

1. What are the in-country activities for UU in 2024?
2. What activities are possible with other ESA countries?

Group 1 & 2: Konso Room - Kenya & Zambia

Kenya: Dr. Evan Girvetz (Alliance Bioversity-CIAT) and Dr. Boaz Waswa (Alliance Bioversity-CIAT)

1. What are the in-country activities for UU in 2024?

	In-country activities for 2024
WP1	Involves collaborative efforts between KALRO, CGA, and ACTN, focusing on learning sites.
WP2	Integrate financial literacy and nutrition information into programs like Shamba Shape Up. Usiku Games Shamba Showdown and Risk Contingent Credit from Family Bank and Equity Bank are implemented to support farmers.
WP3	Food Systems Accelerator Program, with support for selected countries and follow-up for funding. Livestock inclusion in the program is under consideration.
WP4	Involves policy analysis on climate impacts on agriculture, joint events with NPS for EAC policies, technical assistance for CFSA, and initiatives like the AGNES NDC scorecard pilot implementation in Kenya.
WP5	WorldFish

WP6	Focuses on advancing innovation packages in Kenya, setting up a Scaling Hub in Nairobi, supporting Scaling Fund winners, and promoting initiatives using IPSR and UU learning, including a scaling week in Kenya.

2. What activities are possible with other ESA countries?

- Awash Bank Ethiopia
- iShamba concept taken to Zambia
- Collaboration with CIMMYT mechanization Southern Africa with Kenya and ACTN
- Kenya PABRA nutrition training being taken to other UU countries
- NDC capacity scorecard

Zambia: Dr. David Chikoye (IITA) and Mr. Pedro Chilambe (Alliance Bioversity-CIAT)

1. What are the in-country activities for UU in 2024?

	In-country activities for 2024
WP1	Focuses on agronomy, mechanization, and social economics in agriculture, organizing farmer field days, supporting mechanization, conducting surveys on mother and baby trials, and assessing technology profitability as well as publishing materials on suitable mechanization scales for smallholder farmers.
WP2	Agriculture Risk Management (Risk insurance flood including community interaction, capacity building, climate credit scoring, mechanization & irrigation finance, WFP, Drought management system, crop monitor) Agro-advisory (Radio with WP1, MMO, Climate literacy, Financial literacy, Pest and disease advisory, E-Extension system, agro-advisories to insurance beneficiaries) Impact assessment MMO (Roadshows, access and adoption of inputs, practices and services), mapping the drivers of aflatoxin in Maize. Focuses on Agriculture Risk Management, Agro-advisory utilization of radio broadcasts in collaboration with WP, impact Assessment by MMO, and conducting roadshows.
WP3	Contribution to Cohort 2, applicants from Zambia to be screened, Agdrive 2024 SADC. Experimental design for increasing shelf life of non-timber forest products with forest Zambia.
WP4	Mechanization strategy, Learning Alliances.
WP5	Gender segments on MMO, Training of the MMO Staff, Mechanization and agronomy work (integration of GESI), finalizing the GESI capacity assessment and development strategy, and toolkit for agribusinesses.
WP6	ACASA scaling strategies and policy briefs, innovation workshops, and packaging innovations in Zambia.

2. What activities are possible with other ESA countries?

- Tanzania, Malawi – Women in business (Poultry) venture 37, link to MMO as a partner, agro-advisory acclimate tools – AID-I.
- Zimbabwe – Scaling and policy work WP6 – ACASA.
- Kenya and SADC Agdata hub which can support – AICCRA.

- Malawi and Eswatini: Climate-smart governance dashboard awareness. Humanitarian partners World Vision, Red Cross, Facilitation for the NDC score card, collaborate with WP4, WP2, AGNES, CCARDESA and Climber.
- Ethiopia, Kenya Climate credit scoring and link with Risk contingent credit and agro-advisories Climber and LCSR.

Group 3 & 4: Azage Room - Zimbabwe & Malawi

Zimbabwe: Dr. Christian Thierfelder (CIMMYT) and Dr. Ojong Baa (IWMI)

1. What are the in-country activities for UU in 2024?

	In-country activities for 2024
WP1	Trials mostly on conservation agriculture (CA), crop diversification and improved agronomy, some fodder and livestock feeding trials and demo programs in (Murehwa and Madziwa), registering/ formulating feeds with Ministry of Agriculture for livestock, conducting field days using service providers (entrepreneurs) with access to types of machinery and training them to provide services to farmers. Pilots on irrigation in Makonde and Masvingo, sensitization program to promote sweet potato variety through PABRA, conducting socio-economic work, assessing research on mechanization business models, and conduct research on nutrition and diversification/extension models.
WP5	To support the mechanization technology team (WP1) to do a survey and feedback on how to build capacity for women/youth farmers (gender-friendly mechanization)

2. What activities are possible with other ESA countries?

	Possible activities with other ESA countries
WP1	Seeing the potential for mechanization (service provider models) and irrigation; activities can be transferred in Malawi and Zambia. Livestock activities through ILRI can be upscaled into Malawi/Zambia, and socio-economic research on nutrition, extension, and business models are also carried out in Zambia and Malawi. **Note*** currently only WP1 and WP5 are working in Zimbabwe. Now potentially WP3 around business and financial models.
WP2 & WP4	Clear potential areas for support that should be leveraged especially with new and old partners.
General	What we do in Zimbabwe is Regional – we also do in Malawi, Zambia, Kenya, and Ethiopia.

Malawi: Mr. John Chambamakasa (IWMI Consultant) and Dr. Blessing Mhlanga (CIMMYT)

1. What are the in-country activities for UU in 2024?

	In-country activities for 2024
WP1	Introducing mechanization service providers, study tours with SIMS, nutrition sensitive training, field days, field data collection, sweet potato adaptation trial, development of innovation strategies for strip cropping innovations, and virtual field tours.
WP5	Youth Validation workshops and Gender Action Learning System workshops.

2. What activities are possible with other ESA countries?

	Possible activities with other ESA countries
WP1	Sweet potato adaption trials (Kenya, Zimbabwe, and Malawi) and Development of innovation strategies for strip cropping innovations (Malawi and Zambia) and virtual field tour.

Group 4 & 5: Ethiopia & South Africa

Ethiopia: Dr. Amare Haileslassie (IWMI), Sintayehu Alemayehu (Alliance Bioversity - CIAT, and Kalkidan Mulatu (Alliance Bioversity – CIAT)

1. What are the in-country activities for UU in 2024?

	In-country activities for 2024
WP1 and WP2	Integrate livestock components into Agricultural Commercialization Cluster (ACC) sites, generate agricultural advisories within WP1 sites, and integrate forage-maize into the de-risking component of the initiatives.
WP4	Support MOA's Women and Sustainable Agriculture directorate with gender mainstreaming guidelines and designing a gender scorecard.
WP5	Collaborate with WP4 to integrate and apply gender strategies and scorecards into activities of WP1 and WP2.

2. What activities are possible with other ESA countries?

	Possible activities with other ESA countries
WP1 to WP4	Cooperation on influencing policy for diversification
WP1 to WP6	o On scaling - need for resource support. o Learn about solar pump experiences from Zimbabwe. o Customizing shamba-shapeup's approach to Ethiopia o Adopt the agribusiness accelerator from Kenya

South Africa: Dr. Henry Roman (IWMI) and Ms. Mahlatse Nkosi (IWMI)

1. What are the in-country activities for UU in 2024?

	In-country activities for 2024
General	Currently, South Africa is viewed as a more developed country and thus CGIAR puts little focus on SA. There is an invitation for other WPs, to visit IWMI-SA to discuss potential work in SA.
WP4	WP4 to review and influence agricultural policies related to smallholder farmers in SA, to improve productivity.

2. What activities are possible with other ESA countries?

	Possible activities with other ESA countries
WP1	With Kenya: Collaborate with WP1 to set up demos with potential crops with South Africa. Virtual field trip collaboration/sharing of experiences. Can also look at mechanization for smallholder farmers.
WP2	With Kenya: WP2, to compare Climate Risk Profiles
WP4	With ESA: Developing a comparative NDC scorecard for this region, to set the scene for collaboration between countries to meet NDC targets (WP4)
WP5	With Ethiopia: Gender scorecard framework development, for roll-out to other countries (WP5)

Other: Ms. Nora Hanke-Louw (IWMI) and Ms Bridget Kakuwa (CCARDESA)

	In-country activities for 2024	**What activities are possible with other ESA countries?**
General	○ State of the Region Report ○ Scoping studies (both accompanied by validation workshops with stakeholders) ○ Tanzania – Seed Development Strategy Launch ○ WP5: IITA Tanzanian staff member	○ To be careful about raising stakeholder expectations in the absence of clear allocations/UU future. ○ Expand policy workshops to more countries, have clear planning and indications to partner (funding/capacity) and use high-level events more strategically to get the right people around the table. ○ Identify UU champions (technocrats) – right story and examples/right places.

4.4. GROUP FEEDBACK SESSION

The feedback session was facilitated by Nora Hanke-Louw, UU Project Coordinator, and Deputy Country Representative, IWMI South Africa.

4.5. CLOSING & VOTE OF THANKS

The meeting was concluded with a reflection video by the UU team and partners and Dr Inga Jacobs-Mata (IWMI).

5. Day 3 (February 8, 2024)

5.1. OPENING REMARKS

Day three was split into two parallel sessions: one for the country conveners and one for the communication team and journalists.

5.2. ROLE OF COUNTRY CONVENERS IN SCIENCE COORDINATION UNDER THE RII

Dr Inga Jacobs-Mata (IWMI) led this session. Since UU works in 12 countries and collaborates with Initiatives, the CGIAR Country Conveners were invited, in a hybrid format to reflect on their role, impact, challenges, and opportunities in representing the UU initiatives in their respective countries.

- How did you interpret your role?
- What activities did you get involved in?
- What were some of the challenges you experienced?
- What were some of the wins/successes you experienced?
- Looking forward, how do you think the Listening Sessions can build on in-country research-for-impact quality (and country engagement strategies)?

Country Focus: Kenya, Zambia, Zimbabwe, Malawi, Ethiopia, South Africa

Interactive discussion between ESA Country Conveners and UU Leadership team

Country Convener Roles:

In this discussion platform, Country Conveners shared their perceptions towards their role and what they are doing in their country's representation. The country convener's role had a generic job description, however, considering the size of the portfolio, the roles varied from country to country. The basic country convener's roles included:

- Coordination
- Advocacy
- Representative of UU
- Develop a strategic stakeholder/ partner engagement plan

The interpretation country conveners' role includes representation, resource mobilization, reporting and portfolio management dashboard in Kenya. In South Africa, the interpretation country convener's role includes showcasing CGIAR work, networking stakeholders with government offices (Ministry of Agriculture or Ministry of Finance), communication engagement with stakeholders and engaging with government increasing the CGIAR visibility and inviting ministers to launch individual initiatives and other representative functions. After the launch, the ministry invited the center to participate in the development of a national strategic plan process to provide evidence. There is also a need for additional exercises in countries like Madagascar, Uganda, Rwanda, and Tanzania.

How do you align with UU:

- Profiling innovations and technologies as entry points for engaging at the country level.
- Identification of synergistic combinations of technologies to address Ethiopia's challenges.
- There is a need to explore external options beyond CGIAR's innovations.
- Utilizing Ethiopia's status as a CGIAR for shared facilities and representations.
- Representation role in carrying CGIAR's voice into government and partner conversations.
- Engagement with the African Union in initiatives such as the CGIAR launch.
- Linking CGIAR initiatives with government strategies and goals.
- Involvement of CGIAR researchers in policy drafting teams.
- Country convening for greater coherence and alignment with Ethiopia's needs and strategies.
- Conducting diagnostic exercises to identify relevant evidence for system transformation.
- Positioning Ethiopia as a prototype for CGIAR initiatives.

- Proactive engagement and collaboration demonstrated through initiatives like listening sessions.

Challenges and Reflections:

- Varied interpretations of roles among country conveners were highlighted.
- Emphasis on harmonizing views for effective country convening.
- Role examples shared from South Africa, Zambia, Ethiopia, and Uganda, focus on coordination, communication, resource mobilization, and visibility.
- Call for a harmonized view of country convener expectations for coherence.

Lessons Learned:

- Importance of government buy-in for effective engagement with partners.
- Work cut across ministries, requiring engagement at different levels.
- Successful examples of participating in national strategy development, engaging with donors, and enhancing visibility.

5.3. PARALLEL SESSION: COMMUNICATION WORKING SESSION

Facilitator: Ms. Phindiwe Nkosi (IWMI), Communication and Knowledge Management Expert

This was a hybrid session focusing on maximizing communication in 2024 to increase UU's visibility. The journalists emphasized their interest in CGIAR's work but also highlighted that their audience wants easily digestible information. Therefore, any materials or press releases must be very clear and relevant. Ideally, they should be linked to specific, current issues.

5.4. WRAP-UP AND CONCLUSIONS

The meeting concluded by acknowledging the diligent support received from the hosting team. UU extended its gratitude to all who contributed, particularly special thanks and acknowledgment to the IT team, the hospitality team, and the liaison team, for their unwavering support throughout the entire week.

6. Summary

The 2023 Ukama Ustawi (UU) Pause and Reflect event, held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, provided an opportunity for approximately 100+ participants to review achievements, identify challenges, and plan priorities for 2024. The initiative focuses on fostering climate-resilient agricultural systems in East and Southern Africa (ESA) through partnerships, innovations, and capacity-building efforts targeting smallholder farmers. Key event highlights included:

Achievements:

Significant progress in leveraging partnerships to secure funding and implement impactful projects.

Advancements in cross-country collaboration, gender inclusivity, and climate-smart practices.

Contributions to policy frameworks and practical integration of innovations into agrifood systems.

Challenges:

Need for better alignment and communication across work packages and with stakeholders.

Variability in interpretations of roles, particularly among country conveners.

Limited resources requiring rigorous prioritization to achieve broader impact.

Event Structure:

Reflective sessions focusing on past performance and lessons learned.

Collaborative planning sessions emphasizing scaling innovations and aligning with regional priorities.

Parallel sessions on country conveners' roles and communication strategies.

Key Takeaways:

Strong emphasis on stakeholder engagement, evidence-based planning, and capacity development.

Recommendations for clearer role definitions, enhanced resource alignment, and focused communication efforts.

7. Conclusion

The 2023 Ukama Ustawi Pause and Reflect event demonstrated the Initiative's commitment to fostering sustainable, climate-resilient agricultural systems across East and Southern Africa. By bringing together over 100 participants, including partners, country conveners, and leadership teams, the event provided a unique platform to critically evaluate the successes, challenges, and strategic direction of the initiative.

The reflective sessions highlighted notable achievements in scaling innovations, securing significant funding, and aligning with key regional and global priorities. However, challenges such as the need for better communication, role clarity, and resource alignment were also acknowledged. Through collaborative planning, participants identified pathways to address these challenges, emphasizing stakeholder engagement, cross-country collaboration, and gender and social inclusion as critical pillars for achieving impactful outcomes.

As Ukama Ustawi moves forward into 2024, the insights gained during this event will serve as a foundation for refining strategies, strengthening partnerships, and driving meaningful change in food systems across the region. With a renewed focus on innovation, resilience, and inclusivity, the initiative is well-positioned to make significant contributions toward CGIAR's broader vision for sustainable development.

ANNEX: PROGRAM

CGIAR | INITIATIVE ON Diversification in East and Southern Africa



PROGRAM

Ukama Ustawi Pause and Reflect 2023

6 February 2024

09:00 – 18:00 EAT | Azage Room

09:00 - 09:20
Welcome
Facilitator: Dr Inga Jacobs-Mata, Initiative Lead and IWMI Director of Water-Growth and Inclusion
Welcome: Dr Namukolo Covic, ILRI Director General's Representative in Ethiopia
Opening Remarks: Dr Maya Rajasekharan, Alliance Bioversity & CIAT (ABC) Managing Director for Africa

09:20 - 09:50
Ice Breaker
Playful Solutions

09:50 - 11:00
UU Overview and Highlights from 2023
Speakers: UU Leadership Team/Partners

11:00 - 11:20
Tea Beak/Group Photo

11:20 - 12:20
Networking Activity
Playful Solutions

11:20 - 12:20
Networking Activity
Playful Solutions

12:20 - 13:00
Role of the RIIs in Linking CGIAR Science and Impact in Regions
Dr Maya Rajasekharan, ABC Managing Director for Africa
Dr Evan Girvetz, Ukama Ustawi Initiative Co-Lead and CIAT Principal Scientist and Global Program Leader

13:00 - 14:00
Lunch

14:00 - 16:00
World Cafe: Cross-WP Collaboration for 2024

16:00 - 17:00
Group Feedback Session
Nora Hanke-Louw, UU Project Coordinator, and Deputy Country Representative, IWMI South Africa

17:00 - 17:30
Day's Reflection
Playful Solutions

18:00
Cocktail
Venue: IRLI Main Cafeteria

CGIAR | INITIATIVE ON Diversification in East and Southern Africa



PROGRAM

Ukama Ustawi Pause and Reflect 2023

7 February 2024

09:00 – 18:00 EAT | Azage Room

09:00 - 09:30
Opening Remarks
Pedro Chilambe, CIAT, UU WP 2 Co-lead, Research Team Leader, Climate Action
Dr Harold Roy-Macauley, CGIAR Managing Director, Regions and Partnerships

09:30 - 10:30
Working in Partnerships to Transform Agrifood System
Partner Survey Result Feedback, Nora Hanke-Louw, UU Project Coordinator, and Deputy Country Representative, IWMI South Africa
Moderated by Dr Inga Jacobs-Mata, Initiative Lead and IWMI Director o Water-Growth and Inclusion

10:30 - 11:00
Tea/Coffee Break

11:00 - 12:00
World Cafe: Country Coordination
Group 1: Konso Room
Group 2&3: Azage Room
Room 4&5: Info Center Room

12:00 - 12:30
Group Feedback Session
Facilitator: Nora Hanke-Louw, UU Project Coordinator, and Deputy Country Representative, IWMI South Africa

12:30 - 13:30
Lunch

13:30 - 17:30
Innovations: The Diversity & Transformation Game
Playful Solutions

16:30 - 16:50
Closing & Vote of Thanks
Dr Ojongetakah Enokenwaa Baa, IWMI Postdoctoral Fellow - Gender and Social Inclusion (GESI) Agribusiness, Governance and Inclusion
Dr Blessing Mhlanga, CIMMYT, PDF, Cropping Systems Agronomist, SAS
Pedro Chilambe, CIAT, Research Team Leader, Climate Action
Vote of Thanks: Dr Inga Jacobs-Mata, Initiative Lead and IWMI Director of Water-Growth and Inclusion

CGIAR | INITIATIVE ON Diversification in East and Southern Africa



PROGRAM

Ukama Ustawi Pause and Reflect 2023

8 February 2024

09:00 – 18:00 EAT | Azage Room

09:00 - 09:20

Opening Remarks

Dr Inga Jacobs-Mata, Ukama Ustawi Lead, and Director Water, Growth and Inclusion, IWMI

09:20 - 10:20

Country Convenor Experiences in ESA: Lessons Learned on Implementation of CGIAR Initiative Portfolio In-country

ESA Country Convenors

10:20 - 11:00

Role of Country Convenors in Science Coordination Under the RII

Interactive discussion between ESA Country Convenors and UU Leadership team

Wrap-Up

Agreement on next steps

09:20 - 11:30

Parallel Session: Communication Working Session

Facilitator: Phindiwe Nkosi, Communications and Knowledge Management Expert, IWMI

Hybrid Working Session: Maximise Communications for UU in 2024

JOIN NOW

11:30 - 11:45

Group Photo

11:45 - 12:30

Media Engagements

UU WP Leads, ESA Country Conveners attending in person

12:30 - 13:30

Lunch

13:30 - 14:00

UU in Ethiopia: In-focus

Dr Amare Haileslassie, Initiative Ethiopia Lead, IWMI Principal Researcher for Sustainable and Resilient Food Production Systems

14:00 - 15:00

ILRI Campus Tour

15:00 - 17:00

Side Meetings

ANNEX: PRESENTATION LINKS

UU Overview and Highlights from 2023

Role of the RIIs in Linking CGIAR Science and Impact in Regions

UU Playful solution Game report

2024-01-10 UU Pause and Reflect Updated list.xlsx

Pictures from Ukama Ustawi Pause and Reflect 2023 meeting

Hanke-Louw, Nora, n.hanke-louw@cgiar.org

CGIAR is a global research partnership for a food-secure future. CGIAR science is dedicated to transforming food, land, and water systems in a climate crisis. Its research is carried out by 13 CGIAR Centers/Alliances in close collaboration with hundreds of partners, including national and regional research institutes, civil society organizations, academia, development organizations and the private sector. www.cgiar.org

We would like to thank all funders who support this research through their contributions to the CGIAR Trust Fund: www.cgiar.org/funders.

To learn more about this Initiative, please visit this webpage.

To learn more about this and other Initiatives in the CGIAR Research Portfolio, please visit www.cgiar.org/cgiar-portfolio

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INITIATIVE ON

Diversification in East and Southern Africa