



Climate-Smart Agriculture (CSA) Policy Development White Paper
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Development of the Climate-Smart Agriculture Policy Framework for Nigeria

Introduction

As Nigeria faces increasing climate-related challenges, its agricultural sector must adapt to ensure food security, economic stability, and sustainable growth. The Nigerian Agribusiness Group (NABG), in collaboration with both federal and state-level stakeholders, has spearheaded the creation of the Climate-Smart Agriculture (CSA) Policy Framework. This framework is designed to foster a cohesive policy environment across national and subnational levels, guiding Nigeria's response to climate change in agriculture with an emphasis on productivity, resilience, and emissions reduction.

What is the CSA Policy Framework?

The CSA Policy Framework serves as a comprehensive roadmap for integrating climate adaptation and mitigation measures into Nigeria's agricultural policy landscape. It offers a structured approach that aligns with Nigeria's climate goals under the Paris Agreement, addressing the unique challenges faced by Nigeria's smallholder farmers, agribusinesses, and rural communities.

Why Develop This Framework?

The CSA Policy Framework was developed to create a resilient agricultural sector capable of withstanding the impacts of climate change. Specific objectives include:

1. Increasing sustainable agricultural productivity and food security to support Nigeria's growing population.
2. Building the adaptive capacity of farmers to address climate risks.
3. Reducing greenhouse gas emissions from agricultural practices, in alignment with global and national commitments.

Federal and subnational governments play critical roles in these efforts. Through collaborative policy-making and cross-sectoral coordination, the CSA framework enables effective implementation, empowering farmers and agribusinesses to adopt climate-smart practices.

How Was the CSA Policy Framework Developed?

The framework's development followed a structured, multi-phase approach focused on inclusivity and stakeholder engagement across federal, state, and local levels:

1. **Inception and Preparation** – Initial phases involved stakeholder mapping, scoping studies, and policy landscape reviews to identify areas for CSA integration.

2. **Stakeholder Engagement** – A multi-tiered engagement process included workshops with federal ministries (Agriculture, Environment, Water Resources) and subnational entities. These sessions allowed diverse voices, including state representatives, NGOs, private sector, and academia, to shape the framework. The collaborative approach ensured the CSA framework addresses the needs of both national and local levels.
3. **Development and Validation** – An iterative process of data collection, validation, and feedback integration resulted in a framework grounded in the realities of Nigeria’s agricultural landscape. Stakeholder validation sessions allowed the CSA framework to be refined with input from all levels of government, ensuring it serves as a practical and adaptable guide.

Challenges Encountered

Throughout development, challenges such as aligning multi-sectoral interests and addressing gaps in policy and program implementation were addressed through targeted consultations, consensus-building workshops, and feedback loops.

Roles of the Federal and Subnational Governments

The framework emphasizes a structured coordination mechanism:

- **At the National Level:** The National Climate Smart Agriculture Coordination Team (NCSACT) will oversee the CSA program, with representation from federal ministries responsible for crop, livestock, fisheries, water resources, forestry, finance, and industry. Chaired by the Director of the Federal Department of Agricultural Land and Climate Change, NCSACT ensures cohesive national strategy, cross-ministerial data sharing, capacity building, and reporting on CSA initiatives.
- **At the Subnational Level:** Coordination will be implemented through the Nigeria Governors’ Forum, which holds a strategic position for interfacing with state governments. The Forum’s role is essential in guiding state-level coordination and enabling consistent, tailored CSA approaches across regions. The Climate Smart Agriculture Coordination Task Force (CSACTF), chaired by state Commissioners of Agriculture, will further support implementation by engaging local ministries, providing data, monitoring support, and ensuring state-specific climate adaptation strategies.
- **Local Communities:** Local champions, known as Climate Smart Agriculture Champions (CSAC), serve as the grassroots coordinators, guiding community-level CSA practices and reporting challenges and achievements to state task forces. This approach ensures that CSA policies are adaptable and responsive to local conditions.

Intended Impact and Future Vision

The CSA Policy Framework aims to:

- **Increase Productivity** – Foster sustainable agricultural yields across Nigeria.
- **Enhance Resilience** – Equip farmers with adaptive strategies to handle climate impacts.

- **Reduce Emissions** – Promote climate-friendly agricultural practices.

Benefits for Stakeholders

The framework empowers all stakeholders, including farmers, agribusinesses, and policymakers, with resources and guidance on climate-smart practices. By aligning Nigeria's agricultural approach with international standards, the CSA framework opens new opportunities for sustainable growth and market access.

Implementation and Next Steps

To operationalize the framework effectively, NABG, alongside federal and subnational governments, proposes:

- **Capacity Building:** Providing training programs for national, state, and community-level staff, as well as smallholder farmers.
- **Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E):** Establishing a robust M&E framework to track progress and adapt practices based on feedback and results.
- **Multi-Sectoral Coordination:** Facilitating coordinated efforts across ministries, departments, and agencies, ensuring the success of CSA initiatives at all governance levels.

NABG invites all stakeholders to support this framework through partnerships, funding, and advocacy. Together, we can create a resilient, climate-smart agricultural sector that secures Nigeria's future.

End.