



ACCELERATING RESEARCH, INNOVATION, TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER FOR AFRICAN ADAPTATION TO CLIMATE CHANGE

High-level dialogue: From Science to Action Program | 15 October 2021, Rabat Morocco

Background

We are proposing a scientific event co-organized by AAA Initiative Foundation and AICCRA program that is part of the implementation of the Declaration of the 2nd Ministerial Conference of the AAA Initiative Foundation, held in Benguerir (Morocco) on November 4 and 5, 2019 under the banner “Food Security in the face of Climate Change”. It will focus on research, innovation and technology transfer for the adaptation of African agriculture to climate change. African national agricultural research and education systems are the drivers of agricultural research and innovation in the continent. The partnership with the International Centers of the Consortium of the Consultative Group for International Agricultural Research (CGIAR) and other international research partners would strengthen the capacity of African farmers, farmers’ organizations and public institutions to adapt to climate change. It is essential to improve the transfer of tailored technologies and knowledge to farmers in order to ensure that research activities meet their needs and are adapted to their circumstances.

This event will mobilize research actors who are already taking up the challenge of this sector in Africa to build partnerships and integrated research projects to improve African agriculture and adaptation to climate change.

The event will be moderated by experts from structures related to the management of soil, climate, water, biodiversity, new technologies and technology transfer in Africa. It will be organized into four panels focusing on the global partnership, the experiences of collaboration in Africa (NARS institutions) and international organizations, in particular the research institutions under CGIAR, as well as the achievements and opportunities of research and development at the international level.

About The AAA Initiative

Launched ahead of the COP22 organized in Morocco, the Initiative for the Adaptation of African Agriculture (AAA) aims to reduce the vulnerability of Africa and its agriculture to climate change. Its objective is to place the Adaptation of African Agriculture at the heart of climate debates and negotiations, and to attract a significant part of the climate funds. In terms of proposed solutions, the AAA initiative aims to contribute to the deployment of specific agricultural projects to improve soil management, agricultural water management, climate risk management and capacity building and innovative financing solutions for small holders. The initiative is an important response not only to climate change but also to food insecurity. It is currently supported by 38 African countries and a strong coalition of international partners from the finance, agricultural development, scientific research and private sectors.

About AICCRA

Accelerating the Impact of CGIAR Climate Research for Africa (AICCRA) is a new initiative that will enhance access to climate information services and validated climate-smart agriculture technologies in Africa. With the support of AICCRA projects, farmers and livestock keepers will be able to better anticipate climate-related events and take preventative actions, with better access to climate advisories linked to information about effective response measures. This will help communities better safeguard their livelihoods and the environment. It is supported by a grant from the International Development Association (IDA) of the World Bank, and will enhance research and capacity-building activities by the CGIAR and its partners.

Introduction

10:00-10:10: Introductory remarks, **Mohamed Ait Kadi**, Chair Scientific Committee, AAA initiative

10:10-10:20: AICCRA program, **Bruce Campbell**, Director, CGIAR Research Program on Climate Change, Agriculture and Food Security (CCAFS)

Panel 1 - Case studies on technologies

10:20-10:30: Conservation agriculture for improving soil health and climate resilience, **Rachid Moussadek**, Morocco

10:30-10:40: Promoting climate-smart agriculture and soil management through tractor mechanization services. **Evan Girvetz**, Principal Scientist and Global Program Leader, Finance and Investments for Climate Action, Alliance of Bioversity International and CIAT, Kenya

10:40-10:50: Water case study, **Mark Smith**, IWMI

10:50-11:10: Questions/Answers/Discussion

Panel 2 – Innovation

11:10-11:20: Integrated digital advisory services to smallholder farmers: the case of wheat value chain farmers in Ethiopia, **Kindie Tesfaye**, CIMMYT, Ethiopia

11:20-11:30: Biodiversity, **Aly Abousabaa**, ICARDA

11:30-11:40: The automatic identification of crop diseases, **Abbess Kailil**, MISE, Morocco

11:40-11:50: Estimation of crop yield using a mobile application, **Hamza Rkha Chaham**, SOWIT

11:50-12:10: Questions/Answers/Discussion

Panel 3 - Adaptation metrics in Agriculture / Partnerships

12:10-12:20: Potential and Opportunities for the Use of Remote Sensing & AI for Better Tracking and Nearcasting of Agricultural Productions in Africa, **Racine Ly**, AKADEMIYA

12:20-12:40: The International Platform on Adaptation Metrics, **Karl Schultz** (Higher Ground Foundation) & **Riad Balaghi** (AAA Initiative Foundation)

12:40-12:50: Successful models of partnership, **Godefroy GrosJean**, CIAT

12:50-13:10: Questions/Answers/Discussion

13:10-14:00 Break

Panel 4 - NARS directors interventions (5 min max per verbal intervention)

14:00-15:00

Confirmed panelists

- **Sue Walker**, ARC, South Africa
- **Abdoulaye Hamadoun**, Directeur Général, Institut d'Economie Rurale, Mali
- **Abdou Ndiaye**, Scientific Director, ISRA, Senegal
- **Feto Esimo**, Director General, Oromia Agricultural Research Institute, Ethiopia
- **Faouzi Bekkaoui**, Director, INRA, Morocco
- **Garba H. Sharubutu**, Executive Secretary ARCN, Nigeria
- **Hamidou Traore**, Director, INERA, Burkina Faso
- **Dickson Ng'uni**, ZARI, Zambia

Questions to be addressed by NARS

- Are there adaptation agriculture programs/projects being carried out at your organization?
- Are there among the cases studies presented one or more that would be pertinent to your organization?
- Describe possible alignment with national strategy and other programs

15:00-15:30 Questions/Answers/Discussion

15:30-15:45 Concluding remarks