Putting Climate Smart Agriculture Policies to Work in Landscapes

Training curriculum to help sub-national decision makers operationalize national climate smart agriculture policies

**Goals and Scope**

This curriculum is intended to build the capacities of sub-national Climate Smart Agriculture (CSA) program and policy leaders to plan CSA in ways that integrate farm and landscape level action and generate the policy support needed for effective planning and practice. The CSA Planning curriculum is comprised of a collection of modules and sequence of learning activities that enable trainers to introduce concepts and practices that build leadership for integrated CSA initiatives. Such integrated initiatives stand to positively impact agricultural productivity, ecological conservation, livelihood security and institutional capacity for cross-sectoral coordination, as well as climate change adaptation and mitigation. Through training courses built around the curriculum, CSA leaders will gain knowledge, skills and values that enable them to facilitate CSA planning processes and develop plans that can bring about the multiple desired impacts of CSA.

The training materials are designed to support both in-person and online training courses. A detailed training facilitator’s guide supports qualified trainers to deliver high-quality courses.

**Audience**

Professionals, especially local or sub-national government agents, who are motivated or entrusted to help build leadership for CSA in the context of localizing national level commitments to addressing climate change, building resilient food and nutrition systems, improving water security, restoring degraded lands and other sustainable development goals will be primary users of the training curriculum and facilitator’s guide.

**Approach and Structure**

The curriculum and facilitator’s guide are organized in modules and lessons that enable the training team to select content they consider most relevant to the programs, audiences, training needs and learning objectives they seek to address in conducting a course on CSA planning. Course content and structure are conveyed in slide decks organized around the lessons in each module. Group learning activities, worksheets, handouts and case studies enrich the lessons.

**NEEDS ASSESSMENT**

The USDA California Climate Hub and EcoAgriculture Partners conducted a needs assessment/gap analysis at the onset of this CSA training curriculum project. We sought to ensure that we did not duplicate the efforts of other organizations, and identified gaps in coverage that our product could aim to fill. We also sought to identify existing resources we could use when developing curriculum modules, and organizations with which to partner for development or delivery.

We focused the needs assessment on six major international development organizations with CSA programs: USAID, FAO, World Bank, CCAFS/CGs, DFID and GIZ. We also reviewed curricula and training resources developed by our partner organizations, the USDA Climate Hubs and UC-Davis Office of International Programs. For each curriculum or training we found, we recorded: name, funder, audience, goals, process for delivery, topics covered, a web link, and any relevant notes. The results can be found on a shared spreadsheet available here:


Our needs assessment concluded that a curriculum designed explicitly to help sub-national decision-makers operationalize existing CSA policy at a landscape scale is not currently available from any of the organizations we reviewed. This audience in particular represents a gap in available training resources.
Training Curriculum for Climate Smart Agriculture Planning

Curriculum Outline

**Module 1: Introduction to CSA as an approach to integrated agriculture and climate change planning**

- Lesson 1.1: Climate Smart Agriculture: What, why, where?
- Lesson 1.2: Drivers of CSA
- Lesson 1.3: Farm Level CSA
- Lesson 1.4: Landscape scale CSA

**Module 2: Building a collaborative CSA plan and planning process for your landscape or jurisdiction**

- Lesson 2.1: Introduction to Landscape Planning Cycle
- Lesson 2.2: Building the Multi-stakeholder Coalition
- Lesson 2.3: Developing a Shared Understanding of your Landscape
- Lesson 2.4: Designing a Collaborative Action Plan
- Lesson 2.5: Implementing Landscape Interventions
- Lesson 2.6: Monitoring and Evaluation

**Module 3: Linking climate knowledge and information with CSA decisions and planning**

- Lesson 3.1: Understanding the effects of climate change on agriculture
- Lesson 3.2: Contextualizing climate data/information for specific places

**Module 4: Building an enabling environment for CSA**

- Lesson 4.1: The characteristics for strong enabling environment
- Lesson 4.2.a: Public policy support for CSA
- Lesson 4.2.b: Promoting private investment in CSA
- Lesson 4.3: CSA policy institutions
- Lesson 4.4: Sources of finance for Climate Smart Agriculture

**Module 5: On-farm adaptation planning and implementation**

- Lesson 5.1: Principles of adaptation and CSA
- Lesson 5.2: Introduction to farm-scale CSA strategies and approaches
- Lesson 5.3: Developing farm-scale CSA plans

**Module 6: Monitoring and Evaluation**

- Lesson 6.1: Introduction to monitoring and evaluation for CSA
- Lesson 6.2: Identifying and measuring effective monitoring variables
- Lesson 6.3: Evaluating monitoring data and presenting results

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