



Proceedings from LIFAAS CSA Training Workshop on:  
**“Scaling up Climate-Smart Agriculture in Liberia Agricultural Extension and Advisory Service (AEAS) Delivery System for Increase Farmers’ access and Adoption Rate”**  
Wednesday, April 7, 2021  
Corina Hotel, Monrovia, Liberia



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## LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS

AEAS	Agricultural Extension and Advisory Services
AFAAS	African forum for Agricultural Advisory Services
BRAC-L	Bangladesh Relief and Agricultural -----Liberia
CA	Conservation Agriculture
CAF-UL	College of Agriculture and Forestry-University of Liberia
CARI	Central Agriculture Research Institute
CC	Climate Change
CCAAP	Climate Change Agriculture Adaptation Project
CSA	Climate Smart Agriculture
CSW-Group	Cassava Sector Working Group
CWC	Crop Weather Calendar
DRDRE	Department of regional Development, Research and extension
EPA	Environmental protection Agency
FFS	Farmer Field School
FUN	Farmers Union Network
GAP	Good agricultural practices
GEF	Global Environmental Fund
GHG	Green House Gas
GOL	Government of Liberia
HOD-PHT	Head of Department-Post Harvest Technology
ICT	Information Communication Technology
IDA	Inputs Dealers Association
IPM	Integrated Pest Management
LIFAAS	Liberia Forum for Agricultural Advisory Services
LINA	Liberia News Agency
LMS	Liberia Meteorological Services
LMS	Liberia Meteorological Services
MOA	Ministry of Agriculture
MOA-TCEP	Ministry of Agriculture-Technical Cooperation Extension Project
MOT	Ministry of Transport
PMU	Programme Management Unit
RAC	Regional Agriculture Coordinator
RPAL	Rubber Planters Association of Liberia
SAPEC	Smallholder Agricultural Productivity Enhancement and Commercialization Project
SRI	System of Rice Intensification
SRP	Seasonal Rainfall Prediction
STAR-P	Small Agriculture Transformation and Agribusiness Revitalization Project
STC-RP	Smallholder Tree Crops Rehabilitation Project
SWiPAL	Swine producers Association of Liberia
TCEP	Tree Crop Enhancement Project
UNFAO	United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization
WB	World Bank
WH	Welthungerhilfe

**Acknowledgement:**

The Liberia Forum for agricultural Advisory Services (LIFAAS) wishes to thank the following for their contribution in successfully organizing and undertaking this Climate Smart (CSA) Workshop.

- 1.) **AFAAS:** For approving LIFAAS proposal and authorizing the funds, and continuing to provide excellent technical support and guidance to our CF.
- 2.) **IFAD/EU** (“Prime Sponsors”): For providing the Grant Funding to AFAAS under the Project “Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme CAADP ex-pillar IV Africa Regional and Sub-regional Organizations for Agricultural research and Innovation”
- 3.) **MOA:** For providing the enabling environment, allowing LIFAAS undertake its many activities over the years, and especially for support from the hierarchy, including host institution (HI) arrangement.

### **Introduction:**

Liberia's current climatic situation can best be described as "varying" as opposed to a once certain or definite rain (April-October) or dry season (November-March) pattern. This uncertain situation is having a negative impact on present day agricultural development, to the extent that smallholder farmers, especially women farmers, across the country are and remain vulnerable to climate change. However, given the critical nature of the sector; for food and nutrition security, income and employment, Liberian farmers must also now begin to develop resilience against climate change, including taking steps to curtail its impact on their production and productivity.

As a measure, some institutions, including AFAAS, are developing innovative ways to reduce the impact of climate change, while ensuring food and nutrition security as well as providing a means for sustainable natural resource management practices. Climate Smart Agriculture (CSA) is just one such innovation.

Under its Project "Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme CAADP ex-pillar IV Africa Regional and Sub-regional Organizations for Agricultural Research and Innovation", this Climate Smart Agriculture (CSA) training is made possible with funding provided by IFAD and EU ("Prime Sponsors") as part of activities to **Scale up Climate-Smart Agriculture in Agricultural Extension and Advisory Services (AEAS) Delivery System in Liberia**. The regional body, AFAAS approved the LIFAAS proposal and authorized the funds.

### **Workshop Opening:**

Opening prayer was offered by Pastor Isaac Garlo, Chairman, Swine Producers Association of Liberia (SWIPAL). at about 9:45 A.M.

Mr. Edward B. Perry, LIFAAS Focal Person and Director of Extension, welcome the participants and admonished them to actively participate in the workshop; to provide input(s) on different presentations that would be made by the facilitators and others.

**Key Messages and Recommendations:** to Scale up Climate-Smart Agriculture in Agricultural Extension and Advisory Services (AEAS) Delivery System in Liberia.

Opening message from the Deputy Minister of the Department of Regional Development, Research and Extension (DRDRE); **Hon. George Tee Forpoh, (PhD Fellow)**.

The Minister message recognized that across the globe, we are experiencing challenges along our tireless efforts that have been invested in ensuring the continual development of the agriculture sector. The message also emphasized that these challenges have the potential to undermine food security and nutrition in our various society when less attention is consistently paid to them. The message listed challenges to include:

1. Rapidly increasing population the world over,
2. Agro-ecological/environmental cost associated with feeding our increasing number of citizens across Africa and other countries around the world,
3. Environmental degradation,
4. Outbreaks of insect pests and diseases among crop, animal and human population,
5. Threat to desertification,

## 6. Climate variation and/or change, etc.

The message further mentioned that the likelihood exists for climate change to negatively shape our social, cultural, biological, ecological, technological and economic processes, but more so, reduce the adaptive capacity of farmers, particularly smallholders. The message mentioned the vulnerability of woman farmers due to their inadequate access to productive resources.

The message concluded that Climate – Smart farming practices are potential candidates to solve these challenges and assured that the Ministry of Agriculture through the Department of Regional Development, Research and Extension will continue to work with LIFAAS and her partners to better agriculture productivity in Liberia.

### **Workshop Overview:**

This was provided by Mr. Oliver Boye Teekpeh, Plant Pathologist, Department of Regional Development, Research and Extension, Ministry of Agriculture He spoke on: *Climate information services, policy documents, and principles of climate-smart agriculture to upscale Climate – Smart Agriculture*)

In his overview, Mr. Teekpeh highlighted the important role agriculture plays in food and nutrition security of a country, particularly in regards to smallholders, who are the primary actors along the food production chain, amidst the myriad of problems confronting them, including extreme weather conditions which limit their production and productivity, thus increasing their poverty level. Hence the need to bring on board those farming technologies and practices that are climate – smart.

He noted that identifying, reviewing and understanding available policy documents on climate change, climate information services and the principles and concepts of Climate – Smart Agriculture are necessary to adopt and upscale the delivery and uptake of climate-smart agriculture technologies and practices. For example, availability of climate information services could facilitate the establishment of early warning system for farmers' access to needed climate/weather information to influence informed decision making as guide to adoption of climate – smart farming practices.

In promoting the adoption of climate – smart agriculture practices, we observed that beneficiary farmers and selected trained and non-trained members of LIFAAS including conducive policy environment as well as training play important role to succeed during and after project implementation activities. In addition, climate – smart agriculture practices delivery methods such as Farmer Field School (FFS), demonstration sites, farmer groups and exchange visit are opportunities to be utilized. Coordinating and strengthening these actors and their efforts could synergize outcomes and harmonized adopted messages for delivery and uptake.

### **Presentations Summary**

#### **Presentation 1:** Climate-Smart Agriculture and Agro-meteorology

By Henry Simpson, (Weather Forecaster, Agro-meteorological Focal Point), National Meteorological Services, Ministry of Transport, Liberia

Presentation 1, titled “Climate-Smart Agriculture and Agro Meteorology” was delivered by Mr. Henry Simpson. His presentation overviewed the present dire need for CSA technologies and practices in agriculture across the world. He further outlined some impacts of climate change on agriculture which included;

1. Increase occurrence of pests (Insects, weeds and diseases),
2. Availability of good quality water,
3. Distribution of agro-ecological zones,
4. Timing and length of growing season,
5. Biodiversity/habitats and species distribution
6. Natural ecosystems (erosion by wind and water, acidification, salinization, etc.).

In addition, the presentation also mentioned the vulnerability of developing countries to climate change where agriculture is primarily rain fed. Moreover, he provided a 3-pillars/principles definition on CSA and the five (5) actions to implement same. The presentation listed these three pillars/principles and five action points as follows:

CSA 3-pillars/principles:

- 1.) Sustainably increasing agricultural productivity and improving the incomes and livelihoods of farmers;
- 2.) Building resilience and adaptation to climate change; and
- 3.) Reducing and/or removing GHG emissions, where possible.

CSA 5-Action plans

1. Supporting enabling policy framework;
2. Strengthening national and local institutions;
3. Enhancing financial options;
4. Implementing practices at field level and
5. Expanding the evidence base.

He also presented on “The role of the National Meteorological Services in Enhancing CSA in Liberia” Under this content, the presentation highlighted the following:

Importance of Agro – climate parameters such as data on:

1. Annual/seasonal rainfall: primarily for planning agricultural activities, including crop selection in the face of drought or flood.
2. AGRONET Bulletin: Gives the rainfall amounts and anomalies, soil moisture condition, temperature variations which are essential for monitoring agro-climatic conditions and expected impact on crop/livestock performance.
3. Farmers’ guide: Provides Advisory/guide on what to plant, where to plant, how to plant and when to plant, and so reduces risk of crop failures. The guide also provides information on the onset and cessation dates of rain.
4. Crop Weather Calendar (CWC): The CWC is a vital planning tool for farmers, especially when used in conjunction with LMS’s Seasonal Rainfall Prediction (SRP).

5. Annual climate review: This review gives the observed changes in Climate Parameters.

The presentation concluded by sharing some lessons learned and case studies of CSA practices implementation out of Liberia. These learnt lessons covered countries such as; Tanzania, Kenya, Malawi, Vietnam, Uganda early warning systems and examples of ICT application in CSA in Africa.

**Presentation 2:** Climate–Smart Agriculture Technologies and Practices

By Joseph Ashong, (Head of Project: Multi-Sectorial Intervention) Welthungerhilfe (WHH):

The presentation elaborated on the definition of CSA, the objectives or the three principles:

- a.) increase productivity,
- b.) adaptation and
- c.) mitigation).

While highlighting on the need to increase agricultural productivity in order to feed a growing world population, Mr. Ashong, observed that the sector itself is directly contributing to Green House Gas (GHG) emissions in the tone of about 13.5%, and indirectly for another 17% resulting from deforestation and land-use change. He however, noted that the sector also holds a large mitigation potential, particularly through reduced deforestation, soil management and increased production/productivity practices.

He then went on to defined Climate Smart Agriculture (CSA) as an approach to agricultural development that aims to address the intertwined challenges of food security, livelihood and climate change (Lipper et al., 2014). Further noting that Climate Smart Agriculture (CSA) practices would sustainably increase agricultural productivity and income, contributing to food security and poverty reduction. CSA practices would also adapt and build resilience to changes in the climate, as well as reduce or remove Green House Gas (GHG) emissions. Whether a technology is CSA, it is based on the impacts of these outcomes and agricultural practices that these goals are considered “climate-smart” (FAO, 2013).

He then went on to list some CSA practices that Liberia could adopt for upscaling delivery by service providers and uptake by farmers. These CSA technologies and practices include:

1. Conservation Agriculture (CA),
2. Integrated Pest Management (IPM),
3. Good agricultural practices (GAP),
4. Integrated soil and plant nutrient management,
5. Water conservation and management, water harvesting,
6. Water saving agriculture techniques,
7. Crop cycle management,

8. Harvesting and post-harvest technologies,
9. On-farm storage technique,
10. Business model for commercialization (improved financial management, product marketing and business planning),
11. Crop rotation, agroforestry,
12. System of Rice Intensification (SRI),
13. Crop insurance,
14. Behaviour change specialists,
15. Role of ICT,
16. We have to invest in CSA, the role of the youth.

**Presentation 3:** National policy and response strategy on climate change – emphasis on agriculture

By Edward G. Wingbah (Assistant Manager, County Coordination), Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)

Mr. Wingbah presented on a policy document titled “National Policy and Response Strategy on Climate Change – Emphasis on Agriculture”. The policy document was developed by the EPA in 2018 to guide Liberia in coping with climate change impacts in the various sectors including agriculture.

His presentation overviewed the definition of climate change. He emphasized that Liberia is experiencing climate variability and/or change due to factors attributable to human activities, such as deforestation and burning of fossil fuels, etc. He further mentioned and discussed related national climate change policy documents such as; Liberia national contribution; GEF Need assessment for enhancing resilience to climate change by mainstreaming adaptation concerns into agricultural sector development. He also talked about the various policy statements contained in the National Policy and Response Strategy on Climate Change, but with strategic sector (i.e. agriculture, mining, transportation, etc.) focus. On agriculture, the primary focus is on: adaptation; mitigation and resilience mechanisms.

He then cited interventions, with support and funding from various partners, (I.e. GEF, UNDP, WB, AfDB, IFAD, and others), that are intended to increase resilience and enhance adaptive capacity to address the risks posed by climate change in the sector as well as provide the conduit through which agriculture adaptation can be implemented in Liberia; such as introducing climate smart agriculture (CSA). Concluding, he cited some of the interventions (implemented by MOA) as the:

- 1.) The Climate Change Agriculture Adaptation Project (CCAAP);
- 2.) Smallholder Tree Crops Rehabilitation Project (STCRP);

- 3.) Smallholder Agricultural Productivity Enhancement and Commercialization Project (SAPEC);
- 4.) Tree Crop Enhancement Project (TCEP);
- 5.) Small Agriculture Transformation and Agribusiness Revitalization Project (STAR-P), amongst others” as some interventions in that direction.

***Presentation 4: Principles of CSA, Events and Impacts***

***By A. Richelieu Mitchell, Chairman, LIFAAS***

*The presentation focused on the principles (Productivity, Adaptation and Mitigation) or the three objectives of CSA, events and impacts of climate change on agriculture.*

In his presentation, Mr. Mitchell provided a brief background on current rainfall trends in Liberia, describing it as being erratic and intense (I.e. short and intensive; short and less intensive; long and intensive; or even long and less intensive.; completely different from original patterns). Noting that agriculture is dependent on the weather, which is generally season-based; that is, starts at onset of the rains. Any dramatic change, therefore, in this pattern, can have a dramatic impact on crop, livestock and fisheries productivity.

Why the concern about CC? Because it threatens production’s stability and productivity.

And given Liberia’s dire situation, where agricultural productivity is already low, where the means of coping with extreme events are limited, CC has the likelihood to further exacerbate the situation.

Commenting on the causes of CC, the presentation noted that agriculture affects and is affected by CC in so many different ways, but more so in Green House Gas (GHG) emission; the primary culprit for CC. Noting that of the six GHG, agriculture contributes three (3), including Carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>); Methane (CH<sub>4</sub>); and Nitrous oxide (N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub>).

The presentation further went on to explain the process as: 1.) burning of fossil fuel, crop/plant debris, or forest; 2.) livestock and irrigated rice production; 3.) synthetic fertilizers use and nitrogen-fixing plants.

On the impact of CC on crop production, the presentation listed some of these as:

- 1.) Prolonged dry season/drought: results to insect/pest’s infestation on crops that may cause flower abortion/low yield;
- 2.) Intensive rainfall: leads to flooding, and crop damage; increased disease on crops, results to low yield, etc.;
- 3.) High temperature: sterile crops/plants due to heat wave and animal abortion/death.

As a way of coping with CC events, and improve farm outputs, the presentation proffered the following recommendations, including;

- 1.) Making farming systems more capable of performing well during and after disruptive events;
- 2.) Adoption of a sustainable and efficient natural resource management (SNRM) practice and farming inputs;
- 3.) Shifting in farming systems that generates meaningful mitigation benefits; increasing carbon sinks, reducing emissions per unit of agricultural product.

These systems the presentation considered “Climate – Smart Agriculture (CSA)”, which it noted also has the potential to transition smallholder farming systems in a way that achieves food/nutrition security, reduce poverty and improve living standard; also, priority of the MOA/GOL/.

Concluding, the presentation highlighted CSA three (3) basic objectives:

- 1.) Productivity (Increased)
- 2.) Adaptation (Resilience)
- 3.) Mitigation

### **Group Discussion**

**Discussion Point:** How can we integrate CSA practices into service providers’ extension package?

Three (3) groups (group 1, 2, and 3) were formed to deliberate on the discussion points and recommend the following:

1. Partners/service providers in group will list the CSA practices in use within each of their various institutions.
2. Agreed on and list the presented CSA practices that can be adopted for delivery to farmers and
3. Method/s agreed on to use for increase access and adoption rate by farmers across the country.

### **Closing Remarks:**

In closing remarks, various speakers noted the impact of climate change on food security, including the vulnerability it poses for smallholder farmers in Liberia’s agriculture sector as well as the need to develop strategies, including mitigation, adaptation and resilience mechanism. It was also noted the need to include young people in CSA initiatives, as a way of engendering/galvanizing their interest and having sessions with them at their various institutions. They also spoke of the need for people, especially farmers, to have access to CSA information, using radio as an important medium. FAO-Liberia office in brief remarks also assured its support to CSA initiatives in the country.

## **Conclusion**

The selected partners who attended the one-day training workshop agreed to adopt, deliver and promote uptake of presented technologies and practices that fit the Liberia agriculture sector. In that vein, CSA Technical Working Group, through LIFAAS, is to ensure that the remaining activities of CSA are conducted in a timely manner.

## **APPENDIXES**

- 1.) Workshop program
- 2.) List of participants
- 3.) Pictorials



**TRAINING WORKSHOP ON  
CLIMATE SMART AGRICULTURE  
OF  
THE LIBERIA FORUM FOR AGRICULTURAL  
ADVISORY SERVICES (LIFAAS) IN PARTNERSHIP  
WITH AFAAS &  
MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE  
Venue: Corina Hotel**

**Wednesday, April, 2021**

**Moderators: Mr. Henry Goffa  
MOA COMMUNICATION DIVISION**

TIME	ACTIVITY	RESPONSIBLE PARTY
8:30 am – 9:00 am	Arrival & Registration	Binda Kollie
9:00 am – 9:30 am	Breakfast	Participants
9:30 am – 9:35 am	Opening Prayer	Volunteer
9:35 am – 9:40 am	Welcome remarks	Edward B. Perry -FP
9:40 am – 9:45 am	Opening Statement	Hon. George Tee Forpoh (PhD), Deputy Minister/ DRDRE-MOA
9:45 am –9:55 am	Overview of Workshop	Mr. Oliver Boye Teekpeh, Plant Pathologist/DRDRE
9:55-10:00	<b>Group Photo</b>	This will be done outside
<b>Climate Smart Agriculture Presentations</b>		
(Lec.1) 10-10:45 (Lec.2) 10:45-11:30 (Lec. 3) 11:30-12:15  10:00 am –12:30 pm	Principles of Climate Smart Agriculture	A. Richelieu Mitchell, Sr.
	Climate Smart Agriculture and Agrometeorology	Albert Sherman- Deputy Director-Met. Division
	Climate Smart Agriculture Technologies & Practices	Welthungerhilfe (WHH)
12:30 – 1:30 PM	Lunch	Participants

Task: How can we integrate CSA into service providers extension package

<b>(Pres. 4) 1:30-2:15</b>  <b>(Discuss) 2:15-3:00</b>  <b>Group Work &amp; Presentation 3:00-3:30</b>	Policy on Climate Smart Agriculture	Edward G. Wingbah-EPA
	<b>GROUP DISCUSSION &amp; PRESENTATION</b>	
	How can we integrate CSA practices into service provider extension package	Group Discussion
	Presentation of group work	Group Leader
<b>Closing 3:30-4:00</b>	Closing Remarks	1.) EPA 2.) MOT-Met 3.) BRAC Liberia 4.) Welthungerhilfe (WHH) 5.) CAF-UL 6.) CARI 7.) RPAL 8.) FUN-Liberia 9.) FAO 10.) LIFAAS Chairman
<b>4:00 pm – 4:05 pm</b>	Vote of Thanks	Edward B. Perry Secretary-LIFAAS/Director-Extension
<b>CSA Technical Working Group Members</b> Edward B. Perry -LIFAAS/MOA Henry Simpson -MOT-Met Division Albert Sherman -MOT-Met Division Dr. Babul Deba Nath -BRAC Joseph Ashong-Welthungerhilfe (WHH) Oliver B. Teekpeh - MOA Edward G. Wingbah EPA		

## CSA PHOTOS GALLERY -APRIL 7, 2021



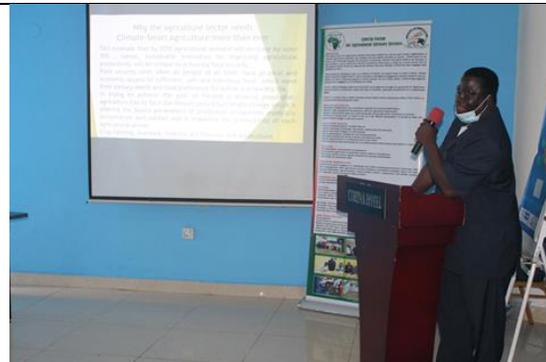
*Figure 1 CSA Group Photo*



*Figure 2 Deputy Minister, DRDRE, Hon. George Tee -Forpoh Makes Opening Statement*



*Figure 3 Mr. Oliver Boye Teekpeh, Workshop Overview*



*Figure 4: Mr. Henry Simpson, weather Forecaster, Agro-Met, MOT*



*Figure 5: Partial view of some participants, Mrs. Kromah of CARI*



Figure 6 Another view of participants (Cassava sector Rep. & EPA Rep.



Figure 7 LIFAAS Chairman (R. Mitchell) and V-Chairman (Cegbe)



Figure 8 Another view of Workshop participants



Figure 9 Workshop participants



Figure 10 Assistant AFAO-R-Liberia, (Octavius Quarbo)



Figure 11 Mr. Edward Wingbah (EPA) makes presentation on policy



Figure 12 Another view of w-shop activity



Figure 13 Mr. A. Richelieu Mitchell, Sr. makes presentation



Figure 14 CSA Group Discussion



Figure 15 Group discussion (brain storming session)



Figure 16 CSA Group discussion



Figure 17 RAC Moses Gbanyan makes presentation for Group 2



Figure 18 Group presentation



Figure 19 Group presentation by Ms. Willena M-Siaway



Figure 20: Rapporteurs taking notes during CSA workshop



Figure 21A view of workshop participants



Figure 22View of CSA workshop participants



Figure 23Partial view of workshop participants



## Climate Smart Agriculture (CSA)

#	NAME	TITLE	SPECIALITY	INSTITUTION	CONTACT #	E-MAIL
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33						

**LIFAAS Intern-** Binda Kollie **88640-8335/77740-8335**



**CLIMATE SMART AGRICULTURE (CSA)  
TRAINING WORKSHOP**

**UNDER: THE LIBERIAN FORUM FOR  
AGRICULTURAL ADVISORY SERVICES (LIFAAS)**

**WITH SUPPORT FROM AFAAS AND MOA**

**THEME:** *Assessing & including CSA practices in the National Policy for Agricultural Extension & Advisory Services (NPAEAS) of Liberia as a means of increasing crop production, mitigate climate change and reduce greenhouse gases emission in the agriculture sector*

**DATE: WEDNESDAY, APRIL 7, 2021**

**VENUE: CORINA HOTEL, SINKOR,**

**MONROVIA, LIBERIA**