



Agricultural
development
in Southern Africa

Southern African Development Community (SADC) has mandated the Centre for Coordination of Agricultural Research and Development for Southern Africa (CCARDESA) to implement the ACCRA programme jointly with GIZ. The programme is financed by the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ).

CCARDESA is a sub-regional organisation which was established by SADC member states in 2011 to coordinate agricultural research and development among the 15 member states in the region. CCARDESA's goal is to sustainably reduce food insecurity and poverty in the region by coordinating implementation of regional agricultural Research & Development programmes, facilitating collaboration among stakeholders of the national agricultural systems, promoting public – private partnerships, and improving agricultural technology generation, dissemination and adoption in the region.

GIZ, Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit, provides services worldwide in the field of international cooperation for sustainable development. GIZ is implementing a portfolio of activities in partnership with the SADC Secretariat and member states.

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SADC ADAPTATION TO CLIMATE
CHANGE IN RURAL AREAS
IN SOUTHERN AFRICA (ACCRA)

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ACCRA

SADC Adaptation to Climate Change
in Rural Areas in Southern Africa

BE CLIMATE SMART, BE PRODUCTIVE!



Jointly implemented by
CCARDESA **giz** Deutsche Gesellschaft
für Internationale
Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH
Centre For Coordination Of Agricultural Research & Development For Southern Africa
Centro De Coordenação De La Pesquisa E Do Desenvolvimento Agrícola Da África Austral
Centro para a Coordenação da Investigação e Desenvolvimento Agrário na África Austral

ACCRA Programme

SADC has set the goal of increasing the resilience of the region to climate change and the ACCRA programme is designed to support this objective. ACCRA focusses on agriculture, on increasing institutional and technical capacities, disseminating knowledge, technologies and best practices, and on improving regional cooperation. The ACCRA programme is operating within two areas:

REGIONAL KNOWLEDGE DISSEMINATION ON CLIMATE-SMART AGRICULTURE

aims for SADC member states to have access to improved knowledge management systems. A regional system at CCARDESA is supported to which all member states will have access. This system will include a website, knowledge products such as training materials and information leaflets, as well as interactive and social media tools. Input will be provided from international experts and stakeholders from the region such as universities and the national research sectors amongst others. Traditional knowledge dissemination through print media, workshops, trainings and conferences as well as exchange visits also is part of the activities.

CLIMATE PROOFING OF AGRICULTURAL VALUE CHAINS

supports SADC member states in increasing their capacities to disseminate and finance climate-smart practices in agricultural value chains. The programme will analyse the vulnerability of selected agricultural production systems, describe technologies and best practices which stabilize the value chain under the expected effects of climate change and mitigate climate risks, document evidence and support member states in developing investment proposals to leverage additional funds for climate change adaptation in agriculture.



Maize will be most affected by climate change and might not even be a viable crop in some regions.

Climate Change in the SADC Region

The SADC region is extremely vulnerable to the impacts of climate change. The SADC Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan states that about 70 per cent of the region's population depends on agriculture for food, income and employment. Therefore the regional agricultural policy (SADC-RAP) also focusses on climate change adaptation in agriculture. Increasing rainfall variability, increased occurrence and severity of extreme events such as droughts and floods, prolonged mid-season dry spells and increasing mean annual temperatures have direct impacts on crop and livestock production.

Climate Smart Agriculture

aims to

- sustainably increase agricultural productivity and income,
- build adaptive capacity to climate change,
- reduce greenhouse gas emissions where possible.

As average and extreme temperatures increase and extreme weather events such as droughts and floods become more frequent, the productivity of many staple crops declines. Farmers can address this challenge through farm management practices. Based on climate and weather data, they can make informed decisions. They can choose stress-resistant crop varieties, grow in multi-crop systems, diversify their production and improve their water management. They can discover the multiple benefits of agroforestry, cultivating fruit trees with vegetables and protect and improve the soils of their fields by applying conservation agriculture. They can also benefit from crop-livestock integration, raising small ruminants or poultry on their farm which produce additional income and manure to enhance soil fertility.



The idea of climate smart agriculture is to manage resources more efficiently, to produce more with less and thus increase resilience. Not all of it is new. The intriguing approach combines modern research and information – such as climate data, with traditional agricultural methods, and local knowledge with international best cases. Climate smart agriculture brings together practices and technologies that provide promising solutions for effective adaptation to climate change.