

10th Conference on Climate Change and Development in Africa (CCDA-X)

Theme: Just Transitions in Africa: Transforming Dialogue into Action

Windhoek, Namibia 24 - 28 October 2022

Pre event concept Note

Event Title	Climate, food systems and transition to low-carbon development pathways: The smallholder producers double tragedy in exclusive unfavourable global policy processes
Event Date & Time	TBC
Room	TBC
Online Link	TBC
Event Sponsor	PACJA, EAFF
Event Partners	FEMNET
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Summary

This event will bring together stakeholders in the agricultural sector to deliberate and firm up on common approaches and actions toward just and sustainable transition in agriculture in Africa, deliberate on how to influence in COP27 for enhanced financing for just transitions in the agriculture sector in Africa to promote greater inclusion for smallholder producers, pastoralists and communities at the frontline of climate crisis and their production systems. We will also seek to leverage on key Africa and other policy institutions to embed the application of Locally Led Adaptation principles in policy and regional programme designs meant for building resilience to smallholder producers in Africa

Background

CCDA-X aims to launch a continent-wide debate on the actions required to bring about a transition that is truly just for Africa as well as how the continent can develop appropriate frameworks to prepare for the just transition. At the heart of transitions, is transiting Africa's agriculture and livelihood systems that African smallholder farmers have relied on as basis for their sustainability and livelihoods, and now under intense threat.

The transitioning process is premised in the current of world growing list of solutions such as carbon capture and storage, agricultural intensification/climate smart agriculture, REDD+, carbon offsetting (rather than cutting emissions at source) promoting plantations. Some of

these proposed solutions are mere experiments and have dire implications for local communities and ecosystem balance.

Smallholder agriculture in Africa are intensely affected by climate change and hence there is need for accelerated support to build smallholder farmers climate resilience. Severe drought, coupled with flooding and sporadic waves of cyclones and sea water intrusions in low laying agricultural lands adjacent to oceans have led to reduced agricultural production. More so climate resilience is currently not fully integrated in policy pathways to economic growth and where it is integrated is not being implemented adequately and in coordination.

Africa's smallholder agricultural producers continue to bear the biggest brunt of the climate crisis due to low investments for new technology, irrigation, extension services, postharvest management, among others, hence increasing the vulnerability to the climate crisis. The resultant effect is low productivity in agriculture and food sector, yet this sector is the main source of food, revenues and incomes for smallholder producers in Africa. To enhance adaptation of smallholder farmers, climate finance should prioritize African smallholder agriculture.

Access to the climate finance by the African smallholders' farmers has been constrained. The exclusion of the smallholder farmers to the climate finance continue to worsen their vulnerability, trigger rural urban migration and other climate motivated migrations, increase food insecurity, erode rural economies and create a spike in rural poverty in Africa. Financial resources from institutions such as the Green Climate Fund and the environmental facilities under UNFCCC remain largely inaccessible to African smallholder farmers. It is useful to note that improved accessibility of these financing facilities by the smallholder farmers would have increased adaptive capacities of the rural communities mostly affected by the climate crisis.

Research has shown that agriculture and agrarian reforms rooted in agroecological practice and principles could help to cool the planet and ensure climate resilience. Climate Smart Agriculture has been fronted as a magic bullet in many countries in Africa with strategies in place to implement this, which in many instances have fallen short of expectations of African smallholder farmers. Equally investment in research and expanded Climate Smart Agriculture knowledge seems disconnected with farmers' aspirations and realities. As such the preferred reform and transitional pathway must be rooted in aspirations and approaches that are technically feasible to smallholder producers in the continent. Politics, poor implementation and follow up are some of the factors standing in the way of such a transition.

African countries are grappling with policy options in transiting their agriculture sector either in a climate smart manner, in an agroecological manner amidst competing interests of genetic engineering practitioners, keen to promote GMOs as a solution to the climate triggered food crisis in the continent. Broadly and in responding to climate change, the promotion of nature-based solutions through Locally Led Adaptation actions remain an overarching theme.

The knowledge gaps on the UNFCCC process, the state of matters at play and how to advance for greater and progressive commitments in furthering climate resilience agenda for African

smallholder producers must be bridged to enhance the effectiveness of advocacy approaches, positioning and strategic messaging in climate conversations.

It is imperative to promote and increase understanding on Agroecology and its significance in our food system and for climate mitigation/adaptation among relevant stakeholders and especially for it to be taken up by government as part of their climate change adaptation strategy. This is timely and important as governments and other actors prepare for negotiations at the upcoming COP 27 in Egypt.

Objectives

1. Deliberate and firm up on common approaches and actions toward just and sustainable transition in agriculture in Africa
2. Deliberate on how to influence in COP27 for enhanced financing for just transitions in the agriculture sector in Africa to promote greater inclusion for smallholder producers, pastoralists and communities at the frontline of climate crisis and their production systems.
3. Leverage on key Africa and other policy institutions to embed the application of Locally Led Adaptation principles in policy and regional programme design meant for building resilience to smallholder producers in Africa

Format

- Panel discussion-The organisers will convene a two-hour panel of leading voices to share insights and perspectives
- Plenary discussion- Physical and online participants will contribute to building key positions, messages, and strategies for elevating agriculture in locally lead approaches

Mithika Mwenda <i>Executive Director, PACJA</i>	Political Remarks
Session 1: Facilitator Nicholas Abuya, Christian Aid	<i>Transitions in Agriculture sector in building response and resilience to climate change for smallholder farmers – which way?</i>

<p>Session 2: Facilitator</p> <p>Steven Muchiri, EAFF</p>	<p><i>Panel session on influencing pro-smallholder outcomes in COP27, and scaled up financing for smallholder production systems</i></p>
<p>Session 3: Panel Discussion</p> <p>Discussants</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Angela Reithuber, Bankmoon Center2. Yared deme, WRI3. Helen Njeri, Dutch government	<p><i>Anchoring Locally led adaptions in agriculture sector in broad based pan African policy and programmes – a panel discussion to explore opportunities and areas of further action</i></p>