Irish Aid Briefing

Smallholder Farming and Climate Resilient Agriculture

Issues for agricultural development programming
Contents

1. Background;

2. Conceptual framing of smallholder farming households;

1. Why climate risk management should be integrated into development programming for smallholder farming;

1. How climate risk management can be integrated into development programming for smallholder farming;
Background

- Smallholder farming is the mainstay livelihood of many poor households;

- Acknowledgement of dynamic / differentiated livelihoods: varying degrees of agriculture, livestock, and often agro-pastoral

- Climate risks often result in food insecurity and the exacerbation of poverty;

- Women headed households are particularly vulnerable.
Framing for Smallholder Farming Households

Aim for smallholder farming households to transition

(2) “Stepping-up”: adapting to climate risks

(1) “Hanging in”: coping with climate risks
Putting Climate Risks into Perspective

Governance and Political Stability
(Enabling Environment)

Pressures
1. Poverty
2. Population
3. Gender
4. Farm size / Productivity

Smallholder Farmer

Climate Hazards
1. Drought
2. Floods
3. Erratic rain
4. Storms
5. Land degradation (indirect)
Adaptation Options

Smallholder Farmer

Governance and Political Stability (Enabling Environment)

Pressures

Climate Hazards

(1) Stepping Out: Education; urban migration support; land access

(2) Hanging In–Stepping Up: technology promotion; local adaptation processes; finance/insurance services

(3) Dropping Out: social protection and public works
(1) Adaptation Options: Stepping Out

- Education and training for non-farm employment;

- Migration support to urban areas or higher agricultural potential;

- Arrangements to assist with land access, particularly for women farmers
(2) Adaptation Options: Hanging-in to Stepping-Up

Main group of smallholders for Irish Aid support

- Participatory and gender sensitive climate resilient agricultural technology (see technical note);

- Farmer engagement in local climate adaptation planning processes;

- Innovative financial and insurance services.
(3) Dropping Out

- Access to social protection and other safety nets
Irish Aid Technical Paper

Smallholder Farming and Climate Resilient Agriculture

A guidance for agricultural development programming
Adaptation Options

Governance and Political Stability
(Enabling Environment)

Pressures

Smallholder Farmer

Climate Hazards

Adaptation Options

(1) Stepping Out: Education; urban migration support; land access

(2) Hanging In–Stepping Up: technology promotion; local adaptation processes; finance/insurance services

(3) Dropping Out: social protection and public works
Framing of Climate Integration into Agricultural Programming

1. **Entry Point & Screening**
   - Establish Practical and Effective Entry Point for Integrating Climate Considerations
   - Identify Present and Future Climate Conditions
   - Identify Risks and Opportunities for Crops and Livestock over Specified Timescales

2. **Adaptation Options**
   - Develop Resilient Crop and Livestock Options
   - Compare Options based on Climate Risk versus Monetary Return

3. **Implement, Monitor, Evaluate & Learn**
   - Implement Agricultural Programme
   - Design M&E System
   - Collect Data on Chosen Resilience Indicators
   - Assess Performance
   - Feedback into Learning Mechanisms

**Entry Point**

**Climate Risk Screening of Agricultural Programming**

**Low**

**Medium**

**High**

**Identify Adaptation Measures**

**Detailed Risk Assessment**

**Implementation of Climate Resilient Agricultural Programming**

**MEL Tracking and Learning on Irish Aid Objectives**
(1) Entry Points

- A place in national/local government or NGO planning processes to adjust agricultural programming;

- Requires personnel with knowledge of SHF households to understand agricultural and livestock practices;

- Optimal entry point is where you can meaningfully establish the climate risks of SHF households;

- Trade-off between scalability and context.
(1) Climate Screening and Assessing

- **Climate Screening or Climate-Proofing**
  - **Tool**: Qualitative Assessment of Secondary Material – e.g. CRiSTAL

- **Climate Vulnerability Assessment**

- **Climate Risk Assessment**
  - **Tool**: Qualitative or Quantitative – e.g. Care’s CVCA, CRiSTAL
  - **Tool**: Typically Quantitative Climate Risk Calculation – e.g. OECD Guidance
(2) Adaptation Options

- Quantitative: vulnerability assessment;

- Quantitative: risk assessment and feasibility testing;

- Economic: cost-benefit analysis
(3) Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning

- Tracking Adaptation and Measuring Development (TAMD), plus other M&E tools for climate adaptation;

- Measuring resilience (ask after presentation)

- Institutionalised within formal planning and decision-making processes;
(3) Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning

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