

Key achievements

- 1,400 farmers, with 140 farming households benefiting from bundled climate-smart technologies (e.g., drip irrigation linked to CSA interventions).
- 247 champion farmers trained in CSA and CIS practices across six Member States (Botswana, Eswatini, Malawi, Mozambique, Zambia, Zimbabwe), with 63% female participation in anticipation that they will reach out to about 2,500 other farmers.
- Collaboratively designed and released the CSA Handbook in partnership with the Global Climate Change Alliance Plus (GCCA+) project <https://www.sadc.int/project-portfolio/gcca-intra-acp-programme>.
- Developed Climate Smart Legume Production Guides in Malawi, Tanzania, and Zambia.
- Contributed to the launch of the Regional Soil Health and Fertilizer Hub, led by the Food System Resilience Programme (FSRP) <https://www.ccardesa.org/food-systems-resilience-programme-fsrp-eastern-and-southern-africa>



Scaling opportunities

- Utilize existing institutional frameworks to effectively disseminate validated Climate-Smart Agriculture (CSA) and Climate Information Services (CIS) technologies, ensuring they align with the interests of women stakeholders.
- Strengthening Public-Private Partnerships (PPPs): Enhance partnerships to disseminate CSA technologies, improve their scalability, and drive adoption.
- Develop comprehensive production guidelines for priority crops to enhance national climate resilience.
- Integrate small-ruminant Community-Based Breeding Programs into national livestock strategies and climate adaptation frameworks, supported by appropriate policy frameworks, financial mechanisms, and collaborative stakeholder engagement to scale initiatives effectively.
- Incorporate forecasting and extension digital tools into early warning systems and advisory services in the region to facilitate the prompt delivery of critical advisories to smallholder farmers and local agricultural planners, thereby improving preparedness and adaptability.
- Strengthen capacity-building initiatives around CSA for policymakers, extension agents, and community leaders, ensuring that gender considerations are systematically integrated into CSA programming.
- Institutionalize Climate Information Services within national agricultural frameworks to enhance resilience and adaptability in agricultural practices.

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CCARDESA
Centre for Coordination of Agricultural Research and Development for Southern Africa



**Accelerating Impacts of CGIAR
Climate Research for Africa (AICCRA)
Scaling Climate-Smart Agriculture
and Climate Information Services for
Resilient Farming Systems**



AICCRA
Accelerating the Impact of CGIAR
Climate Research for Africa



The Centre for Coordination of Agricultural Research and Development for Southern Africa (CCARDESA) <https://www.ccardesa.org/> is a subsidiary of the Southern African Development Community (SADC), established in 2010 by member states to coordinate agricultural research and development efforts across Southern Africa. The organization's purpose is to set and execute a comprehensive regional agenda for agricultural research and development. It aims to enhance stakeholder cooperation, facilitate technology generation and scaling, facilitate resource mobilisation, and disseminate agricultural knowledge across the region.

What Is AICCRA?

The Accelerating Impacts of CGIAR Climate Research for Africa (AICCRA), <https://aiccra.cgiar.org/>, is a World Bank-supported project that strengthens the capacity of African institutions to deliver climate-smart agriculture (CSA) and enhanced climate information services (CIS). Led by CGIAR research centers, it works with partners in six nations: Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Mali, Senegal, and Zambia to help smallholder farmers anticipate climate risks and improve food security. The role of CCARDESA is to coordinate regional implementation, scale Climate Smart Agriculture (CSA) and Climate Information Services (CIS) innovations, build institutional and human capacity, and facilitate learning, partnerships, and policy influence across the SADC region



AICCRA aims to enhance smallholder farmers' access to technology and information to build climate-resilient agriculture. The project focuses on four key areas: knowledge, partnerships, innovation, and gender and social inclusion. AICCRA promotes the use of validated innovations, such as improved seed varieties, integrated aquaculture-agriculture, and climate-informed advisories. It acts as a bridge between scientific research (CGIAR) and local agricultural organizations to promote sustainable farming practices and improve livelihoods. AICCRA focuses on building the resilience of African agriculture against climate change, specifically targeting women and vulnerable groups to boost productivity and income.

AICCRA activities under CCARDESA are coordinated by the East and Southern Africa cluster, led by the International Livestock Research Institute (ILRI) <https://www.ilri.org/>, which works to enhance the resilience of smallholder farmers' and livestock keepers' agricultural productivity in the region through climate-smart agriculture and climate information services.

The Goals of AICCRA include:

- Increase access to climate information and validated CSA technologies.
- Strengthen the capacity of regional and national agricultural bodies and farmers.
- Facilitate partnerships between research institutions and extension services.
- Support piloting and validation of CSA practices across Africa.



Key Focus Areas

Climate-Smart Agriculture (CSA)

- Promote adoption of CSA practices (conservation agriculture, drought-tolerant varieties, solar-powered irrigation, etc.).
- Support climate-informed planning and decision tools.
- Tailor services to gender and social inclusion.

Climate Information Services (CIS)

- Strengthen climate advisory systems and early warning systems.
- Deliver weather and climate data to farmers and extension workers.

Knowledge Sharing & Capacity Building

- Knowledge Sharing & Capacity Building

