Climate-Smart Agriculture Globally

The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations provides excellent information and guidance on Climate-Smart Agriculture, as well as examples of successes and challenges. The FAO’s Climate-Smart Agriculture Sourcebook in particular is a useful tool for demonstrating the potential and limitations of CSA and facilitating decision making at varied levels (e.g. subnational and national) and among different stakeholders, including politicians and resource managers to enable further developments in planning, investments, policies and practices related to CSA.

The Global Alliance for Climate-Smart Agriculture was launched at the 2014 UN Climate Summit. GACSA is a voluntary alliance of partners, including the Rainforest Alliance, that are dedicated to addressing the challenges facing food security and agriculture under a changing climate. The alliance’s meeting reports and launch documents give a clear overview of the vision of this group and how it aims to play an influential role in shaping global discussions on CSA.

Rainforest Alliance’s CSA Experience:

Operationalizing climate-smart agricultural landscapes: the case of a tea-producing landscape in Kericho, Kenya: This paper lays out an assessment tool for evaluating climate-smart landscape needs and opportunities in six key activity domains, and the steps for applying this tool in the agricultural landscape around Kericho, Kenya, an important tea-growing region where agriculture and ecosystem services are expected to be strongly affected by climate change.

Towards Productive Landscapes: A landscape approach to climate-smart agriculture in Ghana: This report details the Rainforest Alliance’s efforts to introduce CSA at a landscape scale in the Juabeso-Bia District of western Ghana. The aim was to improve the capacities of farmers to mitigate and adapt to climate change while simultaneously increasing productivity. The project focused on organizing individual farmers, establishing landscape management structures, diminishing pressures to further encroach on surrounding forestlands, and restoring ecosystems within cocoa agroforests and other degraded land-use systems while increasing cocoa production.

Climate-friendly and Productive farming Guide for Coffee smallholders in Africa: This guide helps smallholder farmers increase their productivity, while also learning how to reduce the carbon footprint of their farms and be better prepares to adapt to impacts cause by climate change.

Approaches to monitoring and evaluation of climate change adaptation/CSA

Monitoring & evaluation for climate change adaptation and resilience: A synthesis of tools, frameworks and approaches: This is a comprehensive collection of monitoring and evaluation tools, frameworks, and approaches which allows program managers, policy-makers, and researchers the ability to review and analysis approaches which may be most useful to them.

Charting Transitions to Conservation-Friendly Agriculture: The Rainforest Alliance’s approach to monitoring and assessing results for biodiversity, ecosystems and the environment: This white paper introduces the environmental performance monitoring system and explains how the organization is charting transitions to conservation-friendly agriculture to meet the information needs of farmers, buyers and other stakeholders.

Agriculture & Forests

Halting Deforestation and Achieving Sustainability: As deforestation-related commitments and claims proliferate, there is the risk of confusion, green-washing, and the loss of precious time. But, if these commitments are fully honored, effectively implemented, and strategically augmented, they can contribute to sustainability at unprecedented scale. This Rainforest Alliance position paper lays out key steps for collectively working together across sectors to forge sustainable agricultural and forestry supply chains.