

Building the Climate Resilience of Agriculture Value Chains in Uganda through Stakeholder Dialogues

Project Launch Minutes

5TH April 2013, MOSA COURT Apartments, Kampala

On the 5th of April 2013, 24 representatives from ministries, research institutes, non-governmental organizations, donor agencies, and the media attended the official launch of the project “Building the Climate Resilience of Agriculture Value Chains in Uganda through Stakeholder Dialogues” in Kampala.

The overall purpose was to inform key stakeholders about the new pilot project, which is a collaborative initiative among Makerere University, the Ministry of Trade and Industry (MTIC) and the International Institute for Sustainable Development (IISD).

Following opening remarks from MTIC and IISD, Makerere University provided an overview of the project. This was followed by a question-and-answer session facilitated by UNDP. Finally, the project was officially launched by the Assistant Commissioner Internal Trade. (See details in Annexes)

Key messages

- **Climate change will impact all sectors, including trade, with consequences for the country competitiveness and poverty reduction.** The Government of Uganda’s development strategy strongly relies on exports to achieve the country’s national vision (Vision 2035). Climate change is a multi-sector challenge which calls for concerted efforts of not only the environment sector, but also the trade sector. MTIC recognizes the need for policy harmonization and has already embarked on efforts to mainstream environment in trade policy processes. Examples include the revision of the Diagnostic Trade Integrated Study (DTIS) and the joint initiative to promote sustainable land management spearheaded by the Ministry of Agriculture (MAAIF), with the support of Global Mechanism.
- **Value chain development remains a key tool to facilitate the growth of agricultural commodities.** Value chain development is one of the 13 thematic areas for intervention of the National Trade Sector Development Plan 2008/9 – 2012/13 as well as a key objective of the Ministry of Agriculture (MAAIF)’s Development and Sector Investment Plan (DSIP) 2010/11-2014/15. To date, limited work has been done to understand the impacts of climate risks along all functional levels of a selected value chain (from production to marketing). And yet, climate risks may affect, directly and indirectly, all resources and all actors involved in the process of value addition of a specific commodity. A recent study on “Climate Risk Management for Sustainable Crop Production in Uganda: Rakai and Kapchorwa districts”¹ led by IISD as part of the

¹The report can be downloaded at: <http://www.iisd.org/publications/pub.aspx?pno=1748>

UNDP Climate Risk Management Technical Assistance Project, calls for a more integrated approach to climate risk management through the use of the value chain approach. Specifically, there is a need to understand how climate risks are distributed and transmitted (or not) among all the stakeholders of value chains (not just at production level) to identify solutions that benefit all actors along the value chain and opportunities for investments.

- **The overall purpose of the proposed project is to initiate a process to mainstream climate risks into agricultural value chains in Uganda.** By the end of the 6-month pilot project, the following outcomes are expected:
 - A process of dialogues among key stakeholders along a selected value chain is initiated and the importance of mainstreaming climate risks recognized.
 - The impacts of, and responses to, climate risks among stakeholders are better understood to reduce vulnerabilities at all levels of the value chain.
 - A proposal for resource mobilization for a second phase of the project is developed in consultation with relevant stakeholders.

Climate risk along the value chain will be analyzed through a participatory process focusing on stakeholder dialogues. Three “dialogues theatres” (or thematic dialogues “in situ”) among stakeholders involved at a specific level of a value chain will be organized. Scenarios will then be developed to understand the climate impact and response chains across the different segments of the value chain at a national workshop.

- **The project will use the coffee value chain as a pilot in view of scaling up the approach to other agriculture value chains during a second phase of the project.** Coffee has been selected for the following reasons: (1) coffee continues to provide the biggest share of total export revenue of the country - the sub-sector employs over two million people mainly in on-farm production and beyond; (2) the coffee value chain is the most organized value chain in Uganda - various data and information are already available; (3) the Uganda Coffee Development Authority (UCDA) primarily attributes the high fluctuation of coffee production over the last 40 years to climate variability (in combination with other factors such as reduced soil fertility and mismanagement); and (4) some initiatives including from the private sector already exist to support climate adaptation at the production level. A steering committee based on the National Coffee Platform will advise the project team on the implementation of planned activities to ensure maximum ownership and buy-in from all key stakeholders on the project process and outcomes.

Main recommendations

- **Build on existing research, avoid duplication.** A wealth of studies has already been conducted in the coffee sector. The project team needs to build upon these studies to avoid any duplication of work. Examples of recent studies conducted in Uganda includes: coffee value chain mapping conducted by UNDP, on-going work of the International Institute of Tropical Agriculture (IITA) on coffee and climate change, and a vulnerability assessment in the agriculture sector (including coffee) conducted by USAID. The later includes an analysis of climate records for the last 60 years from 1960 onwards.
- **Call for rigorous analysis and being cautious.** Some stakeholders highlighted the importance of recognizing the multiple drivers of change (climatic and non-climatic). Some studies tend to

overemphasize the role of climate change. There is a need to recognize the role of other drivers (e.g., land use changes, population growth) and to discuss the level of uncertainties.

- **Translate findings into concrete, implementable actions.** Stakeholders expressed their 'research fatigue'. Numerous studies are being done but recommendations are not implemented and therefore impacts are very limited. It was clarified that this pilot project is not a research project per se. Rather the aim is to sensitize and get buy-in from key stakeholders along the value chain to strengthen mechanisms of collaboration, secure their participation in resource mobilization and their involvement in the implementation of the second phase of this project. Local governments and cultural institutions should be involved in the project progress whenever possible.

Annexes

1. List of participants
2. Agenda
3. Project Overview (PowerPoint presentation)
4. Project Announcement