Progress of project Implementation at Regional level

National Policy Dialogue on key policy issues around the effect of climate change on Crop Production and Post-Harvest Management at national and at regional level, 28 September 2015, Holiday Inn Express, Sunny park, South Africa

Sina Luchen, Agronomist
FAO Sub regional Office for Southern Africa– DRM Office, Johannesburg
Background

• Climate change, is forecasted to increase the occurrence and magnitude of extreme climatic events.

• Southern Africa is already experiencing some of these events including droughts, floods and tropical cyclones, often with negative impact on people’s socio-wellbeing, health, agriculture, food and nutrition security, infrastructure etc.

• The impact of climatic shocks on the livelihoods and food and nutrition security of the region’s rural people (estimated at 75% of the region’s population) has an exacerbating effect on the already existing vulnerabilities in the region.
The need for action

• With the link between smallholder food production and post-harvest handling systems and food and nutrition security at household level, it is imperative to ensure that the capacity of production systems to withstand, absorb and or to recover (resiliency) from climate related shocks is strengthened through better management of the associated risks;

• In order to contribute knowledge to the above perspective, FAO in partnership with 6 centres of excellence namely; Food, Agriculture and Natural Resources Policy Analysis Network (FANRPAN), Natural Resources Institute, United Kingdom (NRI), Soil Fertility Consortium for Southern Africa (SOFECSA), Wageningen University, Netherlands (WUR), the University of Pretoria (UP) and the University of Zimbabwe (UZ) developed joint project which became operational in 2012.
Objectives

• The **overall objective of the action is to contribute to improved and sustained household and national food security in southern Africa through better management of climatic risks by smallholder farmers.**

**Specific objectives are:**

1. To develop and promote smallholder farmer innovative techniques, methods and approaches to managing risks to crop production and post-harvest handling associated with drought, floods and cyclones.

2. To strengthen regional knowledge and institutional arrangements on risk management for crop production and post-harvest handling in areas prone to climatic hazards.
Work packages (WP)

• The action is organized into seven work packages (WP):
  • WP1: Management and Monitoring and Evaluation of Action Outputs
  • WP2: Participatory community profiles of climatic hazards and coping mechanisms on crop production and post-harvesting handling in climate disaster-prone areas of southern Africa
  • WP3: Innovative risk management options for crop production and post-harvest handling in climate disaster-prone areas of the action countries developed
Work packages (WP)

- WP4: Innovative risk management options for crop production and post-harvest handling in climate disaster-prone areas evaluated with 3,000 smallholder farmers
- WP5: Innovative institutional arrangements for managing risk for crop production and post-harvest handling in the climate disaster-prone areas are identified
- WP6: Information and knowledge on risk management in crop production and post-harvest handling shared with relevant local and regional stakeholders
- WP7: Communication and visibility
Expected Results

1. Participatory community profiles of climatic hazards and coping mechanisms on crop production and post-harvest handling in climate disaster-prone areas of southern Africa produced

2. Innovative risk management options for crop production and post-harvest handling in climate disaster-prone areas identified with 400 farmers

3. Scaling-up of identified risk management options to 4,000 smallholder farmers

4. Innovative institutional arrangements for managing risk to crop production and post-harvest handling in climate disaster-prone areas identified

5. Information and knowledge on innovative risk management and institutional arrangements in crop production and post-harvest handling shared with local and regional stakeholders
Achievements to date

**WP1: Management and Monitoring and Evaluation of Action Outputs**

- Project support mechanisms are operational
- One regional project review and planning meeting held in Johannesburg, South Africa
- Three project coordination meetings for partner team leaders held via electronic mediums
- Project communication and visibility plan developed and some elements of the plan implemented
Achievements to date

WP2: Participatory community profiles of climatic hazards and coping mechanisms on crop production and post-harvesting handling in climate disaster-prone areas of southern Africa

- Stakeholder inception workshops were held
- Communities and stakeholders at project sites were sensitized, mobilized and engaged through the profiling survey to define and characterize climatic hazards and risks, and coping mechanisms associated with crop production and post-harvest handling;
- Community climatic risk profiling data collection and analysis was completed in 2014.
- Existing community mechanisms to manage the risks have been identified for each site through profiling data analysis and synthesis and Reports have been written.
Achievements to date

WP3: Innovative risk management options for crop production and post-harvest handling in climate disaster-prone areas of the action countries developed;

• Two multi-stakeholder postharvest learning centres were established in Shire Valley, Malawi in Chikwawa and Thyolo districts (first sampling was done in December 2014);

• 14 new Learning centres were established in Hwedza and 6 in Mbire, Zimbabwe. This is in addition to six that were established in the previous reporting period;

• 50 learning centres for agronomic trials were established in Lower Shire;
Achievements to date

WP3 Cont.

• Four multi-stakeholder postharvest learning centres were established in Zimbabwe, two in Hwedza district and two in Mbire district;

• 20 farmer field plots were selected and verified and two experimental ‘mother-sites’ were chosen and prepared to double as learning centres;

• Trials were set in South Africa in Giyani and Ntambanana

• 115 farmers and partners (Ntambanana 41 and Giyani 74) were trained on the technologies to be tested under WP3, presented in three different experiments;

• 15 (6 post-harvest and 8 production) postgraduate students continue to undertake studies with support from the project.
Achievements to date

WP4: Innovative risk management options for crop production and post-harvest handling in climate disaster-prone areas evaluated with 3,000 smallholder farmers

- The evaluation by smallholder farmers of selected technological options will commence this coming season.
Achievements to date

WP5: Innovative institutional arrangements for managing risk for crop production and post-harvest handling in the climate disaster-prone areas have been identified

• Four study reports (one per country) from the analysis of existing policies and institutions relevant to the management of climate-related hazards and risks produced;

• Four national validation workshops for country reports;

• Four articles on climate change and crop production and postharvest published
Achievements to date

WP5 Cont.

- Five policy briefs - one each from Madagascar, South Africa and Zimbabwe and two from Malawi.
- Synthesis report on institutional arrangements and policy environment for managing climatic risk for crop production and post-harvest handling in climate disaster prone areas.
- Proceedings of FANRPAN Annual High Level Food and Nutrition Security Multi-Stakeholder Policy Dialogue produced;
Achievements to date

WP5

• Report on the post-harvest loss management policies and way forward workshop.
• Madagascar Regional Dialogue newsletter published in October 2014.
• List of preliminary recommendations for improvements in policies and institutions for effectiveness and efficiency
Achievements to date

WP6: Information and knowledge on risk management in crop production and post-harvest handling shared with relevant local and regional stakeholders

• Two publications
• More publications are anticipated
Achievements to date

WP7: Communication and visibility

• The project stakeholders ensured that project banners with partner and EU logos were displayed at all major meetings that were held in the four countries.
• Country specific T-shirts were printed and distributed during learning events in Zimbabwe
• TV features
• Over 150 people visited the SOFECISA-UZ Research Group stand at the 2014 Edition of the Research and Intellectual Expo Science and Technology Innovation (RIE-SET)
Challenges/Opportunities

• There was a delay in starting the project and this created a carry over effect, however the project has been granted a 6 months no cost extension.
• Crop related experiments/trials were badly affected by the drought conditions that affected the region
The end

Thank you!