Funding of Climate Change–Related Projects in AGRA Bread Basket Areas in Ghana

ABOUT THIS BRIEF

One critical mechanism necessary for reducing climate change impacts, particularly in developing countries, such as Ghana, is funding. Yet, while debates on climate change impacts continue to occupy topmost positions on the agenda of governments, only few are seem to be discussing issues about sources of funding for climate change activities. This brief looks at the subject of climate change funding in the Northern Region of Ghana. It identifies a few projects which could be classified under mitigation or adaptation strategies to climate change. Findings further show that most of climate change–related initiatives or projects in the country are funded by international organisations with majority of these projects focusing on environmental related issues. Other civil society organisations also join hands with the Government of Ghana to provide funding to support climate change activities locally. This Policy Brief therefore advocates that while the government of Ghana may still require international funding, decisions on initiatives should be tailored to meet the needs of local people, especially the vulnerable.

BACKGROUND

Agricultural production and food security in many African countries and regions are being severely compromised as a result of climate change and climate variability (Boko et al., 2007). The impact pathways of climate change in Ghana include drying up of water bodies, floods and droughts (Kankam-Yeboah et al., 2010). The negative implications of these extreme climatic events on agriculture in Ghana, and indeed Africa, cannot therefore be overemphasised. The economy of Ghana has largely been dependent on agriculture, and the sector continues to play a significant role in the nation’s economy. It employs about 51% of the labour force and is the largest foreign exchange earner (MoFA, 2010). The Government of Ghana, recognising the importance of climate change to the overall social and economic development of the country, is committed to implementing climate-related initiatives at the national, regional and district levels (Würtenberger et al., 2011). Several climate-related initiatives have therefore been implemented in the country, mostly with the aim of either building resilience or mitigating the impacts of climate change and variability. The initiatives promoted through these projects focus on building farmers’ capacity, creating awareness about the effects of climate change and promoting climate change adaptation or coping strategies.

THE RESEARCH APPROACH

In order to identify the climate-related initiatives implemented in the northern bread basket region of Ghana, government and non-government organisations were consulted. A checklist was prepared and administered to various heads of organisations identified through snowball sampling technique because there was no pre-existing list of projects. Climate change initiatives were also identified through a desk study of grey and published literature obtained from the implementing organisations and the Internet. The literature was complemented with information gathered through discussions with implementing offices. Content analysis was used to analyze the documents and interviews.

KEY FINDINGS

Thirty-seven (37) climate-related initiatives have been or are being implemented in Ghana. The projects focus on building farmers’ capacities to adapt or cope with impacts of climate change and creating
awareness about the effects of climate change. The projects have varied geographical coverage in terms of region and reach at the community level. They are also funded by Government of Ghana, international development partners and civil society organisations. The following are brief summaries of some of the projects:

- The Netherlands Climate Assistance Program (NCAP)
- Community-Based Rural Development Project
- Land Conservation and Smallholder Rehabilitation Project (LACOSREP II)
- Livestock Development Project (LDP)

The majority (about 50%) of the climate change–related projects have been funded by international organisations (IO) (Figure 1). These organisations, including IFAD, EU, World Bank, DANIDA, AFD, DfID, AUSAID, JICA and CIDA, have been particularly interested in supporting environmentally related projects in sub-Saharan Africa. Additionally, about 31% of the projects were funded by international and local civil society organisations (CSOs) such as the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, Canadian Hunger Foundation, AGRA, and local religious-based organisations. Also, about 19% of the projects were fully or partially funded by the Government of Ghana (GOG) although it must be emphasised that more than 60% of the projects were funded in partnership with Government of Ghana or government agencies (e.g. Savanna Agricultural Research Institute of the CSIR).

CONCLUSION

Mainstreaming climate change programmes (i.e. mitigation or adaptation) into central government budgets and even at the decentralised levels is the surest way to address the climate change issues in the country. Adaptation or mitigation programmes are geared towards development and could still help government achieve its goals of developing the country. Funding from donors has produced scattered efforts on addressing climate change and sometimes has led to duplications of efforts. The country has no clear policy on climate change although there are bits and pieces at various ministries, departments and agencies, but they are not sufficient to address the challenges associated with climate change.

POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS

- The central government should make a conscious effort to include climate change activities in its budgets in order to mainstream climate change activities.
- Adaptation efforts require predictable and sustainable sources of finance, which are best provided from public sources, including innovative climate finance sources, and must be in the form of grants. Private sources of finance for adaptation activities can play a supplementary role.
- Climate finance sources, traditional or innovative sources and private or public sources should be measured, reported and verified from sourcing to disbursement.
- Sound fund governance and disbursement measures should be built at both international and national levels to ensure the maximum mitigation and adaptation impacts of finance sources generated.

![Figure 1: Distribution of Project by Funding Source](image-url)
REFERENCES


