

Evidences

Study #4404

Contributing Projects:

- P771 - Shaping equitable climate change policies for resilient food systems across Central America and the Caribbean
- P262 - Research and engagement for scaling climate-smart agriculture in Latin America

Part I: Public communications

Type: OICR: Outcome Impact Case Report

Status: Completed

Year: 2021

Title: The Climate-Smart Agriculture Regional Strategy (EASAC) for the Central American Integration System (SICA) enabled the scaling of climate-smart agriculture across the region through at least 250 transformations on policy, institutional, and financial dimensions

Short outcome/impact statement:

A set of CGIAR innovations have contributed to the implementation and scaling of the Climate-Smart Agriculture Regional Strategy for the SICA region (EASAC), which is the Central American Integration System. The Central American Agricultural Council (CAC) oversees EASAC's implementation, this regional body gathers Ministries of Agriculture of eight countries in the region. Since 2017, the EASAC has enabled the scaling of climate-smart agriculture (CSA) across the region evidenced through at least 250 transformations on the policy, institutional, and financial dimensions.

Outcome story for communications use:

In June 2017, the Ministers of Agriculture of the Central American Integration System (in Spanish: SICA) launched the Climate Smart Agriculture Regional Strategy for the SICA region 2018 - 2030 (in Spanish: EASAC). The strategy formulation was in charge of the Central American Agricultural Council (CAC) and supported by CCAFS, CIAT, IICA, FAO, ECLAC, and CATIE.

Through the Strategy, stakeholders of the agri-food sector of the SICA region are addressing the commitments on climate change of the SICA countries and the need to guarantee food security. The EASAC has been an opportunity to develop strategic actions, integrated and aligned with global frameworks to achieve an agriculture that is more sustainable, inclusive, resilient, and better adapted to climate change.

Recently, Collazos et al. (2021) assessed how EASAC had generated transformation in policy, institutional, financing, and communication dimensions to contribute to the scaling of the Climate Smart Agriculture (CSA) approach in the SICA region (at national and regional levels). The study reveals that the EASAC has influenced 252 transformations across all countries, mainly in the policy and institutional dimensions. For the policy dimension, 182 transformations were identified and are related to the formulation, implementation, monitoring, and evaluation of a diversity of laws, plans, strategies, and/or policies that integrate the Climate Smart Agriculture (CSA) approach at regional, national, and sub-national levels. Regarding institutional dimension, 45 transformations were identified and correspond mainly to creating and promoting coordination initiatives, alliances, and CSA dialogue spaces at regional and national levels. Also, the strengthening of governments' CSA capacities, research stakeholders, and extension services at the national level. Regarding the financing dimension, investments in CSA have been promoted in the region, while no transformations were found in the communication dimension.

Links to any communications materials relating to this outcome:

- <https://www.cac.int/sites/default/files/Resumen%20EASAC.%20Ingl%c3%a9s.pdf>
- <https://tinyurl.com/s3wca72>
- <https://tinyurl.com/y5p56p7h>

Part II: CGIAR system level reporting

Link to Common Results Reporting Indicator of Policies : Yes

Policies contribution:

- 368 - This development plan includes climate-smart agriculture (ASAC in Spanish), as a mechanism to increase resilience of rural families in the context of climate change and variability.
- 8 - Informed investment of USD 2 million for a regional Climate Smart Agriculture (CSA) strategy for Central America
- 370 - This document frames a new pathway in the agricultural sector of El Salvador, by establishing guidelines to move towards agriculture through climate-smart agriculture approach.
- 836 - Action Plan of the Gender Component of the Climate-Smart Agriculture Regional Strategy of the Central American Integration System (SICA) region.

Stage of maturity of change reported: Stage 2

Links to the Strategic Results Framework:

Sub-IDs:

- Enabled environment for climate resilience
- Conducive agricultural policy environment

Is this OICR linked to some SRF 2022/2030 target?: Too early to say

Description of activity / study: <Not Defined>

Geographic scope:

- Regional

Region(s):

- Latin America and the Caribbean

Comments: This OICR focused on the Central American Integration System which is a region integrated by eight countries: Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua, El Salvador, Costa Rica, Belize, Panama and Dominican Republic.

Key Contributors:

Contributing CRPs/Platforms:

- CCAFS - Climate Change, Agriculture and Food Security

Contributing Flagships:

- FP1: Priorities and Policies for CSA

Contributing Regional programs:

- LAM: Latin America

Contributing external partners:

- CAC - Consejo Agropecuario Centroamericano

CGIAR innovation(s) or findings that have resulted in this outcome or impact:

This OICR is based on a set of CGIAR innovations that have informed the formulation and implementation of the EASAC in the SICA region: #1700 The Climate-Smart Village approach nominates to the CGIAR's 50 greatest innovations. #289 Local Technical Agroclimatic Committees (LTACs) approach generating climate forecasts and crop response. #1692 Participatory building and analysis of multiple set of scenarios. #1164 Methodology for local climate vulnerability assessment and prioritization of climate change adaptation measures in order to elaborate municipal climate change adaptation plan.

Innovations:

- 1164 - Methodology for local climate vulnerability assessment and prioritization of climate change adaptation measures in order to elaborate municipal climate change adaptation plan
- 1692 - Participatory building and analysis of multiple set of scenarios
- 289 - Local Technical Agroclimatic Committees (LTACs) approach generating climate forecasts and crop response

Elaboration of Outcome/Impact Statement:

CCAFS outsourced a qualitative-impact-assessment on the effects of the EASAC (Estrategia Agricultura Sostenible Adaptada al Clima) implementation. The study aimed for determining the transformations and results that the EASAC has achieved during implementation by using a theory-based evaluation approach in three stages: i) formulation of EASAC's theory of change, ii) identification of changes aligned with the theory of change, and iii) analysis of EASAC's contribution to prioritized changes [1,2,3].

In 2017, CAC (Central American Agricultural Council) with the support of CCAFS, CIAT, IICA, FAO, CEPAL, and CATIE, formulated the EASAC for the Central American Integration System (SICA) region [4,5]. The policy aims to promote and scale Climate-Smart Agriculture (CSA) across eight countries so they meet their agricultural sector commitments on climate change and sustainable development goals [6,7]. EASAC is being implemented through the alignment of national and subnational government efforts and through aligning the international cooperation initiatives in the region [6,7].

CCAFS has been the main technical support of CAC in the formulation and implementation of the EASAC [4,6]. As the technical leader CCAFS has provided a set of innovations, research outputs [10], and expert support with regards to main EASAC components, strategic actions and pathways, including the gender and youth perspectives [8,9].

Four routes of transformation were structured to develop the qualitative-impact-assessment: i) policy (formulation and implementation of climate policies), ii) institutional (capacity-building and new spaces for dialogue and exchange), iii) financial (facilitating climate-finance at the national and regional level), and iv) communication (dissemination of the EASAC) [1,2,3].

Results showed that since the inception of EASAC in 2017, 252 transformations were identified regarding conducive policies, institutional changes and capacity-building, and investments on CSA [1,2,3]; from which 68% are currently being implemented. Most transformations have happened at the national level (225), particularly in Guatemala and Costa Rica. At the regional level, 27 transformations were identified, which include some effect in all SICA countries [1,2,3]. Specifically on policy, 182 transformations were identified, most related to the formulation of new policies that explicitly addressed CSA-approach [1,2,3]. In the institutional-dimension, 45 transformations were identified, which focused on knowledge generation and capacity-building across different types of institutions such as governments, cooperation-agencies, research-institutions, and local to national civil society organizations [1,2,3,27]. For the financial-dimension only 23 transformations were identified, which were related to the development of new climate-finance proposals in the region [1,2,3]. Finally, the results show that the communications-dimension don't have any transformation [1,2,3].

References cited:

- [1] 3. Assessment of the Climate-Smart Agriculture Regional Strategy for the SICA region (EASAC), towards the scaling of the CSA: Contributions and progress, status in the SICA region. (<https://hdl.handle.net/10568/116564>)
- [2] 1. Qualitative assessment of the Climate-Smart Agriculture Regional Strategy for the SICA region (EASAC). EASAC Theory of Change and results identified in the Countries of the SICA Region. (<https://hdl.handle.net/10568/111283>)
- [3] 9. Present and future of Rural youth in the SICA region in the face of COVID-19: Analysis of gender, opinions, values, expectations, experiences and life projects. (<https://hdl.handle.net/10568/116043>)
- [4] 2. Towards a theory-based assessment of the Climate-Smart Agriculture Regional Strategy for the SICA region (EASAC). (<https://hdl.handle.net/10568/111244>)
- [5] 6. The Rise in Climate-Smart Agriculture strategies, policies, partnerships, and investments across the globe. Scientific article. (<http://hdl.handle.net/10568/81372>)
- [6] 5. The Climate-Smart Agriculture Regional Strategy for the SICA region (EASAC). (<https://www.cac.int/sites/default/files/Estrategia%20ASAC%20-%20CAC.pdf>)
- [7] 7. Climate-Smart Agriculture across scales in Latin America. News from the Field 1. Scientific paper. (<http://hdl.handle.net/10568/82748>)
- [8] 10. State of the Art on Climate Change, Agriculture and Food Security in Guatemala, Dominican Republic, Costa Rica, Panama, El Salvador (<https://tinyurl.com/y92ozjdp>)
- [9] 4. Building process of the Climate-Smart Agriculture Strategy for the SICA region. (<https://hdl.handle.net/10568/89328>)
- [10] 8. Gender approach of the CSA Regional Strategy for the SICA region: Key actions for the implementation of the EASAC Gender component. (<https://hdl.handle.net/10568/109540>)

Quantification: <Not Defined>

Gender, Youth, Capacity Development and Climate Change:

Gender relevance: 1 - Significant

Main achievements with specific **Gender** relevance: CCAFS has provided scientific support with regards to main EASAC components, strategic actions and pathways, including the gender perspective. Under this contribution CCAFS developed different research outputs aimed to enhance and implement the Gender component of the EASAC. Some of those research output are: i) Gender approach of the CSA Regional Strategy for the SICA region: Key actions for the implementation of the EASAC Gender component. <https://hdl.handle.net/10568/109540> ii) Key actions for the gender approach of the CSA Regional Strategy (EASAC) of the SICA region.

<https://hdl.handle.net/10568/109705>, and iii) Step-by-step process to mainstream gender in climate-smart agricultural initiatives in Guatemala. <https://hdl.handle.net/10568/108323>

Youth relevance: 1 - Significant

Main achievements with specific **Youth** relevance: CCAFS in partnership with the Latin American Faculty of Social Sciences (FLACSO in Spanish) and Central American Agricultural Council (CAC in Spanish) developed a study about the impacts of COVID-19 in rural youths of the SICA region. This study contributed to the implementation of the youth approach of the EASAC but also will be used by CAC as an input to develop the new Youth Strategy for the SICA region. The Study: Present and future of Rural youth in the SICA region in the face of COVID-19: Analysis of gender, opinions, values, expectations, experiences and life projects. <https://hdl.handle.net/10568/116043>

CapDev relevance: 1 - Significant

Main achievements with specific **CapDev** relevance: Through the EASAC, the capacities of the governments of the SICA region have been strengthened to include CSA in policies and decision-making for climate-change adaptation and mitigation actions. The capacities of governments and meteorological services in climate services have also been strengthened, from the regional presence in the Climate Outlook Forum and through the Local Technical Agroclimatic Committees (LTACs) at the national and local level. The integration of the gender and youth approach in climate-change policies and initiatives have been also key. Lastly, government's capacities on mitigation have also been strengthened in order to contribute to the NDCs.

Climate Change relevance: 2 - Principal

Describe main achievements with specific **Climate Change** relevance: EASAC is the policy in the SICA region that integrates Climate Change for the agricultural sector. EASAC is embedded in the Agricultural Policy for the SICA region 2019 - 2030 (PAR) troughs the strategic area on Climate-Smart Agriculture, which is the area that lines all the climate change actions in the agricultural sector for the region. The PAR embraces the EASAC implementation plan as a mechanism to make this strategic area operational.

Other cross-cutting dimensions: No

Other cross-cutting dimensions description: <Not Defined>

Outcome Impact Case Report link: [Study #4404](#)

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