CRANS MONTANA FORUM - DAKHLA
15-20 MARCH, 2018

ADVOCACY ACTIVITIES OF THE INITIATIVE FOR THE ADAPTATION OF AFRICAN AGRICULTURE TO CLIMATE CHANGE “AAA INITIATIVE”
The Crans Montana Forum (“the Forum”) is a prominent international NGO fostering international cooperation towards a better and more inclusive world. It brings together decision makers from the public and private sectors, as well as representatives from the academia and civil society.

For the fourth consecutive time, from March 15 to 20, 2018, a Forum dedicated to South-South cooperation and Africa development was organised in Dakhla, Morocco, under the High Patronage of His Majesty the King Mohammed VI.

The AAA Initiative participated to the Forum, as part of its advocacy efforts and building on the impact of its first successful participation in 2017.

During [the first Africa Action] Summit, Morocco also submitted some concrete initiatives to help ensure food security in Africa. Particularly noteworthy [is] the Adaptation of African Agriculture project, which is designed to ensure capacity-building for the benefit of agricultural stakeholders […].
ADVOCACY OBJECTIVES: FOSTERING ACHIEVEMENTS, INCREASING OUR IMPACT

» Advocate for the need to support the adaptation of African agriculture to climate change through increased funding, capacity building and, South - South cooperation;

» Raise awareness on the main challenges faced by African farmers and countries in improving climate change adaptation in agriculture;

» Present AAA Initiative’s responses and foster partners’ achievements;

» Establish contact to expand AAA Initiative multi-stakeholder coalition;

» Collect feedback from distinguished Forum participants on how to increase AAA Initiative’s impact.

ACTIVITIES: FOUR TYPES OF ENGAGEMENT FOR THE AAA INITIATIVE AND ITS PARTNERS

1

160 sq. meters space dedicated to the AAA Initiative and its partners - largest space in the exhibition area, featuring: AAA Initiative partner coalition, action plan, impact, and deep dive on ongoing projects in Mali, Ivory Coast and Morocco and a dedicated agora to hold partners’ side events
2 Chairing and facilitation of official 3-hour side-event dedicated to “Sustainable Agriculture in Africa and its Resilience to Climate Change”, focusing on (i) what is at stake in the adaptation of African agriculture to climate change, (ii) lessons learnt from project implementation in countries, and (iii) the role of private sector (Groupe Credit Agricole du Maroc) and civil society (PACJA);

3 Seven dynamic side events organised by AAA Initiative partners in AAA agora deep diving on: (i) the scientific base of adaptation in Africa (INRA and 4pour1000 initiative), (ii) South-South cooperation (IAV Hassan II, National Agriculture School of Meknes and INRA), and (iii) partner government and NGO progresses towards improving the adaptation of African agriculture (PACJA and climate-smart agriculture development in Mali);
Official ceremony celebrating the newly established partnership with the Pan African Climate Justice Alliance (PACJA), which will accelerate AAA Initiative advocacy efforts.

All side events highlighted a strong consensus for the promotion of the adaptation of African agriculture to climate change and its transformation into a globally competitive, inclusive and business-oriented sector that generates wealth, creates employment and improves quality of life.

There is a firm conviction among participants that agriculture and food systems can contribute very significantly to global solutions that cope with demographic and climate changes. The pressing need for integrated policy approaches was also stressed, in order to enable farmers to improve productivity, increase competitiveness and profitability, improve resilience, facilitate access to home and foreign markets, manage natural resources more sustainably and contribute to domestic, continental and global food security.

All presentations are available on-line at www.aaainitiative.org
Side events’ participants outlined four main recommendations to stakeholders:

» Governments need to assert their leadership role in guiding agricultural sector reforms, including building stronger partnerships with the private sector and civil society;

» Comprehensive, consistent and proactive policy packages need to be put in place, targeting development of productive, resilient and sustainable agrifood-systems, capable of delivering food security for all, responding to the needs of African countries that are at different stages of development and resource endowments. Agricultural development policies in general need to be geared towards the achievement of United Nations Sustainable Development Goals;

» Countries should foster greater resilience of farmers to risk, particularly smallholders, enabling them to cope with more frequently unpredictable weather through access to tailored credit products, crop insurance and productive safety nets for vulnerable populations;

» Greater emphasis needs to be put on South-South cooperation. In that regard, North-South cooperation should be designed and delivered so as to empower South-South cooperation. In addition, greater recourse to existing African expertise is necessary to design and implement indigenous solutions to the challenges faced by the continent.

Finally, side events participants contributed valuable insights to increase AAA Initiative’s impact, including:

» Innovate AAA Initiative governance to facilitate the development of the multi-stakeholder partner coalition;

» Federate additional public and private funding partners (donors and multilateral development banks, private banks, Foundations, etc.);

» Focus activities on supporting the development of bankable climate-smart agriculture projects, with clear contribution to Sustainable Development Goals;

» Within projects, focus on solutions for smallholder farmers, technology transfers and capacity building, leveraging South-South cooperation, and in particular African experience and know-how.
ATTENDANCE AND IMPACT: EXPANDING AAA COALITION

» The Pan African Climate Justice Alliance joined AAA Initiative coalition during an official ceremony between Mr Mithika Mwenda, General Secretary of PACJA and Prof. Mohammed Ait Kadi, President of the General Council for Agricultural Development of Morocco ;

» Over 250 participants across side events, from government officials to representatives from businesses, civil society and academia ;

» High-level policy makers participated to AAA side events, among which :
  - Hon. Chidanti-Malunga, Member of Parliament of Malawi, Chair of the Agriculture Committee, irrigation expert
  - H.E. Aly Ag Ibrahim, Minister of Industrial Development of Mali
  - Senator Foster Ogola, Member of the Agriculture and Rural Development Committee of the Nigerian National Assembly
  - H.E. Gomez, Minister of Fisheries, Water Resources of Gambia

» Promising contacts were established with several potential partners including one African government and several NGOs.