

EXPO COP 22

08/11/2016

Initiative for the Adaptation of African Agriculture to Climate Change, major issue of COP22

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Marrakech, Morocco November 7th, 2016

During COP22 in Marrakech, from November 7th to 18th, visitors can discover the Initiative for the Adaptation of African Agriculture to climate change (AAA) in a dedicated exhibition space, and immerse themselves in a reality that is already under way, through the agricultural projects supported by the initiative. Backed by a coalition of 27 countries¹, the AAA Initiative is at the heart of the challenges and negotiations of COP22.

The Initiative for the Adaptation of African Agriculture to climate change, a major challenge of COP22

For the very first time, after twenty-one COPs, agriculture is brought to the forefront of climate negotiations.

The AAA Initiative promotes and supports the implementation of specific, innovative projects in Africa in terms of soil management, agricultural water control, climate risk management, capacity building and funding solutions.

Backed by 27 countries since the adoption of the Marrakech Declaration on September 30th, 2016, the AAA Initiative is in line with the ambition of making COP22 the "COP of action" and the "COP of Africa".

For its roll-out, the initiative can rely on the great dynamic that South-South cooperation is experiencing today, as well as the establishment of closer ties among African states, which His Majesty the King Mohammed VI has made a priority. He stated, in reference to COP22: "Africa, long neglected, can no longer be ignored. The era during which our continent was treated as a mere object in international relations is over. [...] Today, it is an active, respected partner in the debate on global governance. Morocco, which is hosting COP 22, will defend the position of our Continent, which is greatly affected by climate change and sustainable development issues. Cooperation, which is already intense with many countries at the bilateral level, will be further expanded and revitalized."

A space dedicated to the Adaptation of African Agriculture in the Innovation 2 area of COP22

In the space dedicated to the AAA Initiative, visitors can discover the challenges of the Adaptation of African Agriculture and the projects supported by the initiative through an immersive, pedagogical journey. During COP22, the general public can give form to its support for the initiative through a digital campaign using #WEAAARE on social media. The supporters will be unveiled through an innovative process: an interactive wall, directly connected to social media, where the names of all the supporters will be printed on posters that will be displayed in the exhibition area of the AAA Initiative.

Visitors can also discover specific projects that are already operational or that are seeking funding, particularly those led by Agrimakers, those innovative African farmers who contribute to the development of the continent's agricultural potential with solutions that are promoted by the AAA Initiative. To discover the profiles of Agrimakers and their solutions, connect to social media and to the initiative's YouTube channel.

A series of conferences and debates will be offered to the participants of COP22 on the key themes of the AAA Initiative: agricultural water, soil, and climate risk management, funding of small farmers and the initiative's contribution to the global development agenda are topics that will be discussed by panels of experts, political representatives and international organizations.

Learn more about the Initiative for the Adaptation of African Agriculture

Launched in April 2016 on the initiative of Morocco, the Initiative for the Adaptation of African Agriculture (AAA) to Climate Change was born out of the realization that Africa, Agriculture, and Adaptation did not get the attention they deserved or their fair share of the allocation of climate funds. Although it is vulnerable to their impact, agriculture, particularly in Africa, is also and especially an essential part of the solution in combating climate change.

Improving productivity and agricultural practices, namely in terms of soil and water management, makes it possible to reduce the concentration of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere through the improvement of carbon sequestration in the soil and afforestation. Hence, efforts for the adaptation of agriculture have significant effects on mitigation itself.

The Initiative for the Adaptation of African Agriculture (AAA) suggests a course of action in two areas:

- Negotiations, to place the Adaptation of African Agriculture at the heart of the challenges of the COPs and to obtain a fair distribution of climate funds among adaptation and mitigation.
- Solutions, to promote and foster the implementation of specific, innovative projects in terms of soil management, agricultural water control, climate risk management, capacity building and funding solutions.

[Learn more about the Marrakech Declaration of September 30th, 2016](#)

The Marrakech Declaration constitutes a specific action plan to fund and implement the Adaptation of African Agriculture to climate change. It sets out the actions and objectives that the countries committed to:

- Endorse the principle of a larger, more effective and efficient public and private funding, as well as a monitoring of the funds disbursed for Adaptation, Agriculture, and Africa, as well as facilitated access of African projects to climate funds;
- Contribute to actions and solutions through the Global Climate Action Agenda and any other relevant framework, highlighting African projects and best practices in such fields as soil management (e.g. agroforestry), agricultural water control, climate risk management, and funding of small farmers, who are among the most vulnerable groups, highlighting the research and development efforts in agriculture;
- Place agriculture at the heart of climate negotiations by highlighting a sustainable increase in productivity and agricultural incomes, as well as adaptation and the building of resilience to climate change;
- Work towards building African capacities in terms of agricultural policies and programs, and setting up and managing sustainable, climate-resilient agricultural projects.