

CONCEPT NOTE

Training and Validation Workshop on Modules of Climate Smart Agriculture Technologies in South Asia

Organized by SAARC Agriculture Centre in collaboration with IFPRI South Asia, and Bangladesh Agricultural Research Institute
BRAC CDM, Gazipur, Bangladesh | April 22-24, 2024

BACKGROUND

South Asia stands as one of the most vulnerable regions to the impacts of climate change. The region is still a predominantly agrarian society, with much of the population dependent on agriculture for their livelihoods. However, this sector faces considerable risks due to the effects of climate change. Extreme weather events, which have become more frequent in recent decades, severely hinder agricultural production. Estimates show that by the end of the century, South Asia could witness a loss of between 10 and 50 percent of crop yields due to global warming. Moreover, South Asia is still home to more than a quarter of the world's hungry and undernourished population. The region will likely need to double its food production to feed a population of up to 2.68 billion people by 2050.

The looming challenge posed by climate change necessitates a paradigm shift in agricultural practices. To meet the increasing demand for food sustainably, there is a pressing need for the sustainable intensification of agriculture and climate change adaptation to go hand in hand. This means that designing agricultural programs that not only enhance resilience but also optimize natural resource usage, particularly for farming systems vulnerable to climate change and environmental degradation was found imperative. In response to these challenges, local efforts supported by national initiatives are underway to experiment with climate-smart technologies and practices. However, there is a critical need for further development and scaling up of these solutions to match the demands of farmers, market opportunities, and environmental concerns. Currently, limitations in cross-border cooperation among National Agricultural Research and Extension Systems (NARES) hinder access to opportunities for addressing these challenges effectively.

Recognizing the imperative to integrate climate change adaptation and mitigation with food, nutrition, and livelihood security, several key organizations have joined forces. The International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), SAARC Agriculture Centre (SAC), International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI), and SAARC Development Fund (SDF) have collaborated to establish the Consortium for Scaling-up Climate Smart Agriculture in South Asia (C-SUCSeS). This consortium aims to promote sustainable and resilient agricultural intensification in the region through enhanced capacity and evidence-based strategies for scaling up climate-smart technologies.

As part of these efforts, the C-SUCSeS project is developing and testing culturally relevant training materials focused on scaling up Climate Smart Agriculture (CSA) technologies in South Asia. These materials will be disseminated through National Agricultural Research and Extension Systems (NARES) and agriculture departments to build capacity and knowledge among farming communities, researchers, extension workers, and policymakers.

To facilitate the fine-tuning and dissemination of CSA training modules, a three-day training and validation workshop titled "Training and Validation Workshop on Modules of Climate Smart Agriculture Technologies in South Asia" is scheduled at BRAC CDM, Gazipur, Bangladesh from 22nd to 24th April 2024. The SAARC Agriculture Centre will conduct this workshop in collaboration with IFPRI South Asia and the Bangladesh Agricultural Research Institute to build the capacity of the professionals in South Asia. Through initiatives like this workshop and the broader efforts of the C-SUCSeS consortium, South Asia aims to strengthen its resilience to climate change while ensuring sustainable agricultural development and food security for its growing population. The modules of CSA technologies developed for the workshop are as follows:

<i>CSA technologies selected for training modules</i>	<i>CSA technologies selected for video modules</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DSR • Drip irrigation • Protected agriculture • Alternate wetting and drying • Bed planting • Sustainable land management 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strip tillage • Bed planting • Zero tillage • Intercropping/Relay cropping

OBJECTIVES

1. To present CSA training and video modules to participants of SAARC Member Countries for the purpose of refinement and training.
2. To build the capacity of Member States for scaling up CSA technologies in their respective countries.
3. To foster and strengthen regional cooperation by facilitating peer learning and knowledge exchange among Member States.

TARGET PARTICIPANTS

The participants for this training workshop will include researchers, extension agents, and experts from SAARC Member States and IFPRI South Asia. A total of 22 participants are expected to attend this three-day workshop.

DURATION

3 days (Tentatively from 22nd April – 24th April 2024)

VENUE

BRAC CDM, Rajendrapur, Gazipur, Bangladesh.

ORGANIZERS

SAARC Agriculture Centre in collaboration with IFPRI South Asia, and Bangladesh Agricultural Research Institute with funding support from C-SUCSeS Project.