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DES CAPACITES EN AFRIQUE

POLICY BRIEF

Gender and Social Equity in climate adaptation programming and capacity development in the agriculture sector in Africa



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Abstract

This policy brief emphasizes the critical importance of incorporating gender and social equity considerations into climate adaptation programming within Africa's agriculture sector. Climate change is already exerting a significant impact, but its effects are far from uniform. Marginalized communities, notably women and girls, bear a disproportionate burden due to pre-existing social, economic, and cultural disparities. The knowledge brief extensively explores the vulnerabilities and roles of women and marginalized groups, shedding light on the adverse effects of climate change on their lives. It underscores the importance of adopting gender-responsive and socially equitable approaches to effectively mitigate these effects. Furthermore, the analysis showcases a curated selection of case studies, each exemplifying initiatives that have made significant progress in addressing these complex challenges. These initiatives are notable for their dedication to gender mainstreaming, women's empowerment, and the implementation of gender-sensitive climate adaptation interventions. These case studies offer invaluable insights for replication and scaling up across the continent. Key lessons include promoting gender-transformative adaptation, providing training and technical assistance, enhancing women's participation in policy development, and improving data collection and analysis. In conclusion, this knowledge product serves as a compelling call to incorporate gender and social equity considerations into climate adaptation policies and practices, particularly in Africa's agriculture sector. It contributes to the development of a more resilient and equitable response to climate change in African agriculture, aligning with global sustainability goals. This approach ensures a more just and prosperous future by championing inclusivity and sustainability for all.

Contents

1. Introduction	1
2. Understanding Gender and Social Equity in Climate Adaptation.....	3
2.1 Definition of gender and social equity in the context of climate adaptation.....	3
3. Importance of Gender and Social Equity in Programming	4
3.1 Enhanced resilience and effectiveness of climate adaptation interventions through gender-responsive approaches.....	4
3.2 Economic and social benefits of promoting gender equality in the agriculture sector.....	5
3.3 Ensuring inclusivity and empowering marginalized groups in decision-making processes.....	5
3.4 Gender-Responsive Policies and Strategies	5
4. Key Principles for Gender and Social Equity in Climate Adaptation Programming.....	6
4.1 Gender mainstreaming and gender-responsive approaches	6
4.2 Participation, representation, and empowerment of women, youth and marginalized groups	6
4.3 Strengthening institutional capacity for gender-responsive programming.	7
4.4 Social equity	7
5. Integrating Gender and Social Equity into Capacity Development.....	8
5.1 Assessing existing capacity opportunities, gaps and needs relating to gender and social equity in climate adaptation.	9
5.2 Designing and implementing gender-responsive capacity development programs.	9
5.3 Monitoring, evaluating and learning, on the effectiveness of capacity development initiatives.	9
5.4 Strategies for integrating social equity.....	9
6. Case Studies and Good Practices.....	10
6.1 Lessons learned and recommendations for replication and scaling up.....	13
7. Conclusion	15
8. References	17
Annexes: Tools and Resources	19
1.1 Additional information, reports, and organizations working on gender and climate adaptation in Africa.....	19
1.2 Overview of relevant tools, guidelines, and resources for integrating gender and social equity in programming	20

1. Introduction



The impacts of climate change are not uniformly experienced by all individuals. Due to existing social, economic, and cultural disparities, women, girls, and marginalized communities are often disproportionately affected by the consequences of climate change.

For example, rural women often shoulder the responsibility of collecting water and fuelwood. However, due to the increased frequency and intensity of droughts caused by climate change, women are compelled to travel longer distances and devote more time collecting these essential resources. Consequently, this situation poses risks to their health, ability to provide care for their families and economic opportunities. Furthermore, women are frequently excluded from climate change adaptation decision-making processes. This marginalization leads to the neglect of their unique needs and priorities when formulating policies and programs. As a result, many climate change adaptation programs fall short in reaching and benefiting women.

In African agricultural systems, women and men often have different roles and face unique

vulnerabilities due to their gender. Some of these vulnerabilities include limited access to resources such as land, credit, inputs, and productive resources, which hinder their ability to engage in agricultural activities effectively ^[1]. Women also have limited opportunities for education and agricultural training, which affects their capacity to adopt improved farming techniques, technologies, and practices. Women often face barriers in accessing agricultural extension services and information due to social norms, limited mobility, and gender biases within the extension systems ^{[2], [3]}. More importantly, women have limited decision-making power within households and community-level agricultural institutions, which restricts their ability to influence farming decisions and resource allocation ^[4].

Considering the wider socioeconomic disparities and power dynamics, It is imperative to incorporate social equity considerations into climate adaptation programming ^[5]. Small-scale farmers, indigenous communities, youth, and people living in poverty disproportionately experience the adverse effects of climate change, often lacking the necessary resources and support needed to adapt effectively. Climate adaptation initiatives can promote fair and just outcomes, reduce disparities, and improve overall intervention effectiveness by incorporating social equity principles such as inclusive governance, community participation, and equitable access to resources and benefits. Putting gender at the center of interventions is key as noted by Dr. Nkosazana Dlamini-Zuma^[6].

If we don't put women in history books, they get edited out of history.

— Dr. Nkosazana Dlamini-Zuma, former chairperson AUC

Considering gender and social equity aligns with the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals, particularly Goal 5 (Gender Equality) and Goal 10 (Reduced Inequalities).



The gender aspirations of **Agenda 2063 aim to achieve gender equality and women's empowerment by promoting women's full and equal participation in political, economic, and social life. The agenda seeks to eliminate all forms of gender-based discrimination and violence, creating a more inclusive and gender-responsive Africa by 2063** ^[7].

Integrating these gender considerations into climate adaptation efforts helps advance progress efforts towards achieving these goals and creating a more sustainable and equitable world.

In Africa, women contribute:



60-80%

of the agricultural labour force ^[8]



over **70%**

growing, harvesting, and processing of the food in Africa.

The goal of this knowledge brief is to discuss the value of gender equity and social justice in programming and capacity building for climate adaptation in Africa's agriculture sector. The specific vulnerabilities and roles of women and other marginalized groups in agriculture will be explored, as well as the challenges they encounter. The potential advantages of incorporating gender-responsive and socially equitable approaches will also be highlighted.

2. Understanding Gender and Social Equity in Climate Adaptation

2.1 DEFINITION OF GENDER AND SOCIAL EQUITY IN THE CONTEXT OF CLIMATE ADAPTATION

Gender equity refers to the fair treatment and equal opportunities for individuals of all genders, considering the social, economic, and cultural differences between them.



In the context of climate adaptation, **gender equity focuses on addressing the specific needs, roles, and challenges faced by women, men, and gender-diverse individuals in the face of climate change.** It aims to ensure that gender-based inequalities are recognized, understood, and addressed in policies, programs, and practices related to climate adaptation ^[9].



Social equity, on the other hand, encompasses a broader concept of fairness and justice in society, addressing the distribution of resources, opportunities, and benefits among different social groups^{[10], [11]}. In the context of climate adaptation, social equity emphasizes the need to consider and address the vulnerabilities, needs, and rights of marginalized and disadvantaged groups who are disproportionately affected by climate change impacts. This includes groups such as small-scale farmers, indigenous communities, the disabled, youth, people living in poverty, and other marginalized populations.

Both gender equity and social equity in the context of climate adaptation call for an inclusive and participatory approach that ensures equal representation, decision-making power, and access to resources and benefits for all individuals and groups. By integrating gender and social equity considerations into climate adaptation programming, policies, and capacity development initiatives, efforts can be made to reduce inequalities, empower marginalized groups, and promote a more just and resilient society in the face of climate change challenges ^[12].

Gender analysis is also a critical element to understand how women and men experience climate change impacts differently and have distinct roles, knowledge, and vulnerabilities ^[13]. Some key processes to undertake include conducting gender sensitive assessments, analyze gender-based vulnerabilities and adaptive capacities, encourage the inclusion of women and women's organizations to implement climate adaptation interventions, and integrating gender into national, regional, and international adaptation policies and programs ^[14].

3. Importance of Gender and Social Equity in Programming



Climate adaptation initiatives have the potential to create more resilient and sustainable societies for all by addressing the root causes of inequality and promoting inclusive development. By designing interventions that are responsive to the unique experiences and knowledge of different groups, then adaptation can be more equitable and effective.

To achieve this, it is crucial to consider both gender and social equity in climate adaptation interventions. This section highlights the significance of considering these factors and their impact on the success of such initiatives.

3.1 ENHANCED RESILIENCE AND EFFECTIVENESS OF CLIMATE ADAPTATION INTERVENTIONS THROUGH GENDER-RESPONSIVE APPROACHES

Gender-responsive interventions in climate adaptation are critical for increasing resilience and effectiveness. Recognizing and addressing women's and men's unique vulnerabilities and capacities can lead to more targeted and tailored strategies. Women are frequently central figures in agricultural systems and natural resource management, and their knowledge and expertise are invaluable for long-term adaptation strategies. Adaptation interventions can better address the specific needs and priorities of different genders by incorporating gender considerations such as equitable access to resources, decision-making power, and adaptive technologies, resulting in more effective and sustainable outcomes ^[1].



3.2 ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL BENEFITS OF PROMOTING GENDER EQUALITY IN THE AGRICULTURE SECTOR

Gender equality in agriculture provides significant economic and social benefits. Women constitute a sizable proportion of the agricultural workforce in many countries, and closing gender gaps in access to resources and opportunities can result in significant productivity gains. Women can increase agricultural productivity, improve food security, and generate higher incomes for themselves and their families when they have equal access to land, credit, education, and technology ^[15]. Overall, when women's agency in climate adaption is recognized and enhanced, African societies can tap into their potential as change agents and drive more inclusive, effective, and sustainable responses to climate change challenges. Ultimately, gender equality in agriculture contributes to poverty reduction, rural development, and the achievement of broader socioeconomic goals, resulting in more inclusive and equitable societies.



3.3 ENSURING INCLUSIVITY AND EMPOWERING MARGINALIZED GROUPS IN DECISION-MAKING PROCESSES.

Climate adaptation requires inclusive decision-making processes that empower marginalized groups. Climate change affects marginalized communities disproportionately, including women, indigenous peoples, the disabled, youth, and the poor. Their unique perspectives, knowledge, and priorities can be recognized and integrated into adaptation strategies by ensuring their active participation in decision-making processes. Inclusivity fosters a sense of empowerment among marginalized groups by encouraging ownership and accountability. When diverse voices are heard and valued, more equitable and sustainable outcomes are achieved, fostering social cohesion, resilience, and a shared sense of responsibility for climate action ^[16].



3.4 GENDER-RESPONSIVE POLICIES AND STRATEGIES

Gender-responsive policies and strategies are critical for ensuring that African climate change adaptation efforts address the specific needs, priorities, and capacities of men and women in an equitable and inclusive manner ^[17]. Such policies and strategies are key for ensuring that programs are developed to address gender-specific vulnerabilities, promote women's empowerment, and foster inclusive decision-making processes ^[18]. One such example is the Gender Strategy for the African Union called Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment (GEWE) strategy that seeks to ensure that women's voices are amplified, and their concerns are fully addressed. ^[6]. Within the National Adaptation Plans and the Nationally Determined Contributions, the UNFCCC reported an increase in the mention of gender in the context of climate policy and planning including regular reporting of gender issues in the regular communications under the UNFCCC^[19].



4. Key Principles for Gender and Social Equity in Climate Adaptation Programming

This section highlights the principles of gender mainstreaming and gender-responsive approaches in climate change adaptation programming. It emphasizes the need for meaningful participation, representation, and empowerment of women, youth, and marginalized groups. Strengthening institutional capacity for gender-responsive programming and addressing social equity are crucial aspects of creating effective and inclusive climate adaptation strategies. By adopting these principles, policymakers and practitioners can advance gender equality, social equity, and sustainable development in the face of climate change. The summary is based on the principles outlines by the Stockholm Environment Institute ^[20].



4.1 GENDER MAINSTREAMING AND GENDER-RESPONSIVE APPROACHES

Programming for climate adaptation must adhere to the principle of gender mainstreaming. At all stages of program design, implementation, monitoring, and evaluation, mainstreaming entails considering gender perspectives and addressing gender inequalities. It calls for acknowledging the various roles, needs, and priorities of men, women, and people of different genders in relation to the effects of climate change and potential solutions. Gender-responsive approaches seek to alter power dynamics, question gender stereotypes, and advance gender equality in the allocation of resources and decision-making processes. Gender mainstreaming and gender-responsive approaches can help climate adaptation programs address the unique vulnerabilities, capacities, and aspirations of different genders in a way that is more effective and sustainable

^[21].



4.2 PARTICIPATION, REPRESENTATION, AND EMPOWERMENT OF WOMEN, YOUTH AND MARGINALIZED GROUPS

Fundamental tenets for achieving gender and social equity in climate adaptation programming include the meaningful participation, representation, and empowerment of women, young people, and marginalized groups. Recognizing their agency and creating spaces for their active involvement and ensuring their voices are heard and considered during decision-making processes is crucial. This approach values the importance of diverse perspectives and life experiences in creating comprehensive and successful climate adaptation solutions. Additionally, it means addressing social, economic, and cultural barriers that hinder meaningful participation, such as unequal power dynamics, discriminatory behaviors, and limited access to opportunities and resources.



4.3 STRENGTHENING INSTITUTIONAL CAPACITY FOR GENDER-RESPONSIVE PROGRAMMING

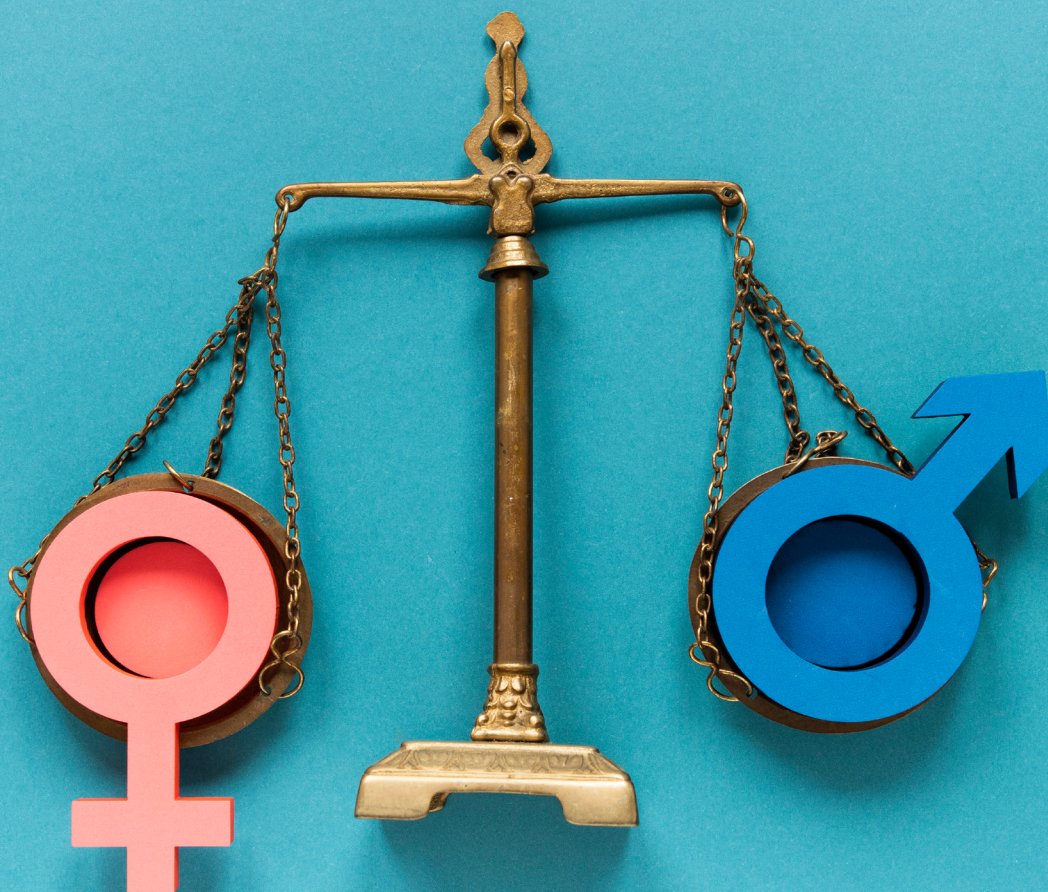
Institutional capacity strengthening can be accomplished through a variety of means, including staff training, the development of gender-sensitive policies and procedures, and the development of a supportive organizational culture. Incorporating gender and social equity considerations into climate adaptation programming requires building institutional capability. This involves enhancing the information, abilities, and assets of businesses, governments, and other stakeholders engaged in creating and implementing climate adaptation programs. To achieve this, it is important to deliver training and conduct awareness-raising campaigns on gender equality, social inclusion, and social justice while creating policies and instruments for gender analysis, mainstreaming, and monitoring. By improving institutional capacity, stakeholders can create more specialized and effective strategies by better comprehending and addressing the intersecting social factors that influence vulnerability and resilience. This principle emphasizes the significance of developing supportive environments that promote gender-responsive programming and encourage cooperation, coordination, and accountability among relevant actors.



4.4 SOCIAL EQUITY

This principle recognizes the need for adaptation programs to ensure that access to resources, such as land and forests, is equitable for both men and women. Gender-responsive approaches aim to address the gender disparities in resource access, ownership, and control, as well as decision-making power. When women have secure access to resources, they can effectively manage them and contribute to sustainable and climate-resilient agricultural practices. Studies have shown that empowering women with access to resources leads to improved adaptive capacities and enhanced resilience to climate change impacts^[20]. However, despite the important role women play in climate change adaptation, there is a significant gender gap in decision-making processes. Globally, statistics indicate that only 33% of the decision-makers in national and global climate negotiating bodies are women, highlighting the need to address gender imbalances and promote women's active involvement in climate decision-making for more inclusive and effective adaptation efforts^[22].

5. Integrating Gender and Social Equity into Capacity Development



This section focuses on key strategies for integrating gender equity and social justice in the context of increasing capacity for climate adaptation. It describes the process of creating an inclusive and empowering environment that improves the resilience and effectiveness of climate adaptation interventions, promotes gender equality in agricultural systems, and ensures the participation and empowerment of marginalized groups in decision-making processes by assessing existing capacities, designing gender-responsive programs, and monitoring their effectiveness.

5.1 ASSESSING EXISTING CAPACITY OPPORTUNITIES, GAPS AND NEEDS RELATING TO GENDER AND SOCIAL EQUITY IN CLIMATE ADAPTATION

Conducting an extensive assessment of the current opportunities, gaps, and needs is a crucial first step in integrating gender and social equity into capacity development. *Understanding the existing knowledge, abilities, and resources within organizations and communities regarding gender and social equity in climate adaptation is a key component of this assessment.* It involves evaluating the effectiveness of various strategies for addressing social and gender disparities as well as identifying the obstacles and difficulties that various groups face. By conducting a thorough assessment, capacity development initiatives can be customized to address the unique needs of women, youth, marginalized groups, and other intersecting social factors, ensuring that interventions are focused and effective.

5.2 DESIGNING AND IMPLEMENTING GENDER-RESPONSIVE CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS

Designing and implementing gender-responsive and socially equitable capacity development programs is an important strategy for advancing gender and social equity in climate adaptation. It is crucial to consider and address gender and social equity issues at every stage of capacity development, incorporating social justice considerations into the planning, curriculum development, training methods, and delivery mechanisms. To ensure inclusivity, participatory approaches should be employed, engaging participants from diverse backgrounds, including women, youth, and marginalized groups, in the planning and implementation of capacity development initiatives. By integrating gender-responsive principles into these programs, such as ensuring equal access, addressing power imbalances, and fostering inclusive learning environments, capacity development initiatives can effectively cultivate the skills, knowledge, and capacities necessary to promote gender and social equity in climate adaptation.

5.3 MONITORING, EVALUATING AND LEARNING, ON THE EFFECTIVENESS OF CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVES

Effective monitoring and evaluation of capacity development initiatives is crucial to ensure the successful integration of gender and social equity considerations. This requires the establishment of precise benchmarks and indicators to track progress and outcomes in social inclusion and gender equality. Collecting gender-disaggregated data and performing gender analysis is essential to determine the impact of capacity development activities on different genders and marginalized groups. Routine monitoring and evaluation help identify strengths, weaknesses, and areas for development, providing invaluable insights for modifying and improving capacity development interventions. Continuous evaluation and learning from these initiatives help stakeholders enhance their understanding of gender and social dynamics and increase the efficacy of upcoming capacity development efforts.

5.4 STRATEGIES FOR INTEGRATING SOCIAL EQUITY

Integrating social equity into climate adaptation capacity development entails implementing strategies that address power imbalances, promote inclusivity, and ensure equitable access to resources and opportunities ^[23]. These strategies can include for example fostering participatory approaches among marginalized and vulnerable groups in climate related projects and policies, promote inclusive and representative platforms such as stakeholder workshops and participatory assessments. To make this more systematic, *social equity indicators must be integrated into the monitoring and evaluation frameworks of capacity development programs.* This allows for tracking progress toward social equity goals and ensures accountability for incorporating social equity considerations ^[24].

6. Case Studies and Good Practices

Table 1 lists a few successful examples of gender-sensitive climate adaptation initiatives in Africa. The programs highlighted have been selected for profiling due to their notable contributions and successes in advancing gender-responsive climate change adaptation in Africa. While there are numerous initiatives addressing climate change across the continent, these programs stand out for their specific focus on gender mainstreaming, promoting women's participation and empowerment, and implementing gender-sensitive climate adaptation interventions. By showcasing these programs, we can highlight successful approaches that have effectively addressed the unique vulnerabilities and needs of women in the face of climate change, ultimately contributing to more inclusive and sustainable adaptation efforts. The list is based on online research, and it is significant to note that numerous programs are working to address the gender aspects of climate change and are improving the lives of women and men across the continent that can also be listed as resource material.

Table 1: List and summary of case studies

Name of Programme	Description
Africa Climate Change Resilience Alliance (ACCRA)¹	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Seeks to improve the adaptive capacity of people most vulnerable to climate change in Ethiopia, Uganda, and Mozambique. Focuses on gender, and it has been successful in increasing women's participation in decision-making, providing women with access to resources, and promoting gender-sensitive climate adaptation interventions.
Inclusive Climate Change Adaptation for a Sustainable (ICCASA)²	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promotes gender mainstreaming in climate initiatives, including policies and negotiations, to ensure that climate actions help both men and women prepare for climate change. The program has been successful in raising awareness of gender issues in climate change and in assisting in the development of gender-sensitive climate adaptation policies and programs.
Women and Girls in Climate Change - Kenya³	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Women and Girls in Climate Change promotes the wellbeing of women and girls at all levels of society and mitigates the impact of HIV/ AIDs among the vulnerable population in the western Kenya region. It is helping women establish climate friendly kitchen gardens using locally available biodegradable materials and training them to construct energy saving devices like fireless cookers and energy saving cookstoves and establish tree nurseries
Water, Climate, Development, and Gender Investments - AIP WACDEP-G⁴	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The goal of the AIP-WACDEP-G is to build capacity to ensure that the preparation, development, design, governance, and management of ongoing and new climate resilient water infrastructure investments, institutions, and job creation interventions strategically advance gender equality. The overall objective is to transform gender inequalities at scale by promoting gender-transformative planning, decision-making and institutional development for climate resilient water investments in Africa.

1. <https://www.preventionweb.net/publication/climate-change-adaptation-east-africa-mainstreaming-gender-responsive-and-participatory>

2. <https://iccasa-africa.org/>

3. <https://unfccc.int/climate-action/momentum-for-change/activity-database/women-and-girls-in-climate-change>

4. <https://aipwater.org/wacdep-g/>

Name of Programme	Description
Strengthening Climate Resilience of Agricultural Livelihoods in Agro-ecological regions (SCRALA)⁵	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Zambian government partnership with UNDP and GCF under the SCRALA project, is supporting farmers, especially women, with opportunities and sustainable lifelong solutions to help boost productivity and adaptation to climate change effects.
Preparing Rural Nigerian Women to Take the Lead in Climate Change Adaptation - Nigeria⁶	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This initiative empowers rural women in Nigeria to become leaders in maintaining the productivity of their fields and facilitating mobility within their communities amidst rising flood risks caused by climate change. By involving women and youth, it promotes effective drainage management and the revitalization of abandoned farmlands. The project also aims to expand its scope by implementing rainwater catchment systems, which not only prevent flooding but also establish a sustainable, local water source.
Youth ADAPT: Empowering Women and Youth for Entrepreneurship and Job Creation in Climate Adaptation and Resilience⁷	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Youth ADAPT is a support scheme initiated by the Africa Climate Change Fund (ACCF) to empower women entrepreneurs and youth in accessing climate adaptation finance. Its aim is to foster the development of innovative and transformative bankable projects that promote climate resilience and green enterprise, in alignment with the Nationally Determined Contributions of African countries.
Coastal Resilience to Climate Change (CRCC)⁸	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The CRCC project, funded by the Swedish Embassy in Maputo (Mozambique), aims to empower coastal communities to effectively respond to climate change. With a focus on inclusivity, resilience, and sustainability, the project is making significant strides in promoting women's participation. In the districts of Inhassoro, Memba, and Dondo, women's representation stands at 58%, 53%, and 37% respectively. By providing equal rights to access natural resources and involving women in decision-making processes, the project is fostering a more equitable and empowered society.
Community Adaptation Small Grants Facility project – South Africa⁹	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> An Adaptation Fund project was successfully implemented in the Namakwa District in the Northern Cape Province and the Mopani District in the Limpopo Province. Its aim was to enhance local-level responses to climate change in these areas. As part of its commitment to achieving gender equality and contributing to the gender mainstreaming plan for the environment sector, the project achieved a significant outcome. A total of 56% of the beneficiaries from the twelve small grant projects that were implemented were women.

5. <https://www.greenclimate.fund/story/freeing-zambian-women-climate-charged-poverty-spiral>

6. <https://unfccc.int/climate-action/momentum-for-change/activity-database/momentum-for-change-preparing-rural-nigerian-women-to-take-the-lead-in-climate-change-adaptation-nigeria>

7. <https://www.afdb.org/en/news-and-events/africa-climate-change-fund-launches-women-and-youth-entrepreneurship-project-57068>

8. <https://www.iucn.org/news/eastern-and-southern-africa/202003/women-mozambique-engage-climate-change-action>

9. <https://www.sanbi.org/news/women-in-climate-change-contributes-to-sustainable-development/>

Name of Programme	Description
Zenab for Women in Development - Sudan¹⁰	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This national non-governmental organization has established an agricultural program specifically designed for Sudanese women farmers. It acknowledges the significant contribution women make as catalysts for positive transformation in enhancing food security and bolstering climate resilience. Through this program, women farmers are equipped with comprehensive training and a climate resilient agricultural package. The package includes improved seed varieties that are specifically tailored to their needs. In addition to training, women farmers actively participate in hands-on sessions focused on conservation and advanced agricultural techniques. They also gain access to credit, savings, and insurance against natural disasters, as well as opportunities to connect with markets and increase their market access.
Ndoloum Vert project - Senegal¹¹	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In Senegal, the Ndoloum Vert project has been actively combating desertification for the past four years. Led by women, this initiative is dedicated to the preservation of green spaces, effective waste management, and education. For each baby born, a tree is planted in the village of Futa in northern Senegal with support of local authorities, the community, and NGOs.



10. <https://unfccc.int/climate-action/momentum-for-change/women-for-results/building-resilient-livelihoods-i-sudan>

11. <https://www.afdb.org/en/news-and-events/press-releases/cop-15-senegal-women-led-ndoloum-vert-project-fighting-desertification-one-tree-and-one-baby-time-51785>

6.1 LESSONS LEARNED AND RECOMMENDATIONS FOR REPLICATION AND SCALING UP

The agriculture sector in Africa has witnessed several key lessons regarding gender and social equity in the context of climate adaptation. Some of the main lessons include:



Promoting gender-transformative adaptation approaches increase the women's ability to adapt to climate change by promoting equal access to resources such as land, credit, inputs, and technology. Ensuring equitable access to these resources is critical for promoting gender equality and assisting women in their efforts to adapt to climate change.



Providing training, technical assistance, and knowledge-sharing platforms, marginalized groups can be empowered to adopt climate-smart practices and technologies.



Enhancing women's participation in policy development, planning, and implementation can result in more effective and inclusive outcomes.



Recognizing gender differences is critical for developing effective climate adaptation strategies that address the unique needs and challenges of various groups.



Improving data collection, analysis, and monitoring systems to capture gender-disaggregated information is critical for understanding the unique challenges and impacts that different groups face.

Supporting and enhancing women's agency increases their capacity to make decisions and take actions that influence their lives and communities, they become valuable contributors to effective climate adaptation efforts. By supporting and enhancing women's agency, they can emerge as agents of change, driving inclusive, effective, and sustainable solutions to climate adaptation challenges.

The African Capacity Building Foundation (ACBF) can take advantage of the lessons learned regarding gender and social equity in climate adaptation in the agriculture sector by implementing the following three main recommendations:



Capacity Building and Training Programs

ACBF can design and implement capacity-building and training programs in climate adaptation that are gender-transformative. Women's skills and knowledge in climate-smart agricultural practices, sustainable land management, and the use of climate-resilient technologies should be enhanced through these programs. ACBF, for example, can organize workshops and training sessions tailored specifically to women farmers, providing them with practical skills and knowledge to effectively adapt to climate change. These programs can also address gender stereotypes and norms to empower women as active decision-makers and resource managers.



Gender-Responsive Policy and Institutional Support

ACBF can advocate for and support gender-responsive policies and institutions that promote women's participation and influence in climate adaptation planning and implementation. This could include giving governments and institutions technical assistance in developing gender-responsive climate adaptation strategies and action plans. ACBF can also encourage the formation of gender units within relevant institutions to ensure that gender considerations are incorporated into all climate adaptation initiatives. Furthermore, ACBF can collaborate with governments to incorporate gender into climate finance mechanisms, ensuring that funds are directed toward gender-transformative adaptation interventions.



Research and Data Collection

ACBF can invest in research and data collection to better understand gender-specific challenges and opportunities in agricultural climate adaptation. This entails collecting and analyzing gender-disaggregated data to identify specific needs and vulnerabilities of women and marginalized groups. ACBF can provide evidence-based recommendations for policymakers and practitioners to design targeted and effective interventions by supporting research that addresses gender gaps in climate adaptation. ACBF can, for example, fund research projects that investigate the impact of climate change on women's livelihoods, access to resources, and participation in decision-making processes.

7. Conclusion

This knowledge product emphasizes the importance of incorporating gender and social equity concerns into climate adaptation programming, particularly in the African agricultural industry. It emphasizes how pre-existing social, economic, and cultural disparities contribute to how women, girls, and marginalized communities are impacted by climate change. Women in agriculture are particularly vulnerable due to their limited access to resources, education, and decision-making power. Social equity considerations are critical to climate adaptation because they address larger socioeconomic inequalities and power disparities. The United Nations Sustainable Development Goals are supported by incorporating gender and social equity principles into climate adaptation efforts, which also contribute to a more just and sustainable world.

It is critical to keep gender and social equity issues in climate adaptation programming for a variety of reasons. **First, gender-responsive approaches improve intervention resilience and efficacy by identifying and addressing the unique vulnerabilities and capacities of different genders. Second, advancing gender equality in agriculture has significant positive effects on the economy and society, including increased agricultural productivity, improved food security, and reduced poverty. Third, inclusive decision-making processes that empower marginalized groups are required for successful climate adaptation.** By ensuring equal representation and participation, diverse perspectives and knowledge can be incorporated into adaptation strategies, promoting social cohesion and resilience.

In addition, the knowledge products provide the following recommendations to policymakers and programmers:

- Gender and social equity considerations should be incorporated at all stages of policy making, program development, implementation, monitoring, and evaluation. Gender analyses, addressing gender disparities, and ensuring equal access and decision-making authority are all part of this.
- Encourage active participation, representation, and empowerment of women, youth, and marginalized groups in the development of climate adaptation strategies. Address social, economic, and cultural barriers to their participation.
- Institutions can better support gender-sensitive programming by providing training, developing gender-sensitive policies, and encouraging a supportive organizational culture.
- Integrate gender and social equity into capacity development initiatives by evaluating current capabilities, developing gender-responsive programs, and tracking their success and encourage learning.
- The good practices and lessons learned from successful gender-sensitive climate adaptation projects in Africa, such as expanding women's access to resources and promoting gender-responsive policies, should be shared and replicated.

- Policy makers should prioritize investing in the capacity-building of policymakers, practitioners, and implementing agencies to actively incorporate gender and social equity considerations into climate adaptation programming. This includes offering training, knowledge-sharing platforms, and resources to help people better understand gender dynamics and inequalities in the context of climate change. By making this investment in capacity-building, policy makers can foster a more inclusive and equitable approach to climate adaptation that addresses the diverse needs and experiences of all individuals and communities. Gender-responsive financing should be promoted by the government and financial institutions. This can be aided by the creation of gender-responsive climate financing policies and guidelines that explicitly address the gender dimensions of climate change in agriculture. Recognizing and addressing gender disparities in access to financial resources, technology, and information is crucial.

- Encourage financial institutions, development banks, and climate funds to incorporate gender considerations into their climate finance criteria and decision-making processes. This can involve requiring gender analysis and targets as part of project proposals and funding applications. Climate data collection systems, such as weather stations, satellite imagery, and ground-based observations, must be strengthened. Data collection must be institutionalized within research institutions that can collaborate with local communities to conduct interdisciplinary studies on the impacts, vulnerabilities, and adaptation strategies of climate change in various regions of Africa.

- Conducting gender-responsive assessments as these provide valuable insights for policy makers and programmers regarding the diverse impacts of climate change on women, men, and vulnerable groups. These assessments can be conducted at national, regional, and global level focusing the specific vulnerabilities, needs, capacities, and roles of these groups in relation to climate risks and adaptation measures. The assessment is expected to lead to a comprehensive understanding of the gendered dynamics of climate change impacts and develop targeted strategies to address them effectively.

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ANNEXES: TOOLS AND RESOURCES

These tools focus on integrating gender considerations in the context of climate adaptation and agriculture. They provide guidelines, frameworks, and resources for promoting gender equality, women's empowerment, and social inclusion in agricultural practices and climate change initiatives.

1.1 ADDITIONAL INFORMATION, REPORTS, AND ORGANIZATIONS WORKING ON GENDER AND CLIMATE ADAPTATION IN AFRICA.

INFORMATION
Gender and Climate Change in Africa: A Review of the Literature by the African Women's Development and Communication Network (AWID)
Gender, Climate Change, and Agriculture in Africa by the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI)
Gender and Climate Change in Africa: A Synthesis of Evidence by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)
Gender and Climate Change in Africa: A Gender-Sensitive Perspective by the Gender and Development Network (GADN)
Gender and Climate Change in Africa: A Literature Review by the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA)
Gender and Climate Change in Africa: A Case Study of Kenya by the International Center for Research on Women (ICRW)
REPORTS
The State of Gender and Climate Change in Africa by the African Development Bank (AfDB)
Gender and Climate Change in Africa: A Call to Action by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)
Gender and Climate Change in Africa: A Gender-Sensitive Approach to Adaptation by the World Bank
Gender-Responsive Climate Change Adaptation in Africa: A Guide for Policymakers and Practitioners by the World Resources Institute (WRI)
Gender and Climate Change in Africa: A Roadmap for Action by the African Union Commission (AUC)
Gender and Climate Change in Africa: A Review of Policy Frameworks by the African Capacity Building Foundation (ACBF)
ORGANIZATIONS
African Women's Development and Communication Network (AWID)
International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI)
United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)
African Development Bank (AfDB)
United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)
World Bank
Gender and Climate Change Resource Centre
African Gender and Climate Change Network (AGCCN)
Gender and Climate Change Alliance (GCCA)

1.2 OVERVIEW OF RELEVANT TOOLS, GUIDELINES, AND RESOURCES FOR INTEGRATING GENDER AND SOCIAL EQUITY IN PROGRAMMING

Table 2: List of selected tools and resources

Organization	Tools, Guidelines, and Resources
FAO	Climate-Smart Agriculture Sourcebook
	Gender in Climate-Smart Agriculture Module
	Gender and Land Rights Database
	Guidelines on Mainstreaming Gender in Climate Change Projects
	Farmer Field Schools: A Gender Approach
CGIAR	Gender and Social Inclusion Toolbox for Agricultural Research and Development
	Participatory Research and Gender Analysis Toolkit
	Gender-Responsive Climate-Smart Agriculture Toolkit
	Gender and Livestock Toolkit
	Gender and Agriculture Sourcebook
GIZ	Climate-Smart Agriculture Gender Toolkit
	Gender Equality in Adaptation and Disaster Risk Reduction
	Gender Assessment in Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation
	Guidelines for Gender-Responsive Adaptation Planning
	Gender-Responsive Approaches for the Agriculture Sectors
World Bank	Climate-Smart Agriculture Investment Planning Toolkit
	Gender in Agriculture Sourcebook
	Mainstreaming Gender in World Bank Agriculture Projects
	Gender Assessment for Agriculture and Rural Development Projects
	Gender-Responsive Agriculture Development Toolkit
UNDP	Integrating Gender in Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation
	Gender and Climate Change Training Manual
	Gender-Responsive Approaches in Agriculture, Food Security, and Nutrition
	Guidelines for Gender-Responsive Climate Finance
	Gender-Responsive Adaptation Planning Toolkit
GCF	Gender Equality and Social Inclusion Policy and Guidelines
	Simplified Approval Process for Small-scale Projects
	GCF Sectoral Guidelines: Agriculture, Forestry and Other Land Use (AFOLU)
	GCF Results Management Framework
	Gender Assessment and Action Planning Toolkit
UNFCCC	Gender and Climate Change
	NAP Gender Integration Toolkit
	Gender and Climate Finance
	Technical Guidelines for the NAP Process
	Gender-Responsive Climate Policy



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