

## Concept Note

### 1st National Stakeholders Consultation on the Development of a Climate-Smart Agriculture Manual for University level and Professional level Agriculture Education in Zimbabwe

#### Theme: Themes for a Climate Smart Agriculture Manual

#### 1.0 Background:

Southern Africa is one of most-affected regions by climate change, and in particular Zimbabwe, with the negative impacts expected to worsen in the near future. With an agricultural sector largely dependent on seasonal rainfall patterns, the urgency to adapt to climate change is increasing. There is a lack of climate change education and practical climate change approaches among the current agriculture extension workers, providing professional services to Zimbabwe's largely rural farming community and the newly resettled farmers. The *National Climate Change Response Strategy, Draft Climate Policy, Nationally Determined Contributions, Zimbabwe's Agriculture Investment Plan, and other national documents* identified the need to promote Climate-Smart Agriculture (CSA) as part of the overarching issues in agriculture so as to enhance food security in Zimbabwe. These national documents focus on strategies of strengthening capacity to generate new forms of empirical knowledge, technologies and agricultural support services that meet emerging research and development challenges arising from increased climate change and variability. According to the Ministry of Agriculture, Mechanisation and Irrigation Development, during the Curriculum review workshop held in July 2015, there is a need to provide CSA training to the current and future agriculture extension workers and students of agriculture. There is also a need to mobilize support to ensure extension workers receive CSA education to be able to build resilience to climate change in the farming communities they operate in.

Most of the farmers lack adequate knowledge and training on climate change mitigation and adaptation, let alone, climate smart agriculture and sustainable environmental practices, which further increases vulnerability and risk to agriculture and the environment. Many smallholder farmers continue to follow environmentally unsustainable practices of conventional tillage, unsustainable waste management practice, cutting down trees, slash and burn methods, and flood irrigation (in a water stressed region), further increasing forest degradation and soil infertility due to low moisture content. There is also widespread use and dependency on synthetic fertilizers and harmful chemicals in crop production. These harm the environment through greenhouse gas emissions like nitrous oxide, as well as reducing soil capacity to retain moisture and nutrients.

#### 2.0 Rationale:

The country's vulnerability to climate change coupled with unsustainable farming practices and lack of training of extension officers on climate change issues is an opportunity for new ways of thinking and action among actors in research, education, and innovation. This is the basis for this Workshop to formulate the themes which will guide the content of the CSA manual.

The current agriculture syllabi at colleges and universities does not holistically address climate change issues, mitigation and adaptation operational issues including CSA and therefore needs to be aligned to current and future issues affecting agriculture. With the country's low adaptive capacity, there is an urgent need to revisit agriculture education so as to develop sustainable solutions affecting the agriculture value chain, food and nutrition security, and economic growth and development.

It is against this background that the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change Technical Assistance through the Climate Technology Centre and Network (CTCN) has facilitated the provision of technical assistance in the development of a Climate-Smart Agriculture Manual for agriculture education in Zimbabwe as well providing some training to extension workers in the form of Training-of-Trainers of approach after the launch of the Manual. CTCN technical assistance involves local, regional and international experts in developing the CSA manual. The

process entails field visits to selected agricultural colleges, comprehensive literature reviews and a series of workshops, so as to strengthen the development of the CSA manual.

### **3.0 Workshop Objectives:**

- Launch the implementation of the project on developing the CSA Manual for Zimbabwe
- Formulate thematic topics and outline of chapters for the CSA manual

### **4.0 Expected Outcomes:**

- Formulated themes for the chapters of the CSA manual
- Lay the foundation for future development of a National Climate-Smart Agriculture Policy Framework

### **5.0 Participants:**

This Workshop brings together experts from Government of Zimbabwe, Academia, Research, Private Sector, Farmer Organizations, Development Partners, Civil Society, Intergovernmental Organizations, and other Organizations, all who work in the fields such as food, agriculture, water, energy, meteorology, climate change, social sciences, science and technology, and education.

### **6.0 The Structure of the Workshop:**

The Workshop is a full-day, structured in the following way:

1. **Morning Session:** Setting the scene, presentations from speakers selected for their knowledge and expertise in the subject areas, and discussions.
2. **Afternoon Session:** Formulation of themes for the CSA manual.

### **7.0 Participation benefits:**

- Networking and knowledge sharing
- Business opportunities

**8.0 Date and Venue:** Tuesday, 26<sup>th</sup> July 2016, at Mandel Training Centre, Cnr Melton/Adylin Road, P.O.Box MR 163, Malborough, Harare, Zimbabwe

### **9.0 Main Country Partners:**

Government of Zimbabwe  
Ministry of Agriculture, Mechanization and Irrigation Development  
No.1 Ngungunyana Building  
Borrowdale Road  
Harare, Zimbabwe

Government of Zimbabwe  
Ministry of Environment, Water and Climate  
11<sup>th</sup> Floor Kaguvi Building  
Cnr 4<sup>th</sup> Street / Central Avenue  
P.Bag 7753, Causeway  
Harare, Zimbabwe  
Tel: +263-4-700991 – 9

Green Impact Trust  
No. 3 Allan Wilson Road  
Belgravia  
Harare, Zimbabwe  
Mobile: +263-772 450457  
E-mail: [greenimpacttrust@gmail.com](mailto:greenimpacttrust@gmail.com)