EVIDENCE ON CLIMATE-SENSITIVE AGRICULTURE PRACTICES

DONORS: The Foundation for Food and Agricultural Research (FFAR) and The Syngenta Foundation for Sustainable Agriculture (SFSA)

LOCATIONS: Bangladesh, Kenya, India

PROJECT TIME FRAME: September 2022-September 2023

PARTNERS: University of Sussex Institute for Development Studies / Chronic Poverty Action Network, ODI

Overview
Climate change continues to deeply impact food systems, food security, and agricultural livelihoods within low and middle income countries around the world. Addressing the effects on production, livestock grazing, food harvest, and markets calls for more thoughtful design, consistent adoption and scale up of climate smart agriculture (CSA) policies and practices. This project seeks evidence-based research to increase understanding of the ecosystem in which such policies and practices are being implemented in three countries that have been heavily affected in recent years by climate change. This includes poorly-predicted droughts during customary growing seasons, heavy rain and flooding during customary harvest/drying seasons, salt water inundations from cyclone disasters, increased erosion, extreme temperature shocks and the like.

This project will establish a new baseline of understanding of what farmers are doing and can do (considering access to public extension, suppliers, and regulatory enablers) and examine how this varies across groups of small-scale farmers, depending on characteristics such as poverty, gender, and social inclusion. This is complemented by an assessment of stakeholders affecting incentives and the enabling environment for CSA uptake in global/national agricultural value chains, highlighting the policy and regulatory environment, social movements and civil society, and private sector actors and links.

Key interventions
The project will gather evidence-based research on the incentives, policy ecosystem (including financing mechanisms), and implementation tradeoffs related to CSA, and the distribution of equitable benefits conducive to farmer profitability and resilience.

Expected results
Project outputs will include a comparative analysis of trends in climate financing and CSA in global/national food value chains, together with country-specific case study reports (referencing key informant interviews of a range of stakeholders and focus group discussions with farmers and other stakeholders). These reports will offer lessons on the multi-stakeholder incentive environment mentioned above, including: 1) selected government climate adaptation policies and implementations such as climate information services; 2) private sector actors incentivizing CSA practices via market linkages; and 3) grass-roots measures by farmers and groups working with farmers. Where possible, evidence will be leveraged through existing World Vision programs, drawing parallels and contrasts that may be useful in other affected geographies.

Moving forward
These case studies will provide the foundation for further work supporting the sustainability of livelihoods in small-scale farming in climate disaster-affected areas, helping to ensure that future projects are carried out in the most effective ways.

World Vision’s Food Security and Livelihoods team has been using evidence-based research to design and refine development of enablements for sustainable livelihoods, applying a Gender Equity and Social Inclusion lens and seeking a focus on resilience, so that future interventions can be most effective in addressing child poverty and food security at the roots.