Achieving Triple-wins In the Agricultural Sector: Some Experiences From CDKN

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Contents

1. Climate compatible development (CCD)
2. Agriculture as a useful entry point for CCD? Drivers and barriers
3. CDKN project: “Climate compatible development for food security through national climate change strategies”
4. Case studies from Kenya, Bangladesh and Honduras
5. Some common lessons and findings
6. Concept of the ‘gatekeeper’
Climate Compatible Development

‘Climate compatible development means reducing poverty and securing human development in a way which reduces the extent of climate change, and also helps societies to adapt to inevitable change’

Source: adapted from Zadek (2009) and informal communication with staff from the UK Department for International Development
Agriculture as a useful entry point for CCD

Climate change will especially affect agriculture (greater crop water demand, more variable rainfall and extreme climate events, …): at the same time agriculture is a major source of GHG emissions.

Opportunities for climate change adaptation, mitigation, and development towards increased food security

CLIMATE-SMART AGRICULTURE

CSA is not a NEW approach to agriculture, but comprises better agricultural practices and risk management – potential to bring about some synergies such as income diversification, reducing landscape vulnerability, improving soil fertility. But TRADE-OFFS (e.g. biofuels)
To address this research question: project on “Climate compatible development for food security through national climate change strategies”

- **Project team:** Perspectives GmbH, Germany – in partnership with Germanwatch, Bangladesh Centre for Advanced Studies, African Centre for Technology Studies, Fundacion Vida Honduras
- **Locations:** Bangladesh, Honduras and Kenya
- **Duration:** Sept 2011 – Aug 2013

**OBJECTIVE:** To assist policy makers in developing countries to harness climate finance for food security related elements in national climate change strategies
Case study from Kenya

Problems identified:

- **Proliferation of funding initiatives** – non-coordinated and lack of alignment to development priority areas.

- **Insufficient information** about specific funds dedicated to food security in the context of mitigation and adaptation projects.

- **Challenges in mobilising and allocating funds** to climate-related projects.

- **Silo working-style, limited financial resources and institutional leadership, lack of technical expert knowledge and policy incentives.**

- Preference of **mitigation activities** by donors

Launch of National Climate Change Action Plan (NCCAP) in March 2013 to implement the National Climate Change Response Strategy and ensure adaptation and mitigation measures are integrated in all governmental planning processes + collaborative and joint action (participatory approach)

**Agricultural Sector Coordinating Unit** includes 10 ministries with tasks relevant for food security + Climate Change Units + community-based programmes to respond to food insecurity.
FINDINGS AND CONTRIBUTION FROM CDKN PROJECT:

**Workshop** and subsequent consultations with policy makers (agricultural sector unit, Ministry of Environment and natural resources) and civil society, private sector and donor agencies.

- **How to administer mitigation and adaptation funds at national level between NEMS, NIE and Ministry of Finance?** Concerns about lack of knowledge on climate change and food security.
  - Some stakeholders proposed autonomous body (Climate Change Authority) – but not agreement yet.
  - NGOs and private sector prefer consortium of institutions as gatekeeper for climate finance (to mitigate management inefficiencies)

- **Decentralisation after general elections on 4th March 2013** – easier to reach local farmers, but need for capacity-building of agriculture extension officers and other stakeholders to ensure integration of CCD (trainings, knowledge sharing).
  - Ministry of Environment has developed a training strategy for capacity-building of county stakeholders.
  - Optimism that county governments will allocate finance towards supporting climate change mitigation and adaptation.

- **NCCAP launch**: enthusiasm among stakeholders to integrate mitigation and adaptation elements into national and county development
Case study from Honduras

Problems identified:

- Limited access to international climate finance in relation to projects in agriculture.
- Silo working-style, limited financial resources and institutional leadership and capacity on environmental issues.
- Difficult for farmers to apply new production techniques.

Government of Honduras has developed National Climate Change Strategy (NCCS): establishes Regional Development Councils (CDRs) – But challenges during implementation phase, particularly in relation to agriculture, soil and food security.
FINDINGS AND CONTRIBUTION FROM CDKN PROJECT:

Workshop and subsequent consultations with officials of the Ministry of Agriculture and the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment revealed that:

- **CDRs as an ideal platform for channelling technical and financial support** to vulnerable communities (multiple stakeholders, participatory approach) – A thematic platform on agriculture, food security and climate change has been established within CDR and engaging different stakeholders.
  
  → Future engagement of Inter-Institutional Technical Committee on Climate Change (ITCCC) and institutions from central government?

- **3 key Ministries working together as a coordinating entity** and international focal point within the framework of CDRs: to promote implementation of articulated processes for adaptation and mitigation in agriculture sector: integration of governmental/public/private actors to ensure transparency and effective management of resources.

- **Next steps**: improve the organisational and participatory capabilities within CDRs.
Case study from Bangladesh

Problems identified:

- **Limited access to international climate finance** in relation to projects in agriculture.
- In agriculture, focus has been on adaptation, but **lack of policy incentives on how to harness synergies between adaptation and mitigation** (no feeling of obligation to GHG emissions reduction and limited awareness of mitigation needs).
- **Lack of awareness at community level** about solutions of agriculture and food-related problems.
- **Lack of transport and communication infrastructures**, as well as **skilled manpower**.

Bangladesh has a **National Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan** (**formulated by multiple stakeholders**) and has established the **Bangladesh Climate Change Resilience Fund** – focus on adaptation and resilience needs of vulnerable communities. On-budget activities through ministries and departments, off-budget activities accessible for civil society organisations and private sector.
FINDINGS AND CONTRIBUTION FROM CDKN PROJECT:

**Workshop** and **subsequent consultations** with officials of the Ministry of Agriculture and the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment revealed that:

- The Government of Bangladesh should assume a key role as “gatekeeper”, but it would be useful to have an international organisation (e.g. UNDP) in charge with fiduciary standards management and procurement services.

- The gatekeeper should include **political, technical and agricultural committees** that are made out of experts from different institutions to draw on as much knowledge as possible.

- Project proposals (to be funded by the gatekeeper) should derive from **farmers and bi- or international organisations**, and then ensure that approved projects align to the BCCSAP and effectively address needs of most vulnerable.

- **More inter-disciplinary, participatory and applied research** could be undertaken to generate new and applicable knowledge on the approach and potentials of CCD – gatekeeper should find **ways to incorporate NGOs and research/academic institutions**.
Some common lessons learned:

- **Access to information is critical** to set common objectives, as well as communication and coordination across scales and approach development projects holistically.

- Promoting the co-benefits of combining adaptation and mitigation measures in the context of agriculture and food security could represent an **incentive for developing countries to work towards reducing their GHG emissions** as well.

- Due to limited technical and institutional capacity, as well as lack of financial resources, developing countries are constrained to access international climate funding: **international community should provide capacity-building and support on project proposals**.

- Projects for improving agricultural productivity and climate resilience need to consider farmers’ preferences to indigenous crops and difficulties in applying new production techniques (**take traditional practices and knowledge into account**).

- **Green Climate Fund** should take into account country-level experience generated through this research.
Main findings from the project:

- Because global finance architecture is made up of various international finance institutions and bilateral initiatives, in-country coordination and national-policy coherence is often missing: risk of competing activities.

- Strict separation of funding channelled towards climate change mitigation, adaptation and food security: no funding agency to date looks at triple-wins in an integrated way.

- In developing countries, agriculture is fragmented: smallholder farmers are not reached by national policy-makers and international donors.
Conclusion

Establishment of a new institutional set-up that takes advantage of existing synergies that allow a climate-resilient and low-carbon development in the agricultural sector while incentivising continuous investments in food security: the GATEKEEPER INSTITUTION (or network – depending on country circumstances)
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