Training Program on Climate Change Adaptation and Disaster Risk Reduction in Agriculture

PACC RRC TRAINING PROGRAMME
Climate Change Adaptation and Disaster Risk Reduction in Agriculture

Climate Services for West Africa

International conference

Rome, 4-5 February 2019

AGENZIA ITALIANA PER LA COOPERAZIONE ALLO SVILUPPO

Partnership	WMO (World Meteorological Organization), IBIMET-CNR (Italy), AGRHYMET Regional Centre (CILSS/ECOWAS),
General objective	To reduce the impacts of Natural Disaster and Climate Change on the agricultural sector in West Africa.
Specific objective	To improve the capacity of West African national technical services to support government actions in sustainable development and food security, in response to climate change, natural disasters and their associated risks.
Project's duration	20 months
Target Countries	Western Africa CILSS/ECOWAS states Members
Target groups	Experts of National Agriculture, Agro-Meteorological, Hydrological and Early Warning Services.
Project's typology	Capacity Building (Art. 18)
Budget	€ 822,843.27
UN Millennium Goals	Goal 1 : Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger Goal 7 : Ensure environmental sustainability

Concept note

This concept note describes the goals and rationale behind the upcoming Networking Conference for high-level officials to promote strategic collaboration on capacity development for delivery of climate services in CILSS and ECOWAS countries.

Climate variability and associated risks are affecting different economic sectors, and particularly food security. Sub-Saharan Africa is already facing a combination of climatic, sociological and economic challenges requiring research centers, central and local government agencies, international organizations and end-users to find new and innovative ways to interpret, apply and disseminate climate information for decision-making (Bruno Soares et al., 2016). Climate information is a valuable resource for planning and decision-making, but the challenge is to transform information to services tailored to specific users (*Guide to Climatological Practices*, WMO-No. 100, 2011). It is a two-fold challenge: on one side acquiring the capacity to transform meteo-climatic information into useful "information products" tailored on users' needs, on the other hand implementing training initiatives and knowledge-sharing tools to allow key users to hone their skills and competences.

In 2009, World Climate Conference-3 acknowledged **Capacity Development** as a transversal component underpinning all the other Pillars of the **Global Framework for Climate Services** (*Implementation Plan of the Global Framework for Climate Services*, WMO - 2014). The global scale of learning needs for climate services calls for innovative solutions, collaborative projects, a range of flexible modalities to reach learners in a variety of ways, and for sharing resources and successful strategies within the global community. Within the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) Education and Training Programme, the network of **Regional Training Centers** (RTC) play a major role in helping member countries develop operational Climate Services (CS).

According to the *Status of Human Resources in National Meteorological and Hydrological Services*, (ETR-21, 2017), unmet learning demands impact more than 20% of the global NMHS workforce. In least developed countries (LDC) the situation is even worse because of retirements (30 of 81 LDC reported that more than 30% of their staff were due to retire in the next five years). Addressing the education and training challenge will require a concerted effort by the education and training community, with the support of governments, regional development partners and the international aid, using a mix of traditional classroom, online learning, mentoring and coaching and self-guided learning methods.

Within this context**,** the **PACC-RRC** project was designed by WMO and two of its Regional Training Centers (AGRHYMET and IBIMET-CNR) to build the capacities of experts in National Meteorological and Hydrological Services, other national technical services, specialized agencies and other public and private institutions in the 17 member states of CILSS/ECOWAS (Benin, Burkina Faso, Cabo Verde, Chad, Cote d'Ivoire, The Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Liberia, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal, Sierra Leone and Togo). Four training courses have been organized in the target service areas of Climate Change Adaptation and Disaster Risk Reduction. The recipients improved their skills through training courses and enhanced their networking capacity through follow-up actions and post-course activities.

As a final project activity, a **networking conference** will be organized in Rome, Italy, on 4 and 5 February 2019. The conference will gather those in high-levels of responsibility in the Ministries to which NMHS belong and coordinate with, as well as the Directors of Meteorological Services of the Region. The conference will further promote the strategic collaboration of involved countries with WMO and Italy. The aim of this conference is to enhance technical and scientific cooperation among National Meteorological Services and to promote strategic collaboration on capacity development, in the perspective of providing operational climatic services for disaster risk reduction and adaptation to climate change in agriculture and other key sectors.

During the conference, an evaluation of the training program will be conducted. A participatory process to co-design **a new collaborative capacity development initiative to support the development of Climate Services for West Africa** will be carried out with the participation of representatives of the CILSS/ECOWAS countries, of WMO, AICS, AGRHYMET, IBIMET-CNR and international experts.

Working group discussions will be encouraged, and outcomes reported during plenary session(s), to allow as many participants as possible to share their expertise on critical issues, and on the co-design of a new capacity development initiative.

Documents to be reviewed and discussed in working groups and plenary session(s) will be distributed to participants prior to the Conference.

The new initiative, following the outcomes and recommendations of the SYMET-13 (*An International Agenda for Education and Training in Meteorology and Hydrology* WMO-No. 1219, 2018), might foster such cooperation, providing a solid foundation for increased sharing of training resources and approaches, offering learning opportunities, developing model or common accreditation, certification, evaluation and assessment systems. The new initiative will contribute to the operational implementation of the WMO Global Campus, encouraging multilateral collaboration among RTCs and other training institutions and by providing a shared and open platform for sharing training contents, tools and learning technologies that all providers and users could use.

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