

# COOPERATIVES, SOLUTION TO CLIMATE CHANGE!



**CRAFT**

Climate resilient value chains  
for improved livelihoods



**AGRI  
TERRA**



**FOR COOPERATIVES**

# CLIMATE RESILIENT AGRIBUSINESS FOR TOMORROW (CRAFT)



The CRAFT project (June 2018 – May 2023), funded by the Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs, will increase the availability of climate-smart foods for the growing population in Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda.

The project is implemented by SNV (lead) in partnership with Wageningen University and Research (WUR), CGIAR's Research Program on Climate Change, Agriculture and Food Security (CCAFS), Agriterra and Rabo Partnerships.

## Agriterra's role

The main role for Agriterra is institutionalising the Climate interventions at cooperative level. This includes:

- Profiling, scoping and assessing cooperatives
- Strengthening the institutional framework for cooperatives in governance and financial management
- Offering support in developing Climate Smart Business plans and their implementation
- Developing financing strategies for the cooperatives for possible co-investments
- Institutionalising the CSA interventions at cooperative level to ensure sustainability

Farmer Cooperatives play a critical role in resource allocation, governance and decision making at all levels. Given that Agriculture is one of the main contributors to climate change, there is need to influencing decisions at this level to ensure that farmers take climate action sustainably. Climate Clever Cooperatives are cooperatives that are resilient to the impacts of climate change, reduce their negative impact wherever possible, and increase their productivity in a sustainable way.

## OBJECTIVES CRAFT

The overall project goal is to increase climate-smart foods for the growing population through investments in CSA technologies in Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda. The project targets to create impact in the following areas:

- 1** Increase income for 300,000 smallholder farmers
- 2** Increase business performance for 50 agribusiness SMEs and 30 cooperatives due to climate related investments
- 3** Improve the enabling environment favourable for large scale roll out of Climate Smart Action



## Mechanisation; a Climate Adaptation Strategy for smallholder farmers in Africa

Did you know a simple practice such as timely planting is a Climate Smart Agricultural practice?

Timely planting for a smallholder farmer, as simple as it may sound, depends on different factors that the farmer is exposed to. For instance, availability of labour, the ability for the farmer to pay for the labour on time, access to seeds and other inputs and access to extension and weather information. In many cases, the smallholder farmers in Africa do not have access to all these resources at the same time.



**Across the globe, smallholder farmers are facing challenges brought about by changes in climate. The overall impacts of climate change on agriculture will depend on the balance of various effects. The shift in weather patterns takes place at a time when there is an increasing demand for food, feed, fibre, and fuel, which has the potential to damage the natural resource base on which agriculture depends irreversibly.**

Over time, weather fluctuations have continuously affected farmers' yields and cooperative societies' incomes. It is, therefore, crucial to increase the understanding of the actual climate change dynamics on agricultural activities and at the cooperatives levels. The effects of climate change need to be considered along with other evolving factors that affect agricultural cooperatives, such as changes in farming practices and technology.

*“Agricultural cooperatives can help to enable members to manage climate risks”*

### Specific climate conditions

Agriculture, in general, is highly dependent on specific climate conditions. Increases in temperature and carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) can be beneficial for some crops in some places. In Tanzania, for example, bean cultivation in low elevation areas will experience more than 20% yield reduction by 2050 while in rainfed highlands yield gains by over 20% are likely to be experienced. But to realise these benefits, nutrient levels, soil moisture, water availability, and other conditions must also be met.

### Promotion of CSA practices

Strong and well-managed cooperatives have the capacity to strengthen the adaptive capacity of smallholder farmers as well as enable them to take mitigating actions by:

- Promoting adoption of Climate Smart Agriculture practices targeting sustainable intensification
- Provision of weather information, index-based insurance and provision of extension services to the farmers affordably
- Enabling members to manage climate risks through sensitisation and adherence to environmental standards
- Adoption of eco-friendly processes at cooperative level including energy, water and material usage
- Promotion of linkages between rural communities and large-scale public and private institutions to enable access to risk management tools and other technologies
- Organising smallholder farmers into economic units to enable rapid and more sustainable climate actions and knowledge transfer.
- Promoting access to finance hence promoting investments in climate-smart agriculture practices
- Lobby and advocacy trajectories to influence local governments to prioritise investments in climate-smart practices

## Key activities CRAFT

- Climate risk analysis of major food value chains and identification of business opportunities in CSA
- Business case development and climate-smart investments support to the private sector, SMEs and cooperatives
- Investment leveraging through facilitating access to finance
- Policy influencing and operationalisation of climate plans
- Feedback on practical applicability of CSA technologies, models and climate science
- Knowledge sharing among countries and networks

Knowledge sharing and learning will be a cross-cutting element of the project. Practices, technologies, approaches and methodologies that have proven to be successful will be shared and scaled to increase impact.

Gender equality and opportunities for youth employment will be fully integrated in the project's implementation.



Agriterra is an international specialist in farmer-led cooperative development. Agriterra makes cooperatives bankable, optimises service-provision to farmers, and strengthens farmer-government dialogues. Agriterra is founded by Dutch experts in agribusiness and builds on their know-how and experience. Agriterra operates globally and has representative offices in 13 African countries, 6 Asian countries and 2 Latin-American countries with over 160 staff.