ADAPTATION FUND

PRE-CONCEPT FOR A REGIONAL PROJECT/PROGRAMME

PART I: PROJECT/PROGRAMME INFORMATION

Title of Project/Programme:	Agricultural Climate Resilience Enhancement Initiative (ACREI)
Countries:	Ethiopia, Kenya, Uganda
Thematic Focal Area[1]:	Food security
Type of Implementing Entity:	UN agency
Implementing Entity:	World Meteorological Organization
Executing Entities:	Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO) and the Inter-Governmental Authority on Development (IGAD)
Amount of Financing Requested:	USD 6.8 Million

Project / Programme Background and Context:

The Greater Horn of Africa is extremely vulnerable to climate variability. Extreme precipitation changes over Eastern Africa such as droughts and heavy rainfall have been experienced more frequently during the last 30-60 years (IPCC, 2013). The risk of loss of rural livelihoods and income due to climatic hazards is particularly real in arid and semi-arid regions, largely habituated by communities engaged in agro-pastoral livelihood systems. These communities have limited access to information and technical support and financing for adaptation options hence responding to local climate variability and predictions is very limited. Therefore, enhancing the capacity of communities to cope and adapt to climate variability will build the resilience of communities and livelihoods dependent on climate-sensitive resources. The intervention will technically improve climate forecasts using a regional approach and build the capacity of communities to understand and appropriately use climate information and related agro-advisories in decision-making to climate-proof their livelihoods. The Agro-pastoralist Field School (APFS) approach, an adaptation of the well proven Farmer Field School approach will form a key delivery mechanism in this project building strongly on previous experiences. Climate sensitive APFS interventions engaging communities in participatory group learning and experimentation will be coupled with Village Community Banking approach (VICOBA) to support community uptake of strategies and practices for resilient local food and income systems. Impact data from the region indicate substantial impact of Field Schools on productivity and poverty, especially among women[2] and the successful combination of technical, social and financial support though APFS/VICOBA[3]. The informal nature of the approach provides an entry point to also address social issues including HIV, gender, resource use conflicts, population growth as well as health and nutrition issues thus ensuring a holistic approach. The initiative will build on Climate Smart Agriculture (CSA) principles and field practices to incorporate more accurate and relevant localized climate services into extension and advisory services for agro-pastoralists. The content of technical and financial support to communities will include good agricultural practices, conservation agriculture, soil and water management, water harvesting and small-scale irrigation, improved rangeland and livestock management, farm and income diversification and improved storage and marketing of produce. The project is focusing on three countries; Ethiopia, Kenya and Uganda selected based on the presence of agro-pastoral population highly affected by climate variability, availability of good quality climate data and climate products, existence of national policies and strategies for advisory services, experience and presence of Field School interventions and based on complementarity with ongoing FAO support for institutionalization of the Field School approach. In the future it is expected that with increased complementary funding the initiative may be scaled up to other countries in the Horn of Africa

[1] Thematic areas are: Food security; Disaster risk reduction and early warning systems; Transboundary water management; Innovation in adaptation finance.

[2] *Davis, K., Nkonya, E., Kato, E., Mekonnen, D.A., Odendo, M., Miiro, R. & Nkuba, J. (2011). Impact of Farmer Field Schools on Agricultural Productivity and Poverty in East Africa. World Development, 40: 402-413.*

[3] Hoeggel and Mbeyale, 2014. Impact Assessment of Pastoralist Field Schools in Ethiopia, Kenya and Uganda. FAO, SDC and University of Bern.

Project / Programme Objectives:

The goal of the initiative is to "***Develop and implement adaptation strategies and measures that will strengthen the resilience of vulnerable smallholder farmers, agro-pastoralists and pastoralists in the Horn of Africa to climate variability and change"*** in line with the IGAD Drought Disaster and Sustainability Initiative (IDDRSI) programme. The overall objective is "***Improved adaptive capacity and resilience to current climate variability and change among targeted farmers, agro-pastoralists and pastoralist communities***".

Project / Programme Components and Financing:

Project/ Programme Components	Expected Outcomes	Expected Outputs	Countries	Amount (US$)
1.Community Adaptation practice	Enhanced productivity, production, livelihood diversification and income levels among 30 communities through application of collective adaptation strategies and practices for resilient local food and income systems (crop and livestock)	1.1 Season-long participatory field based learning and experimentation on adaptation options responding to local climate variability and predictions among 90 climate sensitive APFS groups. 1.2 Participatory community adaptation action planning processes resulting in 30 collective and climate informed community adaptation action plans. 1.3 Thirty technically sound community adaptation investment proposals funded through a community grant mechanism (average estimate of 60,000 USD/community). 1.4 Targeted population technically supported throughout their engagement in climate resilient farming and income generating livelihood enterprises that sustainably enhance their resilience to climatic shocks. 1.5 Cross community and cross country exchange visits for peer learning and sharing.	Ethiopia, Kenya, Uganda,	3,325,414
2. Climate proofing of extension system	Enhanced capacity of development and extension actors to support community level climate adaptation strategies through integration of climate considerations, forecasts and projections in food security and resilience interventions**.**	2.1 Training curriculum developed for integration of climate considerations in community actions for climate resilient local food and income systems. 2.2 Community and APFS facilitators and other public or private field support actors trained on adaptation options responding to local climate variability and predictions. 2.3 Dissemination of timely information on climate-impact and weather forecasts in an understandable format through FM radio stations linked to community radio listening and dialogue groups. 2.4 Enhanced institutionalization process of climate sensitive Field School and extension interventions in national and regional structures, line ministries and training institutions. 2.5 Best practice validation and documentation through website development and one face-to face regional meeting per year.	Ethiopia, Kenya, Uganda,	1,215,467

3. Climate informed decision making	Improved climate considerations, forecasts and projections in decision making by IGAD institutions and line ministries (Agriculture, livestock, land and water).	3.1 Climate information, including the seasonal forecast and future climate projections, is downscaled by the Regional Climate Centre ICPAC together with National Meteorological Institutions and disseminated through national line ministries of agriculture and livestock to farmers and pastoralists. 3.2 Improved feedback mechanisms from rural climate information users to NMHS and Government bodies about climate and weather information use and their impacts in food production. 3.3 Agro-climate advisories for farmers and pastoralists in the region are packaged and disseminated in a way that makes them more actionable for the users. 3.4 Evidence based policy dialogue on climate information and agriculture is facilitated in the region. 3.5 Annual regional farmers and pastoralist forums to share lessons learnt and good practices on integrating climate information in Agriculture decision making.	Ethiopia, Kenya, Uganda,	1,128,000
4. Project/Programme Execution cost				598,400
5. Total Project/Programme Cost				5,668,881
6. Project/Programme Cycle Management Fee charged by the Implementing Entity (if applicable)				532,719
Amount of Financing Requested				6,800,000

Project Duration: Three years (36 months)

PART II: PROJECT / PROGRAMME JUSTIFICATION

The project scope provides a highly innovative effort to link upstream and downstream climate information and services to ensure a more farmer, agro-pastoralist and pastoralist friendly approach to climate resilience in agriculture that blends scientific and traditional knowledge systems.

Component 1: Supporting Community Adaptation Practice

This component, led by FAO in close collaboration with relevant regional institutions and country ministries of agriculture, livestock and environment will support capacity building linked to financial support for implementation of locally adapted adaptation practices that enhance food and income security. In depth consultation with communities will assist in linking traditional mechanisms for assessing and predicting climate variation with the packaging and dissemination of localized down-scaled climate services (climate forecasts, analyzed historical climate information, assessment of local risks and vulnerabilities). Communities will be supported to apply climate informed farming practices through participatory training and experimentation on appropriate technology and adaptation options through 90 (30 per country) APFS groups reaching 13,500 direct beneficiaries over the project period, at least half of whom will be women with over 40,000 additional indirect beneficiaries benefitting through member to neighbor knowledge transmission . APFS groups set up comparative field studies, running over two rainy seasons, on a group farm or site to undertake regular data collection and monitoring on climatic information, disease surveillance, livestock and vegetation condition, soil quality and moisture conditions, crop and pasture production that guide decision making for selection of suitable adaptation practices to adopt at household or community level. Target communities (10 villages per country) will further be facilitated and supported to develop collective adaptation investment plans, informed by the APFS group study, that will (following review and approval) be funded by the program. Community investment financing will aim to support inputs, equipment, field supplies and technical support for communities to address priority issue related the sustainable and climate smart use of land, soil, water, forestry, animals and rangeland resources as well as aim to diversify income sources through community savings and credit mechanisms and improved storage and marketing of produce.

Component 2: Climate proofing Extension system

This component, lead by FAO and IGAD, will support climate proofing of existing agricultural advisory services in the target countries and ensure a minimum level of climate awareness among development actors and advisory support service actors. Selected project and government technical staff from the

participating countries will be trained on appropriate climate data collection/analysis tools through a combination of face to face and e-learning training processes. Through an initial season-long training of facilitators, run by experienced Master trainers sourced from the region, the capacity of community members, government and NGO field actors will be built for implementation of climate sensitive APFS. It is estimated that approximately 100 technical staff will be trained per country through short trainings serving over 30,000 beneficiaries over the project period and 24 Master trainers will be comprehensively trained in the region leading the activities of component 1. Through dissemination of timely information on climate-impact and weather forecasts in an understandable format through FM radio stations linked to community radio listening and dialogue groups an additional 40,000 community members will benefit from some form of climate adaptation advice. The institutionalization process and integration of participatory extension and Field Schools in government mainstream programs and funding streams started in the region will be enhanced, building on member countries and IGADs ongoing efforts.

Component 3: Climate Informed Decision Making

Under the leadership of WMO, and ICPAC, the Regional Climate Centre the capacity of the NMHSs in the target countries to produce the required climate services will be built through training, infrastructure development and other resource investment. This includes support provided by ICPAC, to improve climate modeling and down-scaling climate scenarios for application in agriculture. This component will directly add value to and support beneficiary reach of component 1 and 2.

A regional approach for the above implementation of three components is critical for a number of reasons. Firstly the main climate product used by farmers is the seasonal forecast, which is the outcome of a process that is lead by the regional climate centre and developed through the Greater Horn of Africa climate outlook forum which brings together users and producers of the forecasts biannually to come up with a consensus forecast. Improvements and adjustments to the forecast to more accurately meet community needs thus necessitates is needed, the inclusion of the regional climate centre as a central implementation actor. Secondly he adaptation measures being applied in this project will generate lessons learned, and validation of best practices to be documented and replicated in other areas and countries. WMO, FAO and IGAD have significant experience and systems in place for knowledge management, documentation and dissemination. FAO have both national and field level offices and technical teams in place that will provide a critical role in capturing and sharing experiences, especially in regards to outputs under component 1 and 2. IGAD will utilize existing linkages with relevant national level sectors and other regional forums to share lessons and policy recommendations. A designated space for sharing of program experiences and lessons will be opened on the regional resilience partner sharing web platform www.disasterriskreduction.net, financed by complementary funding. Face-to-face interactions through regional meetings and cross country exchange visits will also be facilitated, across target communities (component 1), among service actors (component 2) across policy and decision makers (component 3). This will assist in streamlining currently scattered and sometimes duplicated efforts of integrating climate considerations in extension and Field School work. Thirdly the regional approach will enhance cost effectiveness of capacity development as well as ensuring a certain level of generic scope of tools and processes developed for future application beyond the target sites and countries. Centralizing the capacity building of the Meteorological Agencies with the regional body, ICPAC, will enhance cost effectiveness. By using existing structures and staffing in the field already familiar or skilled in the Field School approach, start-up will be quick and costs reduced. Lastly, a regional approach will ensure close complementarities with the SDC financed Field School Institutionalization project started in 2016 that will support the ongoing uptake of APFS at extension policy level in the target countries.

The project interventions are in line with the respective government and regional priorities as relates to the significant additional adaptation efforts needed to address the critical interface between climate, agriculture, disaster risk management and livelihoods at the community level. The project directly supports the IGAD Drought Disaster Resilience and Sustainability Initiative (IDDRSI) as well as the Global Framework for Climate services (GFCS) implementation strategy, specifically components 1 and 3 (Developing the User Interface platform and strengthening climate services information systems). GFCS has identified five pillars for building the user interface for agriculture, and this project is implementing

three of those, namely: monitoring, data, tools and methods, managing risks of climate variability and change and contributing to food security information and emergency response. The project is designed within the framework of IGADs regional strategy for mainstreaming climate information into key socio-economic sectors for disaster risk reduction and sustainable development. Existing gender policy frameworks will guide project implementation, for example targeting women to access weather services is an IGAD policy imperative. Analysis of existing similar initiatives has taken place to avoid duplication. Close synergies are envisaged with the similar community grant mechanism developed under the IGAD-FAO Partnership Programme in cross-border areas, commencing in 2016. Further, in Kenya close collaboration is envisaged with the National Implementing Entity (NIE) National Environment management Authority-Kenya (NEMA) within the Food security and Knowledge Management components of the Kenya Climate Change Adaptation (KCCAP) program. All elements related to data and information on climate variability will be clearly linked with the relevant national authorities in the countries such as Ministries of Agriculture, Environments and Meteorological departments.

A project preparation is envisaged that will entail a three step process:

1. Consultations at regional level with the executing entities and national partners to determine the scope and focus of the project, including target districts within the countries, based on which an initial results based framework will be defined including a screening of potential environmental and social impacts and risks.
2. Comprehensive community level consultations in the target districts, including with vulnerable groups such as female headed households and key informants such as traditional forecast providers.. The consultation will include application of participatory tools for gender sensitive community consultation and the FAO Self-evaluation and Holistic Assessment to Climate Resilience of Farmers and pastoralists (SHARP).
3. Finally, national consultations will be held in each of the target countries to obtain stakeholder support for the project and validate the final project design.

The improved climate and weather services to be provided by this project will become part of the normal services provided by the NMHSs in the target countries thus ensuring continuity post intervention. Long terms sustainability if further ensured by focusing on existing extension staff, field workers and community focal points and building their capacity in climate adaptation, is. By taking advantage of FAOs global modalities for knowledge dissemination in agriculture the reach and spread of program outcomes will be enhanced. Building on local culture and traditional practices is central to this initiative. At farm level, low cost adaptation technologies and practices will be prioritized to enhance the potential for sustaining the promoted technologies/practices post intervention. The proven ability of Field Schools coupled with community financing mechanism to link technical advancement with enhanced social and financial capital will create a holistic foundation for enhanced and resilient rural livelihoods. Since activities at local level are defined and led by the community the risk of culturally inappropriate practices are minimal. Tools for community based analysis of new technologies/practices in an agro-ecological perspective will be applied thus minimal negative environmental impact is expected (Category C).

PART III: IMPLEMENTATION ARRANGEMENTS

The project will be implemented by WMO and executed by FAO and IGAD (ICPAC and ICPALD), and relevant government ministries in the target countries. WMO will lead in the management of the climate services while FAO will lead the agronomic, food security and natural resource aspects. IGAD (ICPAC and ICPALD) will coordinate the promotion of utilization of climate information in decision making (crop and livestock investment). The project will establish a Project Steering Committee (PSC) at the regional level or link into existing structures to monitor performance, provide technical oversight, advice on strategic challenges, and ensure systems exist to mitigate risks and disseminate best practice. National Project Leading Group (NPLG) will be set up at country level including representatives from NMHS, Ministry of Agriculture, regional/local authorities and civil society leaders.