Translation of Climate Smart Agriculture (CSA) from global narratives to local realities: Lessons from Nepal Himalayas

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Introduction

➢ The agriculture sector gained global attention with the introduction of CSA which aims for triple benefits (Liper et al. 2014) as shown in figure below
➢ Research on CSA should be localized to smallholder farmers and community based programs (Chandra et al. 2018)

What is CSA?

Figure showing three pillars of CSA

Research Questions

➢ How has CSA translated from global discourse to local practice and how implementing organizations at the local level innovate the idea
➢ What are aspirations of farmers regarding technologies used and implementation mechanism of CSA being practiced

Methods and Data

Desk work

Review of literature
Consultation and Selection of site

Field work

Key informants interviews - 10
Visit to ICIMOD and GoN program sites
HH level interviews – 41
Interviews regarding CSA technologies – 13

Analysis

Qualitative Data Analysis
Triangulation of results

Results

➢ Five programs related to CSA programs were identified
➢ Climate Smart Village (CSV) of GON started from FY 2016/17

STRENGTHS OF CSA

➢ Gender and social inclusion is introduced as a new pillar and community engagement is valued
➢ Learning attitude of implementors - programs evolving
➢ More encouragement to locals and local organizations
➢ Recognition of simple and small technologies
➢ Coordination among institutions and learning from each others

➢ Six technologies provided at Saptari were also provided at Ramechhap: water tank, improved cooking stoves, rainwater harvesting, drip irrigation, cattle shed improvement and solar irrigation
➢ In addition, at Ramechhap five other technologies were provided: plastic pond, organic pesticides, plastic tunnel, drought resistant seeds, herbs farming and plantation
➢ Technologies not entirely new, success depends on how they are packaged and distributed

Study Site

Saptari District
Province-2
(Plains)

Ramechhap District
Province-3
(Hills)

Map of Nepal Showing Study Area

Challenges for CSA

➢ Vulnerable places too hard for technologies proposed
➢ Triple benefits almost impossible esp. mitigation
➢ Losing grasp on agriculture
➢ Difficulty in reaching major crops
➢ Hard to penetrate food insecure areas
➢ Engagement with farmers and incorporation of local knowledge
➢ Define list of practices or leave it open
➢ Subsidy required but can also limit social learning
➢ Continuity of the program in same area in question
➢ Reflexivity and public participation in science

Conclusion

➢ Most commonly promoted approach of CSA at Nepal is the Climate Smart Village (CSV)
➢ While CSA technologies have remained largely the same in all programs, each program differs in terms of implementation mechanism and priorities
➢ Small simple technologies defy traditional evaluation approaches such as efficiency, effectiveness and equity
➢ Government should own CSA to scale it up but with caution as the government mechanism is different from other institutions

Reference

Liper et al. (2014), Climate-smart agriculture for food security, Nature Climate Change, 4: 1068-1072.
https://csa.guide/

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