

CSAYN TALANOA DIALOGUE

OCTOBER 2018



Photo credit: Wikimedia Commons

| INTRODUCTION

In October 2018, the Climate Smart Agriculture Youth Network (CSAYN) and Cornell University organized an online Talanoa Dialogue across CSAYN's global network. Initiated by the Government of Fiji at COP23, the purpose of a Talanoa Dialogue is to share stories, build empathy, and make wise decisions for the collective good. Using the Talanoa process of sharing ideas, skills and experience, members of CSAYN were invited to share their story of how youth can be effectively engaged in efforts to address climate change and agriculture in specific communities. The CSAYN Talanoa Dialogue was conducted to emphasize the importance of youth engagement in matters of Climate Smart Agriculture (CSA) through the lived experiences across the network in order to motivate stronger government action to empower youth action on climate change.

This undertaking was a result of a collaboration between CSAYN and Cornell University, through a newly developed course entitled, Global Climate Change Science and Policy. Through this course, a group of four Cornell University students have been paired with CSAYN to provide technical assistance to the network and organize outreach projects, of which the CSAYN Talanoa Dialogue is a key project.

The three Talanoa Dialogue questions—Where are we? Where do we want to go? How do we get there?—were adapted to focus on 'Youth Engagement in Climate Smart Agriculture' in alignment with CSAYN's mission. The survey questions were as follows:

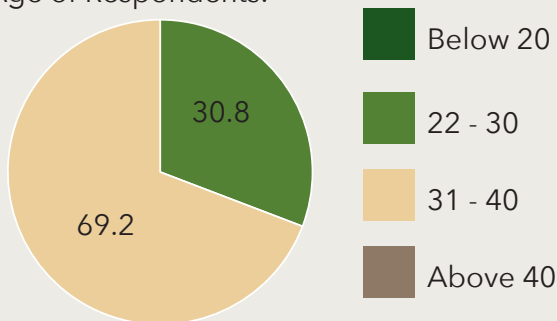
1. Where are we (with climate change impacts, adaptation or mitigation projects)? How are youth in your community affected by climate change? How engaged/aware are youth in climate action?
2. Where do we want to go? How can youth be engaged further in efforts to reduce emissions or adapt to climate change in your community/region? What goals do you (or should you) have in your organization, community or region?
3. How do we get there? How can we achieve these goals? What success stories (or plans to overcome obstacles) of youth engagement can you share from your community?

The responses received from many countries across the world have been summarized in the following document. This has been submitted to the United Nations ahead of the COP24 Conference in Katowice, Poland through the Talanoa Platform.

| Key Survey Metrics

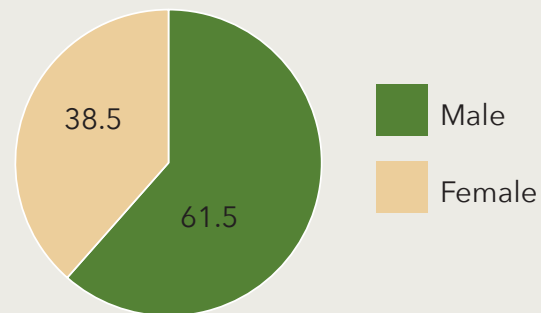
Number of Responses: 13

Age of Respondents:



Location of Respondents: Cameroon, Netherlands, Jamaica, Zimbabwe, Kenya, Sudan, Uganda, Liberia.

Gender of Respondents:



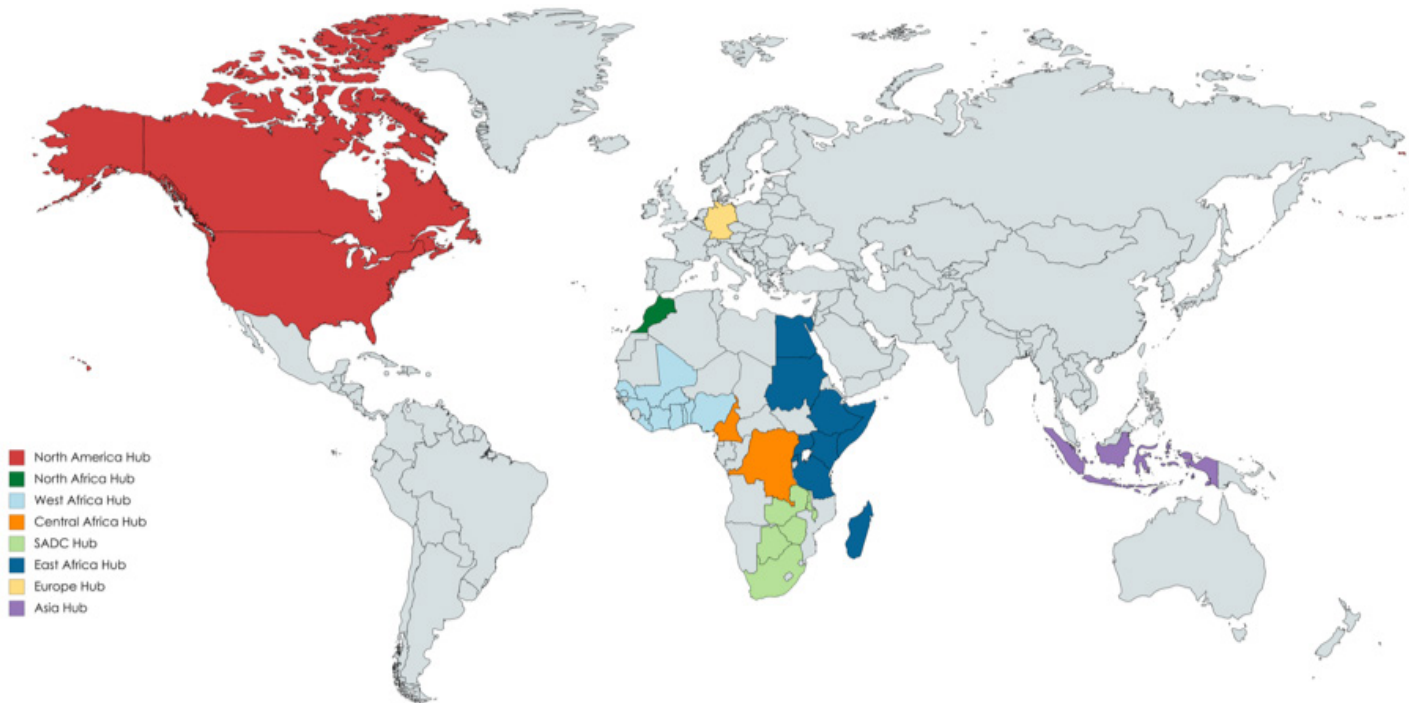
| About the Climate Smart Agriculture Youth Network

The Climate Smart Agriculture Youth Network is a volunteer network with presence in Africa, Asia, Europe and North America, that has a strong interest in Climate Smart Agriculture (CSA) and the environment. The CSAYN members are linked across the world via an online platform to share research findings and seek advice for practical projects. The main objective of CSAYN is to create awareness, sensitize and build the productive capacity of Youth and People Living With Disabilities (PLWD) on CSA concepts for adaptation, reducing emissions (mitigation) and increasing food productivity in a sustainable manner.

CSAYN aims to change the mindset of youth, to value agriculture and help stop the flow of youth from the countryside to urban areas. As a result, CSAYN emphasizes the following priorities:

1. Raise awareness of CSA among young men and women (Aged 18-35) to enable them to make sustainable decisions for the future in the agriculture sector.
2. Create awareness of the coming threats related to climate change.
3. Make the youth aware of the contributions they can make within agriculture for a better future, especially applying climate-smart practices in agriculture and forestry.
4. Enhance meaningful youth contribution in livestock, fisheries and aquaculture activities.

| CSAYN's Global Presence



CSAYN currently has a presence in the following countries: Algeria, Benin, Botswana, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Canada, Congo Brazzaville, DR Congo, Egypt, Ethiopia, Gabon, Germany, Ghana, Guinee Conakry, Indonesia, Ivory Coast, Kenya, Liberia, Madagascar, Malawi, Mali, Mauritius, Morocco, Niger, Nigeria, Rwanda, Senegal, Somalia, South Africa, South Sudan, Sudan, Tanzania, The Gambia, Togo, Tunisia, Uganda, United States of America, Zambia, Zimbabwe and Kenya. These countries are managed under eight regional hubs indicated in the map above.

WHERE ARE WE?

Vulnerability to Shifting Climate

The FAO (2013) reported that the world's population will reach 9 billion by 2050, and food production will need to be doubled in order to feed this rising number. However, achieving this goal is becoming more and more difficult since agriculture is highly vulnerable to the impacts of climate change. Irregular and scarce rainfall, rising temperatures and increased occurrence and ranges of pest infestations and higher weed occurrences have compromised agricultural produce. This affects youth both directly and indirectly. Young farmers are often resource-poor in comparison to more mature farmers, with smaller farm areas and limited capacity to adapt. With prolonged drought and reduced output, they generate less income which trickles down into the household and where families are forced to make sacrifices and trade-offs. For young children in the household their ability to attend school is dependent on the productivity of the farm. This disruption of livelihood and education make the youth even more vulnerable.

“The issues of climate change are alarming here. Youth must volunteer their strength in making the community dwellers aware of the situation and how to tackle it.”

Representative from Liberia

“The youth are willing but are not engaged fully.”

Representative from Kenya

Youth Engagement in Climate Action

The role of the youth in enhancing agricultural production and ensuring food security and nutrition is gaining in recognition. However, a 2013 report by FAO laments that the interest of the youth, to engage in agriculture is limited, especially in Africa. This is because of a complex set of reasons, including the negative perception of agriculture as a unprofitable business, its high labor requirements and the length of time required to get returns (FAO, 2013). Climate change (CC) adds another layer to this challenge, increasing the perception that agriculture is a high-risk business. There is yet a large rural-urban divide in terms of youth engaged in climate action. Further, this is exacerbated by heavy migration of youth from rural to urban areas in search of more lucrative income sources. CSAYN representatives observed that a wide spectrum of youth engagement in climate action. While in some places, youth awareness of climate effects was severely lacking, in other places youth were fully engaged in such efforts, spreading awareness through social media, educating school going children and bringing innovation to agriculture. The challenge is to make sure that the youth develop a positive attitude towards agriculture in general and engage in climate smart agriculture (CSA) in particular.

“Many of the young people today use the adaptive practice of irrigation, adapted seed research, and access to climate information for sustainable production.”

Representative from Cameroon

“In our community, we have adopted water conservation strategies like mulching, drip irrigation and water harvesting. Youth are generally aware and engage at a primary level.”

Representative from Zimbabwe

WHERE DO WE WANT TO GO?

Climate Smart Agriculture practices

Climate smart agriculture (CSA) presents a sustainable alternative to cope and mitigate the impacts of climate change; it promotes production systems that sustainably increase productivity, resilience, reduces/removes greenhouse gases, and enhances food security and development goals. Whilst CSA has become an increasingly accepted approach, considerable knowledge, investment and stakeholder participation is required to effectively implement CSA. Several CSAYN efforts involve providing technical support and financial incentives through microfinance, weather index insurance and piloting remote sensing to enable CSA practices even in economically vulnerable rural areas.

Empowering Youth

Youth can be agents of change who could be a positive force towards realizing the potential of CSA. They play an important role in shaping social and economic development, and challenging social norms and values, helping to build the solid foundation of the world's future. Youth should volunteer their services in community outreach, focus group discussions, community awareness and other initiatives that mitigate the effect of climate change.

“We want to get to a point of 100% climate-smart agricultural practices. We aim to develop sustainable precision agricultural practices to reduce emissions from livestock production and to encourage increase in crop (vegetable) agriculture to balance the carbon footprint”

Representative from Zimbabwe

“We believe young people are the future that's why we want to give them a place where they can express their passion. We give them the opportunity to gain confidence in their ability of leadership.”

Representative from Netherlands

HOW DO WE GET THERE?

Collaboration

Climate smart agriculture (CSA) presents a sustainable alternative to cope and mitigate the impacts of climate change. Active collaboration can help us (1) reduce duplication, to ensure that we collectively meet greater targets and (2) increase awareness to have everyone engaged in the dialogue.

Through alliances between educational institutions and health institutions, we must make climate change knowledge more accessible. Youth can be further involved by promoting campaigns in schools and encouraging incentivized participation.

“We have to overcome communication barriers and elucidate the impact of climate change from a layman perspective. We need to break the intergenerational mentality that things will fall into place. We need to inform, educate and empower from a level of change.”

Representative from Zimbabwe

“Individuals are more willing to participate when there are tangible benefits and as such this approach should be utilized.”

Representative from Jamaica

Leveraging Technology

Youth must view climate change as an opportunity to innovate and create jobs through CSA to boost agro-pastoral production in a sustainable way while protecting the environment for future generations. Building youth knowledge and skills in CSA will not only empower and strengthen their ability to address existing challenges related to agricultural livelihoods, but it will also enable them to make a positive contribution to their societies and countries. These objectives will be achieved through training seminars on climate change and the creation of agricultural training centers for better resilience and adaptation (especially for water efficient practices to cope with dry summers).

“We have a saying ‘each one reach one, each one teach one’ and it has over the time been an effective approach in getting citizens engaged and we see this as a possible way to move forward.”

Representative from Jamaica



This document was prepared by Cornell University students, Rhea Lopes, Julie Kapuvari, Matthew Ferrao and Tarannum Sahar under guidance of Dr. Allison Chatrchyan and CSAYN Founder and Managing Director, Mr. Ntiokam Divine

Thank you for your attention.