CLIMATE RESILIENT FOOD SYSTEMS

THE GAMBIA: A CASE STUDY DEVELOPED BY THE CLIMATE RESILIENT FOOD SYSTEMS (CRFS) ALLIANCE

20 OCT 2022
• The sector is characterised by small-scale, subsistence rain-fed crop production.
• Mainly groundnuts, coarse grains, rice, and cassava, traditional livestock rearing, semi-commercial groundnut and horticultural production, and a large artisanal fisheries sub-sector.
• The Agriculture sector contributes 25% to the GDP employing about 70% of the labour force.
• 553,116 ha (56%) of arable land. Potential to irrigate over 80,000 ha (14%), but currently irrigating only 1% of the cultivated area.
• Groundnut is the major cash crop (5% of GDP).
• Livestock sector: 3.28 million heads (2017)
• Export-oriented fishery subsector: 12% of GDP.

• The processing sector is still nascent.
• On-farm rice threshing mainly uses manual methods; which causes around 30% of losses.
• Only 1500 people, most of them foreigners, are involved in processing fish products, employed by 14 fish export companies (Avadi et al., 2020).
• Collection of non-timber forest products (NTFP). Local entrepreneurs process them.
• Exports: Mainly groundnuts. It used to be dominated by a parastatal. Private sector involvement was risky.
• Informal, small-scale itinerant traders connect with retailers in local markets.
• Four major supermarket chains with a proliferation of mini supermarkets.

• The Gambia depends on import for almost 50% of its food requirements. Imports are dominated by rice, sugar and vegetable oils.
• The price of local rice is uncompetitive against imported rice.
• 58% of the monthly expenditure of a Gambian household is dedicated to food (FAOSTAT, 2019).
• Prices of meat per kilo doubled between 2010 and 2019 (GLMA, 2020).
• 5.1% of children under five (CUF) in condition of malnutrition in 2019.
• Obesity in children under five and adults have increased by two percentage points in a six-years period.

The evolution of crop yields: declining trend that could be associated with climate change and climate variability impacts, along with poor infrastructure, soil fertility depletion, declining agriculture commodity prices, soaring prices of production inputs and low private investment (FAO, 2022).
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<tr>
<th>POLICY</th>
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<tr>
<td>The Gambia 2050 Climate Vision (2021)</td>
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<td>By 2050, The Gambia aspires to be a climate-resilient, middle-income country through green economic growth supporting sustainable, low emissions development, contributing its fair share to global efforts to address climate change.</td>
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<td>Agriculture and Natural Resources (ANR) Policy (2017 – 2026)</td>
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<td>Maximize poverty reduction and enhancement of food, income and nutrition securities through the optimal utilisation of the resources of the sector consistent with safeguarding the integrity of the environment.</td>
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<td>Supplementary Agriculture and Natural Resource (ANR) Policy (2017)</td>
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<td>Increase overall agricultural productivity and production through judicious utilisation of the natural resources base on sustainable basis.</td>
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<td>National Development Plan 2018-2021</td>
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<td>- Modernising our agriculture and fisheries for sustained economic growth, food and nutritional security and poverty reduction. - Promoting environmental sustainability, climate resilient communities and appropriate land use.</td>
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<td>National Agricultural Investment Plan 2 (Gnaip) (2019-2024)</td>
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<td>Increase food and nutrition security at household level including for vulnerable households through increased ANR productivity based on sustainable use and management of natural resources in support of national goals of poverty reduction and improved livelihood.”</td>
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<td>National Climate Change Policy (2016)</td>
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<td>Achieve the mainstreaming of climate change into national planning, budgeting, decision-making, and programme implementation, through effective institutional mechanisms, coordinated financial resources, and enhanced human resources capacity.</td>
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<td>The Gambia Strategic Programme For Climate Resilience: Phase 1 (2017)</td>
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<td>Summarise the country-driven strategic approach to climate resilience, building on related relevant efforts, and define the underlying investment programs proposed for PPCR support.</td>
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<td>The Gambia’s Long-term Climate-neutral Development Strategy 2050</td>
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<td>Improved practices to enhance soils as a carbon sink; technologies and materials to reduce crop-related emissions and to reduce and capture livestock emissions; and shifts in consumption patterns toward less carbon-intensive foods.</td>
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<td>Updated NDC (2022)</td>
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<td>Mitigation and adaptation commitments</td>
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<td>Priority 2.</td>
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<td>Priority 4.</td>
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<td>Priority 5.</td>
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# PROJECTS, PROGRAMMES AND INITIATIVES

## CLIMATE RISK MANAGEMENT, EBA AND DRR
- Large-scale Ecosystem-based Adaptation in The Gambia
- Gambia Inclusive and Resilient Agricultural Value Chain Development project
- Food System Adaptation in Changing Environments in Africa (FACE-Africa) project
- The West African Initiative for Climate-Smart Agriculture (WAICSA)
- Integrating Agriculture in National Adaptation Plans (NAP–Ag) programme
- Adapting Agriculture to Climate Change in the Gambia
- Climate Resilient Fishery Initiative for Livelihood Improvement in the Gambia (PROREFISH Gambia)
- The Africa Integrated Climate Risk Management Programme: Building the resilience of smallholder farmers to climate change impacts in 7 Sahelian Countries of the Great Green Wall (GGW)
- Strengthening climate services and early warning systems in The Gambia for climate resilient development and adaptation to climate change

## AGRICULTURAL, SOIL AND WATER MANAGEMENT
- The West African Initiative for Climate-Smart Agriculture (WAICSA)
- National Agricultural Land and Water Management Development (NEMA) programme
- Participatory Integrated Watershed Management Project (PIWAMP)
- National Agricultural Land and Water Management Development project

## FOOD AND NUTRITION
- Post-crisis response to food and nutrition insecurity in The Gambia
- Programme for building resilience against food and nutritional insecurity in the Sahel

## BUSINESS IN THE AGRI-FOOD SYSTEM
- Strengthening Adaptive Capacities to Climate Change through Capacity Building for Small Scale Enterprises and Communities Dependent on Coastal Fisheries in The Gambia
- Resilience of Organisations for Transformative Smallholder Agriculture Project (ROOTS)
GAPS IN CLIMATE RESILIENT FOOD SYSTEMS

**Improved monitoring of food crisis risks is needed to take early and preventative action to protect vulnerable populations in contexts affected by natural resource scarcity, and exposure to climate shocks.**

**Lack of an enabling environment for cold chain development to reduce food loss and waste.**

**Assessing the financial gap for building climate resilient food systems in The Gambia is necessary to reorientate and mobilise funds.**

**Insufficient investment in research and innovation to transform the agri-food systems through improved resilience.**

**Enhanced access to Agricultural Risk Insurance for resilience building should be explored.**

**Moving towards Adaptive Social Protection (ASP), an integrated approach that addresses the challenges of climate change by combining social assistance and disaster risk reduction strategies.**

**Women’s and youth participation, should be strengthened across resource governance, agri-business development, and digital innovations.**

**Policy packages are needed to shift consumption towards sustainable healthy diets and and make them affordable for all.**

**Existing counterproductive incentives in agricultural, trade, and investment policies need to be reformed in order to mobilise public and private finance for climate-positive food systems transformation.**

**Lack of incentives to producers to adopt and invest in climate-smart technologies and practices.**

**Insufficient cooperation for knowledge sharing and co-production.**

**There is a need to bridge the digital divide. Farmers can benefit from localised weather information services, extension services, and insurance schemes. Increase access to risk-reducing services for food system actors.**
ENTRY POINTS FOR THE CRFS ALLIANCE

SUPPORTING SOUTH-SOUTH COOPERATION, COLLABORATION & SUPPORT FOR THE DEVELOPMENT /TRANSFER OF TECHNOLOGIES

- CLIMATE-SMART AGRICULTURE
- SUSTAINABLE SAND MANAGEMENT
- WATER CONSERVATION

PROMOTING CROSS-SECTORAL & TRANSBOUNDARY SOLUTIONS

- TIDAL IRRIGATION AQUACULTURE
- AQUIFER MANAGEMENT
- EBA AND STRUCTURAL MEASURES TO MITIGATE THE IMPACTS OF SEA-LEVEL RISE

CO-PRODUCTION OF CLIMATE SERVICES

- RESILIENT FOOD SYSTEMS IN THE GAMBIA RIVER BASIN
- ADDRESSING THE WATER, ENERGY, FOOD NEXUS RELATED TO IRRIGATION
- CROSS-SECTORAL APPROACH TO PRIVATE SECTOR ENGAGEMENT IN RESILIENT FOOD SYSTEMS

INCREASE EFFICIENCY AND RELIABILITY

- PROMOTE UPTAKE BY & COMMUNICATION TO DIVERSE STAKEHOLDERS OF THE AGRI-FOOD SYSTEM

UPGRADE THE WORK ON ANALYSIS OF CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION OPTIONS TO INFORM PLANNING OF AGRICULTURE AND FOOD SYSTEMS IN THE GAMBIA

- SUPPORT THE NAP PROCESS 2021
- INFORM INSTRUMENTS AT THE SUB-NATIONAL LEVEL