



PHOTO: © Georgina Smith, CIAT | Testing soil health, Western Kenya

## SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE: CSA 100

# SMART BUSINESS: PRODUCING MORE WITH LESS

**Managing the perfect storm — a 50% rise in food demand and 30% rise in water demand by 2030, all while trying to reduce emissions 45% by 2030 — is going to take some serious smarts. CSA 100 is taking on that agricultural challenge head first, and leading where governments are lacking.**

CSA 100 accelerates the adoption of Climate Smart Agriculture (CSA) in the food, beverage and agriculture sector. Showing that business plays a critical role in meeting the Paris Agreement, the initiative brings together 100 influential companies to make science-based and measurable commitments to 2030, across three pillars: productivity, resilience and mitigation.

Leading companies dependent on agriculture for their continued success recognise the urgent need to build climate-change resilience within the sector, cut greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and sustainably increase agricultural productivity and incomes.

Making progress on mitigation in the food and agriculture sector is particularly crucial to meet the Paris Agreement, as it represents 25% of all GHG emissions. It is also the sector most vulnerable to climate change, and yet it must grow

substantially in order to meet the daily nutritional needs of 10 billion people by 2050.

Climate smart agriculture links three critical issues. Firstly, it supports society's potential to increase agricultural productivity sustainably to feed its soon-to-be ten billion population. Secondly, it aims to mitigate climate change by reducing the emissions of greenhouse gases from the production of food, fuel and fiber. Thirdly, and crucially, it builds the resilience of food systems and the adaptive capacity of farmers to cope with a changing climate. Together, these form the 'pillars' of CSA 100.

Managing Director of Food and Nature at WBCSD, Diane Holdorf, identifies four impact areas for Food Systems Transformation where CSA 100 can collaborate and lead: climate resilience, mitigation and adaptation; biodiversity and healthy ecosystems; livelihoods and human rights; and nutrition and health.

The initiative will advocate for and amplify CSA principles, such as integrated farming, soil management and crop varietal selection. It will improve businesses' ability to measure and monitor progress. It will engage women, who typically have less legal standing and access to economic resources which could build their adaptive capacity to cope with climate-related events like droughts and floods. Finally, it will pay practical homage to the most effective and equitable strategy for reducing extreme poverty and increasing food security in agricultural-dependent countries: agricultural productivity growth.

We Mean Business, WBCSD and BSR founded CSA 100 to drive greater global efforts to address the nexus between food systems and climate change mitigation. It also

founded it to put climate adaptation on an equal footing as climate mitigation – because as many farmers already know, climate change is already here. It was fortunate, then, that CSA 100 launched at the same time as the World Bank announced a \$200 billion package to support climate action, where adaptation investments match mitigation funding, penny for penny. And explicitly earmarked for the funds attention was the imperative of Climate Smart Agriculture.

## NATURE'S CLIMATE STATISTICS

Climate-smart agriculture (CSA) techniques allow farmers – especially those that work in degraded or harsh environments – to increase food productivity, enhance extreme weather resilience and reduce emissions. Agriculture is both a cause and a casualty of climate change; climate-smart agriculture can be the cure.

On the one hand, it helps address the root of the problem – the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions from the agricultural sector, which is responsible for about one-quarter of human-caused GHG emissions. On the other hand, CSA attempts to minimise the climate change impacts that are affecting us here and now, often in the form of

reduced yields from more extreme weather events, which end up affecting crops and livestock alike. Increasing smallholder yields through CSA could spare millions of hectares from deforestation.

More and more CSA projects are having an impact. In Uruguay, climate-smart agriculture has been adopted on three million hectares since 2014, helping reduce about nine million tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> annually. In India, the massive Maharashtra Project for Climate Resilient Agriculture is expected to benefit over seven million people and yield climate change adaptation and mitigation co-benefits estimated at over \$386 million. In Africa, a climate-smart agriculture initiative in Senegal, which ran from 2012-2018, helped develop seven new high-yielding, early-maturing, drought resistant varieties of sorghum and millet. In Indonesia, new varieties of oil palm could achieve yields of between 10 and 13 tonnes per hectare, compared with historic yields of 3.6 to 3.8 tonnes per hectare.

As CSA 100 develops in membership and scope, it will need to increasingly demonstrate private sector support and action for climate-smart agriculture. Only by practicing what it preaches, will it be able to encourage countries to make CSA pledges part and parcel of their NDCs and encourage bolder action.

## KEY FIGURES

**100+**  
**COMPANIES**

**\$7**  
**TRILLION**  
food industry.

**25% OF GHG**  
**EMISSIONS**  
come from the food and agriculture sectors.

## **PROJECT BACKGROUND**

Launched by the World Business Council for Sustainable Development (WBCSD) in late 2018.

## **EXECUTING ENTITY**

The WBCSD will lead CSA 100 coordination, with support from the We Mean Business coalition, Business for Social Responsibility, the World Economic Forum, and the North American Climate Smart Agriculture Alliance.

## **SDGs**



## **FUNDING**

The World Business Council for Sustainable Development (WBCSD)

## **VIDEOS & STORIES**

<https://youtu.be/o5cc33Z2Bak>

<https://ccafs.cgiar.org/publications/csa-country-profiles>

<http://projects.worldbank.org/P124181/sustainable-management-natural-resources-climate-change?lang=en>

<https://www.worldbank.org/en/news/video/2015/12/03/climate-smart-agriculture-yields-bigger-harvests-in-senegal>

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