

WORKSHOP REPORT

CLIMATE SMART AGRICULTURE AS AN INVESTABLE BUSINESS MODEL FOR FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS?

WAGENINGEN UNIVERSITY & RESEARCH WITH NETHERLANDS PLATFORM INCLUSIVE FINANCE (NpM) AND RABOBANK PARTNERSHIPS

Workshop within the SDG Conference 'Towards Zero Hunger: Partnerships for Impact', 30-31 August 2018, Wageningen, The Netherlands

With contributions of: Cor Wattel, Wageningen Economic Research (editor) Marcel van Asseldonk, Wageningen Economic Research Jaclyn Bolt, Wageningen Environmental Research Sonja Ooms, NpM/ Oikocredit Mariel Mensink, NpM/Terrafina Microfinance Tomaso Ceccarelli, Wageningen Environmental Research Corné de Louw, Rabo Partnerships B.V. Gerben Splinter, Wageningen Economic Research

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1. WORKSHOP DESIGN





FINANCE AND CSA - HOW CAN CLIMATE-SMART AGRICULTURE BECOME AN INVESTABLE BUSINESS MODEL FOR FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS? - SOME INSPIRING EXAMPLES OF THE NPM, RABOBANK DEVELOPMENT AND WUR

Introduction

Long-term food security is at risk, if the challenges of climate change for food production are not adequately addressed. Therefore, GHG emissions from agriculture need to be reduced, and food producers must be better protected against climate-related hazards (temperature, rainfall, storms). This will require substantial investments at farm and landscape level, into climatesmarter ways of doing agriculture. Investment resources – public and private - are being pledged internationally, following the Paris agreement. But to achieve impact at scale, climate-smart agriculture needs to become an attractive business model for farmers, value-chain partners and investors. This workshop will show some examples of this: cases where climate-smart agriculture is becoming an attractive investment opportunity.

Partners

A WUR team discussed with NpM (Netherlands Platform for Inclusive Finance) and Rabobank Development about the experience of Netherlands' financial investors with climate-smart agriculture in emerging economies. This topic appeared to be of high interest to the three parties involved:

- NpM is the platform of Dutch investors in inclusive finance. It has recently organised events on green finance (2015) and on geodata for inclusive food and finance (2017), as well as several studies and events on rural finance. The search for investable models for agriculture and agribusiness, and also specifically for climate-smart and green investments, is a priority topic for NpM.
- Rabo Partnerships B.V. combines investments in partner banks in Africa through the ARISE consortium with FMO and Norfund – with its advisory services on banking and food & agriculture. It participates in the Farm to Market Alliance in Eastern Africa, the Champions 12.3 coalition (related to SDG 12.3 on food waste) and the recently launched financing facility for land restoration and forest protection, created with UNEP under the Kickstart Food programme.
- WUR is quite active in the field of climate-smart agriculture. One of its research
 programmes is specifically addressing the topic of finance and business models for climatesmart agriculture (CGIAR/CCAFS-WUR 2017-20201).

During the meetings, ideas were exchanged about challenges and solutions in this domain, and the interest was expressed to seek collaboration for mutual benefit. It was agreed that the SDG conference that WUR is organising on 30-31 August could be used as a stepping stone in such collaboration. The idea is to organise a session on Finance and CSA, co-hosted by NpM, Rabobank Development and WUR. This session would be part of the stream "Evidence base for healthy, sustainable and inclusive food systems" in the conference.

Key guestion

How can Climate-Smart Agriculture become an investable business model for financial institutions? - inspiring examples of the NpM, Rabobank Development and WUR.

Co-hosting The session • Neth

The session will be co-hosted by:

- Netherlands Platform for Inclusive Finance (NpM).
- Rabo Partnerships B.V.
- Wageningen Economic Research

<u>Ingredients</u>

- 1. Inspiring concept paper by Wageningen Economic Research
- 2. Inspiring case of the NpM Green Finance working group
- 3. Inspiring case of the NpM Rural Finance working group
- 4. Inspiring case of Rabo Partnerships B.V.

SDG CONFERENCE TOWARDS ZERO HUNGER: PARTNERSHIPS FOR IMPACT

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MORE ABOUT PARALLEL SESSION: FINANCE AND CSA - HOW CAN CLIMATE-SMART AGRICULTURE BECOME AN INVESTABLE BUSINESS MODEL FOR FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS? - SOME INSPIRING EXAMPLES OF THE NPM, RABOBANK DEVELOPMENT AND WUR	
 1. Inspiring concept paper by Wageningen Economic Research. Cor Wattel, Wageningen Economic Research, Researcher-consultant, smallholder finance, rural economy and evaluation CSA - an investable business model? The concept paper will offer a framework around the question: how can CSA become an investable business model for financial institutions? It will develop the framework along two lines. Firstly, it will explore how farmers get access to CSA technologies. For this purpose, a typology of CSA practices is laid out, focusing on practices that are sufficiently tested to be widely used. Then we will present some lessons learnt on the importance of finance for the adoption of CSA practices. Secondly, it will review under which conditions the application of CSA practices can be an attractive business proposition for financiers, agribusinesses and farmers. To this end, we will show the different ways (channels, products) in which financiers are involved dirocity or indirectly with (climate-amart) agriculture. And we will explore the drivers and conditions that make investments into CSA attractive for financiers, agribusinesses and farmers. We will conclude with an outlook of "challenges and promises". 2. Inspiring case of the NPM Green Inclusive Finance Group Sol Y Café According to the World Bank, climate-smart agriculture is an integrated approach addressing the challenges of food security and climate change. It aims to achieve 3 goals: Increased productivity, Enhanced resilience, Reduced emissions, which links it to several Sustainable Development Goals, most closely to 'Climate Action (SDG 13)' and 'Zero Hunger (SDG 3)'. Okicoredit, investes' GOI Café, provident cochnical assistance to its farmers (eg. training on certification, fertilization, pruning, new varieties ect) which helped triple productivity in 10 years. They also organized yearly quality contests among its members to promote growing	
SDG CONFERENCE TOWARDS ZERO HUNGER: PARTNERSHIPS FOR IMPACT	2





FINANCE AND CSA - HOW CAN CLIMATE-SMART AGRICULTURE BECOME AN INVESTABLE BUSINESS MODEL FOR FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS? - SOME INSPIRING EXAMPLES OF THE NPM, RABOBANK DEVELOPMENT AND WUR The business case for these additional CSA investments is that it's a win-win for all involved: Oikocredit can finance coffee renovation, the cooperative is ensured of a financier for a vital project, the farmers increase productivity and hence income and finally, the environment is better served as well. What's key here is the combination of a fitting financial product and Technical Assistance. Pilots elsewhere can perhaps promote this kind of working, provided there is funding for them. Not structurally for all projects, but simply to help innovators play a catalyst role. 3. Inspiring case of the NpM Rural Finance working group Mariel Mensink, Terrafina Microfinance, senior program officer and chairman of NPM Rural Finance Group Tomaso Ceccarelli, Wageningen Environmental Research (Alterra), Senior researcher, Global Food Security CommonSense CommonSense is a Geodata for Agriculture and Water (G4AW) project in Ethiopia, with Wageningen Environmental Research in lead and providing specific expertise. A platform is developed with specialized information services including a.o. dashboards and mobile applications for crop monitoring, weather and yield forecasting, loan portfolio monitoring and risk assessment. End users interact with the platform through applications designed to meet their specific needs. The project targets smallholder farmers directly as well as indirectly through agricultural unions and cooperatives, microfinance institutions, and extension services. Three regions and several value chains are covered (e.g. sesame and malt barley). CommonSense provides information, such as weather forecasts, to help farmers make more informed decisions on their activities. It supports unions e.g. with member management, output marketing, crop seasonal monitoring. Currently, a credit analysis tool is field-tested in collaboration with ICCO-Terrafina, 3 partners MFIs and an Ethiopian ICT company, to be used by the MFIs to digitize their client assessment and agri-loan applications for small holders. The tool, which uses a tablet application to collect data on farmers, is called Agri-Credit Assessment Tool (A-CAT). Client information is managed at MFI level. The project is integrating the A-CAT tool with geo-data components such as farmers location (via GPS), crop suitability (climate and soil based) and the associated farming

MORE ABOUT PARALLEL SESSION:

Sentinel-2 satellite products). The business model is based on both license and transaction models depending on the users.

risk as well the crop status in the current growing season (based on MODIS and in perspective,

4. Inspiring case of Rabo Partnerships B.V. Corné de Louw, Rabo Partnerships B.V., Project Manager Agribusiness & Cooperative Development

Satellite monitoring: a driver for economic growth

What could help to lower farmers' risk profiles so that they can gain access to credit? This is still a major problem these days. Banks are often unwilling to provide finance to farmers as they perceive it as too risky and costly. Just a very small percentage of banks in developing countries

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2018

MORE ABOUT PARALLEL SESSION:

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find Food & Agri businesses attractive enough to finance. What can be the business case from their perspective and who is there to team up with? What could be the role of financial technology (Fintech) to create attractive business cases? And finally, as a key subject in this case, how can a tool be of help?

Rabobank and Wageningen University & Research (WUR) in the Netherlands have joined forces to develop a digital tool to monitor smallholders' crops. Accurate information improves the credit assessment parameters. A more reliable risk profile could stimulate financial institutions to provide loans for smallholders, making it an important driver for economic growth and prosperity.

The tool is called the Climate Smart Digital Farm Finance (CSDFF) Solution, which supplies reliable information about farms from different data sources. WUR designed a so-called Green Monitor that identifies and tracks crops at field level. It can achieve a resolution of 10 by 10 m2 using images from a satellite. The satellite supplies regular updates on biomass development in the field.

The objective of the CSDFF Solution is to provide banks with data on crop production while reducing the need to visit farms in remote areas. Regular crop monitoring, a key element in the credit cycle, has been very expensive to date, which is why it has been utilized only rarely. CSDFFS makes it affordable and straightforward to implement.

Designing a session of 90 minutes

Time	Subject	Responsible Actor
5 min	Introduction of the topic	WUR – facilitator
20 min	Pitch concept paper Pitch case 1 Pitch case 2 Pitch case 3	WUR NpM Green Finance NpM Rural Finance Rabo Partnerships B.V.
35 min	Interaction with audience around two key questions: <u>Question 1</u> : Many CSA techniques are currently being developed but how can farmers get access to them, realistically? How can we bridge the gap between theory/techniques on the one hand and practice/application of techniques on the ground on the other hand? <u>Question 2</u> : What is the trigger for FI to invest in CSA? What can make CSA more attractive to them? Several forms are possible (work in progress / to decide and how to organize this part.)	
10 min	Take-aways for the main conference (major breakthrough suggestions, challenges to collaborate on)	

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2. WORKSHOP CONCLUSIONS

- Business models for CSA are possible but not self-evident: Promoting CSA through (local) financial institutions and value-chain actors is possible, but the business case must be profitable and innovative, and is not self-evident. Developing such business models requires commitment to agriculture in general and to sustainability and CSA specifically, as well as entrepreneurship, CSA knowledge and research, fintech and data solutions¹, specific CSA incentives, risk-bearing and long-term capital, and training and capacity development.
- 2. **Public-private partnerships needed**: therefore, financial institutions and value-chain actors need to partner with other actors (government, donors, climate funds), that can bring in the above elements. In public private partnerships, knowledge and risks can be shared to make the business model viable.
- 3. **Technical support and matching funds needed**: Technical support (technology sharing, capacity development) is crucial to a company's investment in CSA. This requires external matching funds (grant-based), complementary to investment capital.
- 4. **Other models for farmers outside the main markets**: There are segments of farmers that are outside the reach of banks and processing companies, specifically subsistence farmers. To a certain extent these farmers can be reached by microfinance and cooperatives, or by community finance in the villages. These would need capacity support and access to technologies to address the smallholder finance needs. Still, in these less market-oriented segments of farmers CSA business models need to be complemented with other instruments (f.i. granted seed capital, blended finance, payments for environmental services, local money), with involvement of other local actors (local government, local water boards, NGOs etc).
- 5. **Capital available, but how to reach the farmers?** There is lots of capital available globally to address climate change and resilience, but how to reach the farmers for CSA activities? Only a minority of banks is really interested in sustainable agriculture. Also climate funds focus mainly on mitigation activities and have difficulty in reaching out to adaptation activities, to agriculture and to farmers, while farmers could play an important role in climate resilient strategies, and are often the first in the value chain to experience effects of climate change
- 6. **Consumers and supermarkets to be involved**: Consumers and supermarkets need to be mobilised in order to support the introduction of CSA practices among farmers and value-chain parties. The price paid by consumers and supermarkets should reflect the true costs of producing in a sustainable manner.
- 7. **CSA concept**: CSA is still a broad concept, complex and multi-dimensional. It is important to translate it into concrete options, trade-offs and business models.

¹NpM recently made an overview of geodata and ICT solutions related to inclusive finance and food security. See http://www.inclusivefinanceplatform.nl/what-s-new/reports-more/report-geodata-and-ict-solutions-for-inclusive-finance-and-food-security.

ANNEX: PRESENTATIONS

- a) Climate-Smart Agriculture an investable business model?
 - Cor Wattel, Marcel van Asseldonk (Wageningen Economic Research) and Jaclyn Bolt (Wageningen Environmental Research)



Introduction

Your moderator for this workshop

Gerben Splinter

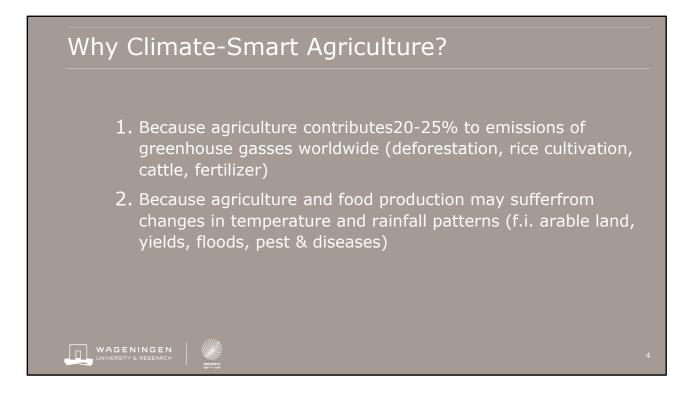
Wageningen Economic Research



Climate-Smart Agriculture – an investable business model?

Workshop presentation at the SDG conference "Zero Hunger – Partnerships for Impact"





Definition of CSA

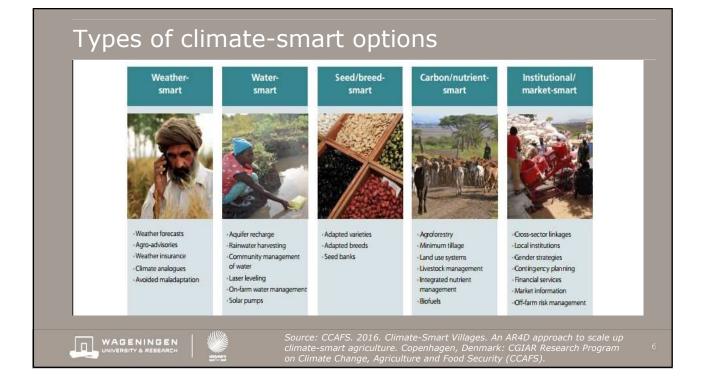
Climate-smart agriculture (CSA) is proposed as a solution to transform and reorient agricultural systems to support food security under the new realities of climate change.

CSA consists of co-achieving three objectives:

- a) Increased agricultural productivity
- b) Enhanced resilience to climate change
- c) Reduced GHG emissions



<u>https://ccafs.cgiar.org</u> <u>www.worldbank.org/en/topic/climate-smart-agriculture</u> <u>www.fao.org/climate-smart-agriculture/en</u> Dossier Climate-Smart Agriculture at<u>www.wur.n1</u>⁵



Why would farmers adopt CSA practices?

1. If these practices help <u>resolve farming risks</u> due to climate change.

- **2.** If it is <u>more profitable</u> to apply these practices (cash or in-kind)
- **3.** If it creates <u>social or environmental benefits</u> for the community.

Conditions:

- Practice-specific: how profitable, how risky/ uncertain, how bulky
- <u>Context-specific</u>: agro-ecology, markets & institutions (incl TA/extension & local unis)
- Household-specific: knowledge & education, resources, risk attitude/ time preference, capital constraints



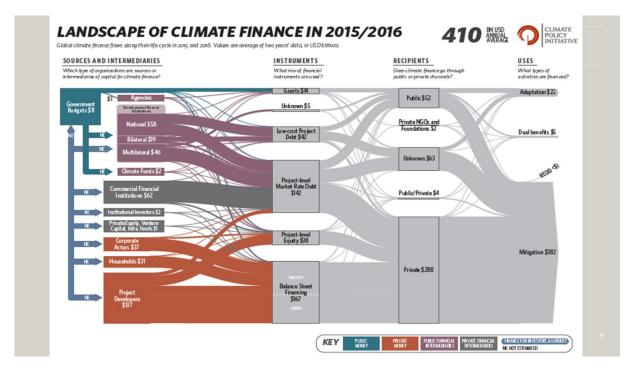
How can CSA become an investable business model <u>for financial institutions</u>?

1. RISK-DRIVEN MOTIVES:

- Mitigating climate-related risks of their agri-clients
- Compliance with internationally accepted sustainability standards (including climate-related criteria)

2. OPPORTUNITY-DRIVEN MOTIVES:

- Attracting climate funding
- Financing suppliers of CSA technologies
- Financing farmers/VCs that benefit from climate change
- Financing farmers/VCs that are able to cope with climate risks

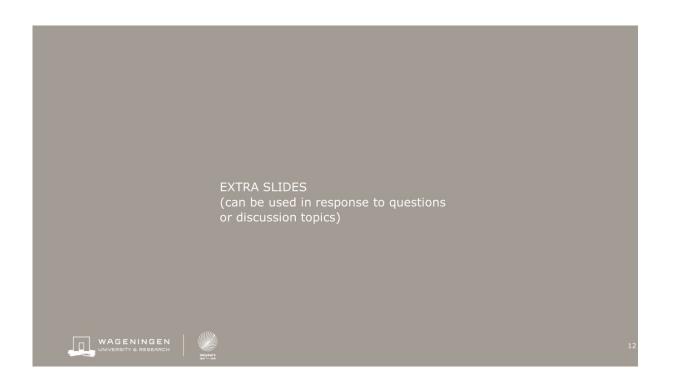


TOWARDS INVESTABLE BUSINESS MODELS FOR CSA?

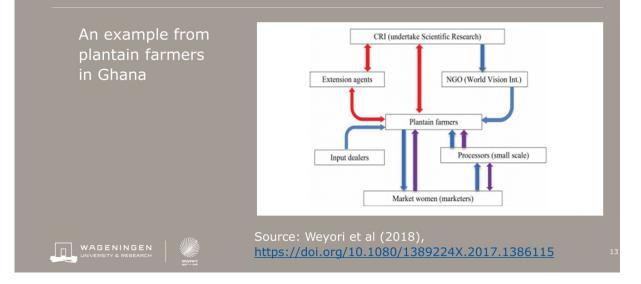
- Can all farmers be reached? Limited outreach channels! Selffinancing.
- Gains for all involved (is it profitable? who shares in the revenues? who takes the risk? who pays the bill?)
- Bundling services (financial, non-financial, incentives)
- Blending finance (soft and commercial)
- Partnerships

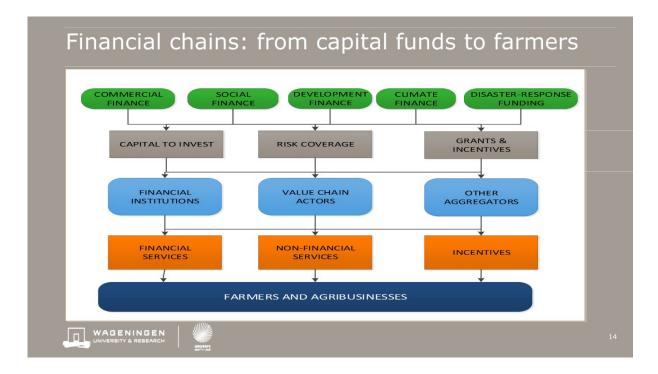


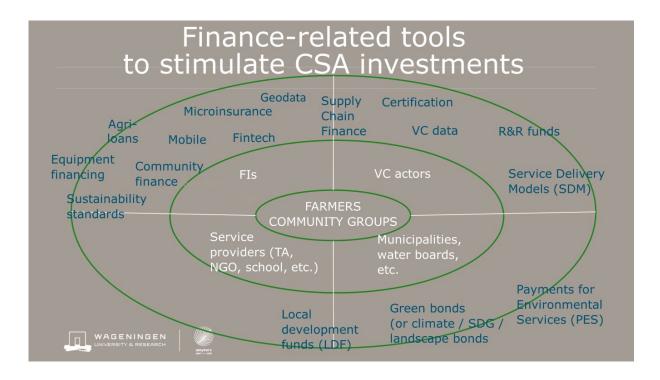




How can farmers get access to knowledge about (new or existing) technologies and practices?







 b) CSA case: Cooperativa de Servicios Múltiples Sol y Café Ltda ,Perú Sonja Ooms (Oikocredit / chairman NpM Green Inclusive Finance working group)



CSA case: Cooperativa de Servicios Múltiples Sol Y Cafe Ltda, Peru

WUR conference: Towards Zero Hunger, Wageningen 30 August 2018 Sonja Ooms, Manager Environment Oikocredit / Chairman NPM GIF group

Presentation outline: context, case, secrets, business case





The NpM Green Inclusive Finance working group (GIF)

Task:	to jointly 'green' the Inclusive Finance sector (Fis, MFIs, SMEs)
Core group:	FMO, Triodos, Triple Jump, Oikocredit (chair)
Agenda	2016-2018 - Definition GIF - Standards and indicators - Case development, with triple value
n	2019-2020 - Role of technology - Risk versus opportunities in GIF - Awareness raising and needs

Case: Oikocredit partner Sol Y Café



Sol y Café and CSA (1)

Increased productivity

- set up productivity research and TA to farmers
- improved post-harvest infrastructure
- yearly quality contests among members

2008: new program PROCAFE

- high productivity farms: best coffee plants selected and fertilized, based on soil analysis + set as example!
- low productivity farms: plantations renovated and new varieties introduced
- 2014: coffee rust affected Peru, hence ALL plants were replaced gradually
- Sol Y Café gives TA. Farmers use FT premium price for renovation

=> increased income and sustainable jobs for small holders



Renovation: constant work in progress for healthy and productive coffee



Managers participate in quality competitions and trade conferences



Sol y Café and CSA (2)

Enhanced resilience

- crop renovation by introducing more resilient varieties
- diversified farmer production (eg. cocoa, rice, passion fruit, honey)
- stimulation of subsistence crops and small animal breeding

Reduced emissions

- training of farmers on importance of reduced carbon emissions
- 100% organic production, in shadow of timber trees (no agro chemicals)

Other success factors: Culture!!

- Cooperative is strict on quality control, record keeping on fertilization and investing in land





Manager checks coffee humidity and quality in the warehouse

CEO shows paper trail involved in direct, organic and FT contracts





Constant tracking of quality on all bags, from warehouse to export

Business case: a win-win for all

- Investor: Oikocredit finances a solid 'green' coffee partner (preferred target group)
- Investee: Coop Sol y Café is financially viable, more profitable, secures external funding
- End client: Farmers increase productivity (tripled in 10 years!), coffee quality, and income
- Market: Delivers improved, more stable products, less price fluctuations
- Consumer: Receives better quality coffee, contributes to FT and environment
- Environment: is better served and protected

Needed: matching funding for similar catalyst projects elsewhere !!!!!!!



Thank you!



Definition GIF

What, for whom, how, where, why?

Green Inclusive Finance comprises <u>financial services</u> for the ultimate benefit of <u>low income</u> <u>people and communities</u>, through such <u>channels</u> as Financial Intermediaries (FIs), Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs), cooperatives etc., in <u>developing countries and</u> <u>emerging economies</u> (or such subsets of the population within other countries), <u>resulting in</u> **environmental benefits**, while meeting societal needs and stimulating sustainable economic growth.



Climate Smart Agriculture (CSA)



CSA is integrated approach addressing challenges of food security and climate change

3 CSA goals: 1) Increased productivity

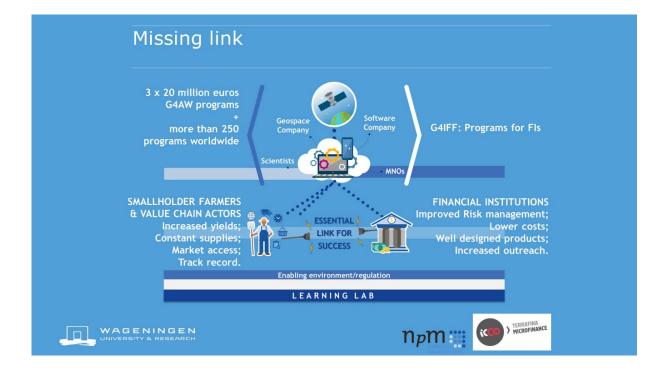
- 2) Enhanced resilience
- 3) Reduced emissions

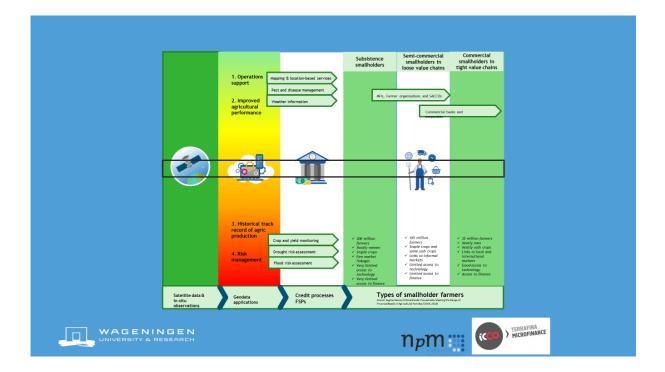
SDG 3: Zero Hunger SDG 13: Climate Action



 c) CommonSense G4AW Ethiopia – an inspiring case from the NpM Rural Finance working group Mariel Mensink (Terrafina Microfinance/ chairman NpM Rural Finance working group) and Tomaso Ceccarelli (Wageningen Environmental Research)

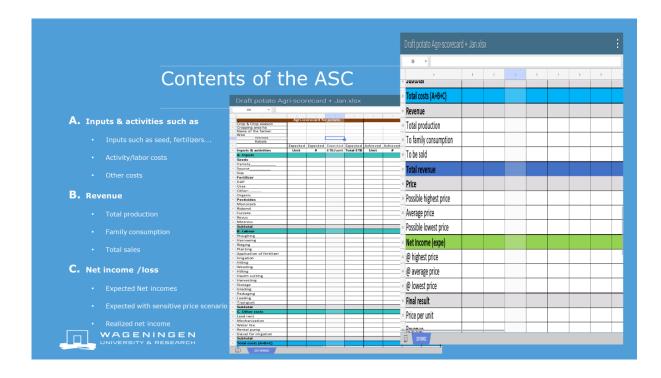






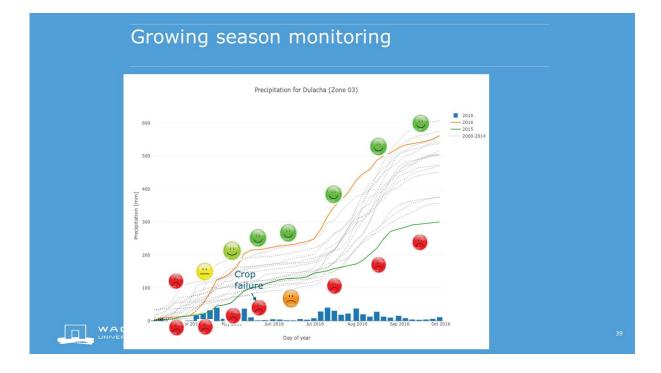








Geo-data components identified						
Component	Loan officer	Branch office	Head office			
Farmer location ¹	Х	X	X			
Climate based crop suitability	X	x	x			
Soil-based crop suitability	TBD ²	TBD	TBD			
Dashboard generic indicators: • Precip • VI • Temp	Dashboard	Dashboard	Map for all branch offices linking to branch dashboard			
Dashboard crop- specific indicators; • Temperature • Water requirements	Dashboard	Dashboard	Map for all branch offices linking to branch dashboard			
Weather forecasts	Value to be confirmed	Dashboard	As above			
Crop Specific VI (Sentinel2)	Dashboard	Experimental, depends on field location	Experimental, depends on field location			







d) Integrating CSA in fintech solutions – a banker's perspective Corné de Louw (Rabobank Partnerships B.V.)



Climate-smart agriculture: a banker's perspective

Corné de Louw, Rabo Partnerships B.V., Project Manager Agribusiness & Cooperative Development

Countries in Africa are overbanked- but farmers are underserved

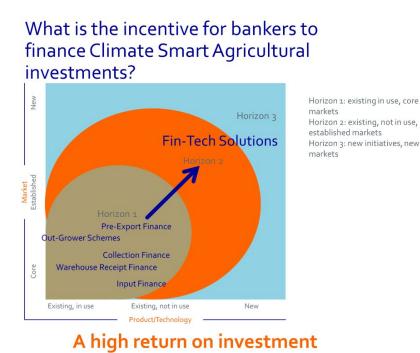


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Ethiopia: 18 banks, 1 bank has appetite to serve farmers





Which can be achieved by integrating CSA in Fin-Tech solutions





Discussion

- Six chairs in the middle for discussion. One free for permanent rotation.
- First round of 15 minutes Cor & Sonja take a seat, filled up with 3 people out of the audience.
- If someone later on shows interest to participate he or she can take the sixth chair.
 Someone else has to leave so one chair remains empty.
- Second round same concept, only with Muriel/Tomaso & Corné taking place.





