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## **The Climate Smart Agriculture Youth Network (CSAYN)**

### **Mainstreaming youth and people living with disabilities into Climate-Smart Agriculture**

#### **What is climate-smart agriculture (CSA)?**

Today, agriculture faces three challenges:

- 1) Ensuring food security through increased productivity and income;
- 2) Adapting to climate change; and
- 3) Contributing to climate change mitigation.

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.

#### **Focus on youth and people living with disabilities**

The role of the youth in contributing towards a sustainable world is very important. Youth play an important part in shaping the social and economic development, and building the solid foundation of the world's future. Raising youth's awareness about CSA will not only make them conscious of the existing challenges related to agriculture and climate change, but it will also give them the necessary information needed to mitigate these threats and contribute to the adoption of smart practices and the enhancement of agricultural livelihoods. Building youth knowledge and skills in CSA will enable them to make a positive contribution to their communities and nations.

The aim of our work is to ensure that all relevant key stakeholders are actively engaged in seeking solutions for a better and more sustainable world. Hence our particular interest in youth and people living with disabilities, whom we know can make a difference and pave the way for a better environment.

CSAYN shall address the following thematic areas: Zero Stunted Children Less Than 2 Years (nutrition), 100% increase in Smallholder Productivity and Income (support family farmers) and Zero Loss or Waste of Food.

In order to tackle the following challenges, CSAYN will implement a week of mobilization and advocacy on ZERO Hunger Campaign in schools, market places and hospitals to scale-up the eradication of malnutrition among youth and people living with disabilities across all CSAYN countries.

More to this, capacity building training shall be organized within 12 months to reach out to rural and urban communities especially in educational environment per pilot country to address new technologies in agricultural settings enable all community-based farmers to be smart before cultivation and harvesting of their products while taking climate change into consideration. As one of the contributing factors to support family farmers sustainable income-generating approaches, such as the production of the main cash crops, shall be at the forefront of CSAYN implementing strategies. However, the production of these cash crops will be promoted alongside in-depth studies on how to produce the crops using CSA and agro-ecology techniques.

As for now, our pilot countries to implement our activities are: Kenya, Cameroon and Nigeria. However our activities will expand to the rest of Africa, considering we have members and colleagues from all over the continent.