



FARMER VOICE REPORT

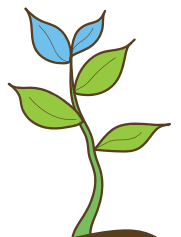
Smallholder farmers are willing and important partners in the fight against Climate Change



MAKING REGENERATIVE AGRICULTURE AND CLIMATE ACTION PROFITABLE FOR SMALLHOLDER COMMUNITIES



Digital Green



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In 2023, the CASH Coalition conducted a survey to uncover insights into how smallholder farmers view themselves in the context of regenerative agriculture and climate change. This Farmer Voice Report collates the findings of that survey.

This Farmer Voice Report enriches our understanding of smallholder and indigenous communities by:

- Amplifying the voices of smallholder and indigenous farmers, this report provides valuable insights and highlights farmers' lived experiences and perceptions of climate change, giving us a firsthand account of how climate change is impacting their lives and livelihoods.
- Providing a more nuanced understanding of the factors that drive or hinder the adoption of regenerative agricultural practices, helping us identify the challenges and opportunities faced by farmers in transitioning to regenerative and sustainable practices.
- Offering insights into practical steps needed to enable and empower smallholder farmers to transform current agricultural practices into climate-smart systems.
- Sharing knowledge to facilitate the introduction and scaling of climate-positive regenerative practices, enabling wider adoption of sustainable practices and promoting knowledge exchange among farmers and stakeholders.

HEADLINE FINDINGS

Smallholder farmers and forest stewards in the Global South:

- Recognize the realities of climate change;
- See the impacts of climate change in their fields and forests;
- Are concerned about declining yields and a degraded natural resource endowment; and
- Recognize their essential role and want to act to adapt to and mitigate climate change.

ENHANCING FARMER AGENCY

Farmers reported four critical areas where support can catalyze climate solutions:

1. Accessing enhanced knowledge and training to improve soil preservation and crop resilience.
2. Farmers recognize that addressing climate change individually is less effective, favoring communal practices for better results and shared resource preservation.
3. Farmers recognize the importance of their agency for addressing climate change but stress the need for external support to finance critical infrastructure like irrigation and storage systems.
4. Improved market access and pricing are crucial for investing in climate-resilient inputs and technologies, increasing farmer income, and enabling investments in training, technology, and labor by farmers and communities.

CATALYZING FARMER ACTIONS

The feedback from farmers in this report emphasizes how aligning and calibrating knowledge dissemination, technological diffusion, community engagement, market improvements, infrastructure investments, and access to finance can be catalytic for unlocking and advancing the climate actions of smallholder farmers in the Global South.

This report gives farmers voice. They know the stakes, recognize the challenge, and want to be part of the solution. To realize and scale smallholder and indigenous climate solutions, these communities must have a seat at the high tables of decision-making to ensure that new standards, regulations, protocols, and climate finance mechanisms reflect the evolving challenges confronting farming communities in the Global South, and catalyze the energy and agency of hundreds of millions of farming families to address climate change.

HEAR THEIR VOICE



photo credit Root Capital

INTRODUCTION

Communities in the Global South are often perceived as passive victims of the North's development who will be pushed further into poverty by climate change. In this scenario, smallholder and forest communities lack the agency and resources to take action, except as climate refugees. This narrative is disempowering and perpetuates a worldview in which smallholder farmers and forest communities are grateful beneficiaries of Northern actions.

The CASH Coalition believes we must shift the conversation. The Farmer Voice Survey supports a new message:

Smallholder farmers and forest communities are intimately connected to their lands. They are primary caretakers of the earth's precious soil, water, and forest resources. They are concerned about climate change and are willing and ready to take action.

SCOPE AND OBJECTIVES

The Climate Action for Smallholders Coalition (CASH Coalition) is a collaborative initiative comprised of thirteen organizations working with smallholder farmers, indigenous communities, and other local populations in the Global South. We work directly with 9 million land managers who collectively steward 16 million hectares of land. The CASH Coalition aims to make regenerative agriculture and climate solutions profitable for smallholders and strengthen farmers' participation in climate funding markets. Through a shared research platform, the Coalition encourages innovation and the transmission of local and indigenous knowledge to enhance and replicate climate solutions that work for farmers and the planet.

A core component of our work is informing and influencing policymaking that impacts smallholder and indigenous communities in general, and initiatives that seek to accelerate a transition to regenerative agriculture and catalyze agricultural climate solutions more specifically. This includes advocating for policy changes and amplifying the voices of farmers and communities to increase opportunities for smallholders to engage in and be rewarded for climate mitigation activities.

As a coalition of social enterprises who aim to make regenerative agriculture and climate action profitable for smallholder farmers, we know that to be effective our work must be informed by the lived experience of farmers, their experience and perception of climate change, and an understanding of what roles farmers see for themselves in tackling climate change.

We surveyed our member farmers to gauge their perceptions of climate change, the scope of their agency, and their ability to proactively address climate change across settings. The survey interviewed over 1,600 farmers in 10 countries and was complemented by focus groups in six countries to understand barriers inhibiting smallholder agency and participation in climate mitigation actions.

This report reframes smallholder farmers in the Global South as key stewards of our collective natural endowment and ecosystems, and critical actors for advancing climate mitigation actions.

The results of this survey are not representative of smallholder communities at large, and the surveying of farmers associated with our members' activities will bias some insights. For example, many of our members promote the adoption of practices that revitalize denuded soils. Farmers' perceptions of their resource endowment may be rosier if they have implemented these practices, than if they have not.

We aim to ensure that the voices of smallholder farmers and indigenous people are heard in the chambers and at the tables where treaties, actions, standards, and incentives are being framed to curb harmful human practices and promote regenerative actions. The survey and its results give farmers a voice. Their voice reframes smallholder and indigenous farmers and communities as active global citizens mindful of a changing climate, and eager and willing to lend their hands to framing and executing climate solutions.

The CASH Coalition retained Dalberg Research to conduct the survey. Climate Action Platform for Africa (CAP-A), a CASH Coalition member organization, led the analysis and contributed to the writing of this report.

METHODOLOGY AND SAMPLING

The survey was comprised of quantitative and qualitative components:

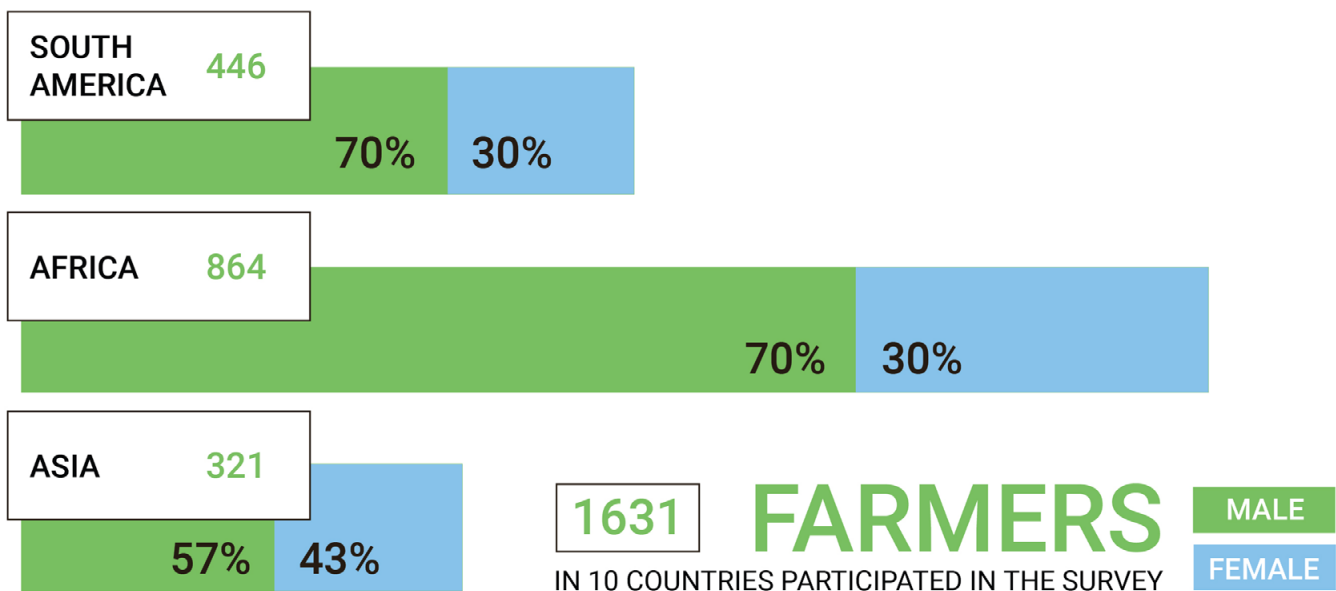
- A quantitative survey targeted 1500 farmers in ten countries in Africa (Kenya, Nigeria, Rwanda, Tanzania, and Zambia), Asia (India and Myanmar), and Latin America and the Caribbean (Colombia, Haiti, and El Salvador). The survey was ultimately conducted among 1,631 farmers associated with CASH member organizations.
- Qualitative focus groups were convened in six of the ten target countries (Zambia, India, Myanmar, Colombia, El Salvador, and Haiti). Within each of these countries, two focus group discussions were convened in regions accessible to staff from CASH Coalition members.

Details of the quantitative and qualitative questionnaires are included in Annexures 1 and 2.

KEY DEMOGRAPHICS

At the conclusion of the survey, 1631 farmers participated in the quantitative survey. Approximately two-thirds of respondents were men, and one-third were women.

Figure 1 Total farmers surveyed by region and gender distribution.



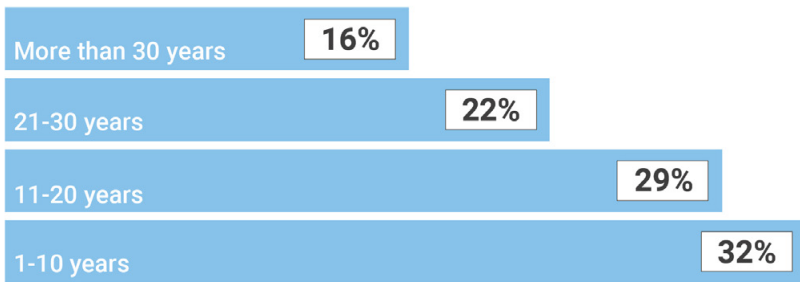


Figure 2 summarizes how long farmers have been engaged in agricultural activities

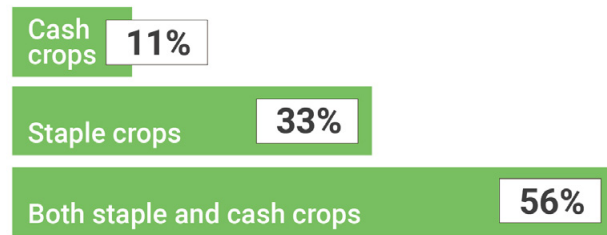


Figure 3 summarizes crops grown by farmers

SMALLHOLDER FARMERS SEE CLIMATE CHANGE AND RECOGNIZE ITS LOCAL AND GLOBAL IMPACTS

Smallholding and forest communities recognize the climate crisis and its impacts on their fields, livestock, and forests. Significantly, farmers also recognize climate change as a global challenge. Almost nine in ten farmers surveyed reported being concerned about the impacts of environmental changes, and more than half reported significant concern.

In focus groups across all settings, farmers described experiencing seasons as increasingly unpredictable and inconsistent. Farmers reported shifting seasonal agricultural activities to align their work with observed changes in weather patterns. Key indicators of climate change are observed in widely reported shifts in planting and sowing dates.



photo credit Comaco

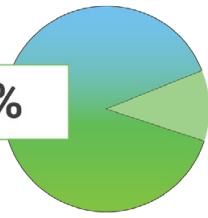
"[We experience] extreme cold seasons and heavy rainstorms resulting in floods"

Zambian smallholder farmer

"From the beginning of March, you used to get rain and you start planting, but now, even if you see the first rainfall, you have to not rush to plant, you have to follow the trend, to see if it continues before you plant. Now look at how hot and dry it is while we are in a rainy season"

Colombian farmer focus group participant

89%



Almost nine in ten farmers reported being concerned about the impacts of environmental changes, with five in ten reporting significant concern.

Among farmers surveyed, the vast majority of farmers reported experiencing extreme weather on their farms. Eighty-three percent of respondent farmers reported experiencing at least one extreme weather event on their farm in the last five years, and two-thirds reported an extreme weather event in the past year. Farmers in focus groups reported observing a growing incidence of extreme weather events and the escalating intensity of extreme events.

Importantly, farmers also recognize the ubiquity of climate-related impacts in society at large: nearly eight in ten farmers reported extreme weather events as a challenge beyond their and for other countries.

Reported at least one extreme weather event on their farm in the last five years

83%

Reported an extreme weather event in the past year

66%

Climate impacts are negatively affecting farmer livelihoods. Smallholder livelihoods rely on thin operating margins, disproportionately exposing poorly resourced farmers to intensifying climate risks. Exogenous and unexpected shocks can quickly destabilize family finances. When small farmers face unexpected financial difficulties, they often cope by cutting back on essential household expenses, such as food, healthcare, and education. This can jeopardize their overall financial stability and make it harder to withstand further climate and economic shocks. The impacts of extreme

Reported extreme weather events as a challenge beyond their farm

93%

Reported extreme weather events as a challenge for other countries.

78%



"In times of drought crops tend to disappear and then when the rainy season arrives strong pests and diseases come so it is very difficult to produce in these conditions."

Colombian farmer

89%

Reported crop losses due to extreme weather events.

weather are experienced in both crop losses and declining yields resulting in reduced agricultural productivity and income. Given the vulnerability of many smallholder and indigenous families to external shocks, this is very concerning.

In focus group discussions farmers expressed how crop losses compromise their ability to pay off debts and cover costs for new seasons. Farmers also related how prolonged droughts and rains contribute to crop stunting and an escalating burden of pest infestation and crop and animal disease. Pests and disease can devastate crops and livestock holdings, or irredeemably compromise a season's yield. The burden of pests and diseases can also quickly exhaust household savings or induce debts as farmers drain resources to access remedies and deterrents. The loss of livestock can be very challenging for smallholder families, given their importance as sources of important nutrients (milk, meat and egg) and as easily liquidated assets.

54%

Over half of the farmers reported diminishing soil quality, and two in ten reported no changes, with the balance reporting improved soil conditions.

93%

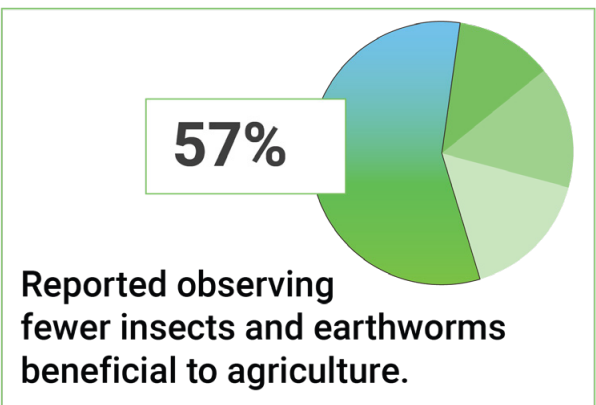
The farmers overwhelmingly recognize the impacts of climate change in general and on their own livelihoods and fields.

Farmers also recognize changes in the quality of their resource endowment. Over half of the farmers reported diminishing soil quality, and two in ten reported no changes, with the balance reporting improved soil conditions.

During focus group discussions, farmers also expressed concerns about increased soil acidity, and contamination from chemicals and the overuse of fertilizers.



"The land is not fertile; it is sick and no longer produces food"
Haitian farmer

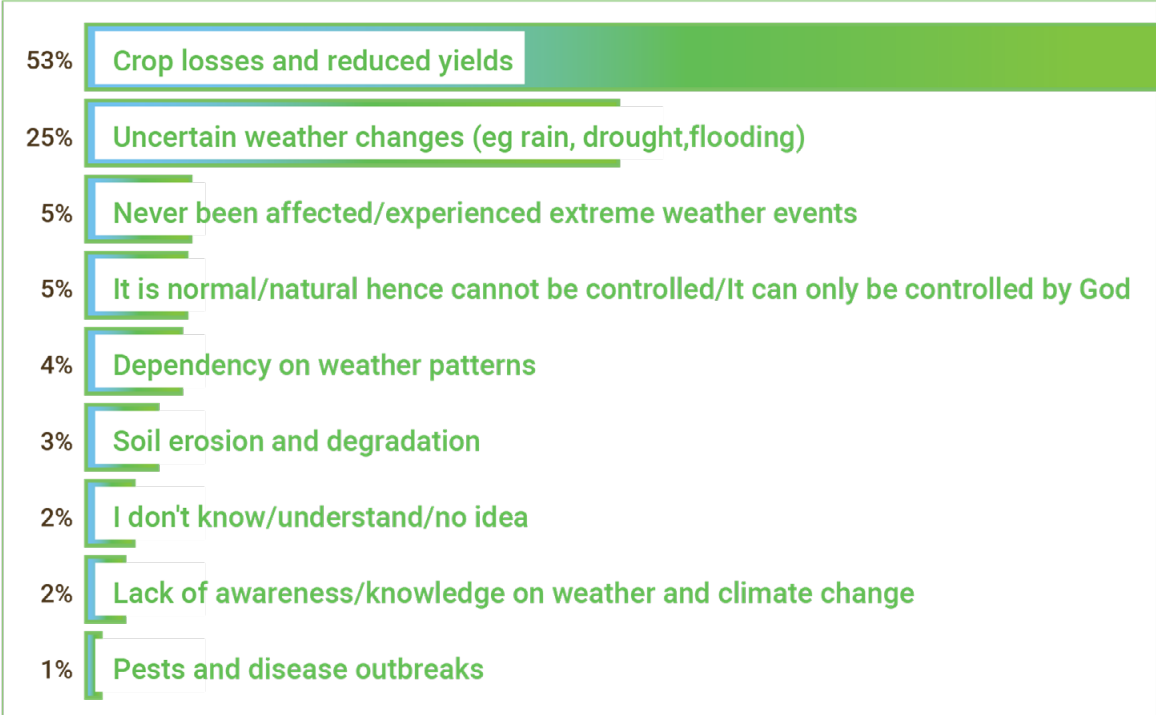


Nearly six in ten farmers reported observing fewer insects and earthworms beneficial to agriculture.

Given the precarity of smallholder livelihoods and the destabilizing effects of exogenous shocks, it is unsurprising that farmers' main concerns about the impacts of climate change relate to diminished agricultural production and increased weather uncertainty. Presented with

a menu of potential concerns, six in ten farmers cited crop losses and reduced yields, and a further third reported concerns about the impacts of uncertain weather conditions. Given that a majority of smallholder farmers rely on rainfed agriculture to nurture their crops, unpredictable seasonality and extreme weather events are destabilizing with negative impacts on production.

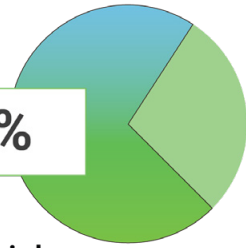
How concerned are you about the weather/environmental changes i.e., extreme weather events? - Why?



SMALLHOLDER AND FOREST COMMUNITIES RECOGNIZE THEIR ACTIONS CAN MITIGATE CLIMATE CHANGE AND THEIR ESSENTIAL ROLE IN AFFECTING CLIMATE ACTION.

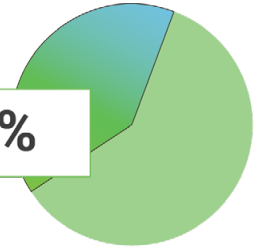
Farmers report being aware of actions they can take to mitigate problems associated with climate change. In focus groups, for example, farmers reported that to withstand droughts they adjust their planting time or use cover crops to retain moisture. To enhance soil fertility, farmers employ composts and manure and apply lime to neutralize acidity.

72%



Over seven in ten farmers surveyed think that they have an important role to play in solving climate change and addressing its impacts.

40%



Importantly, of farmers who perceived themselves as being unimportant in addressing climate change, a significant plurality cited resource and capacity constraints as the primary contributing factor.



84%

Eighty-four percent of farmers surveyed answered affirmatively that they were aware of regenerative practices

87%

of these, eighty-seven percent of farmers indicated they have already activated this knowledge

98%

of these, ninety-eight percent of farmers indicated their willingness to intensify their use of additional practices to contribute to mitigation efforts.

FARMERS CALL FOR EQUITABLE ACCESS, KNOWLEDGE SHARING, INFRASTRUCTURE INVESTMENTS, AND MARKET IMPROVEMENTS TO DRIVE REGENERATIVE AGRICULTURAL TRANSFORMATION AND COMBAT CLIMATE CHANGE

Farmers identified four key areas to be addressed to incentivize a smallholder regenerative transition and catalyze climate action at scale:

ACCESS TO ENHANCED KNOWLEDGE AND TRAINING TO IMPROVE SOIL PRESERVATION AND CROP RESILIENCE.

Farmers voiced a strong desire to improve their practices to mitigate the impact of extreme weather conditions and build their resilience to environmental changes. Smallholder farmers stand to gain the most from more equitable access to new technologies and practices, and equitable access is a necessary precondition for a smallholder regenerative transition and climate action at scale.

“Ensuring equal access to agricultural knowledge among all farmers will contribute to better adaptation strategies. Moreover, by passing on my own successful farming practices to fellow farmers, we can collectively improve resilience to environmental changes”

Burmese farmer

FARMERS RECOGNIZE THAT ADDRESSING CLIMATE CHANGE INDIVIDUALLY IS LESS EFFECTIVE, FAVORING COMMUNAL PRACTICES FOR BETTER RESULTS AND SHARED RESOURCE PRESERVATION.

Farmers emphasized the need for improved adoption of regenerative practices and innovative technologies within their communities to maximize the success of their own efforts. Community-based approaches encourage collective action, facilitate farmer-to-farmer knowledge transfer, and incorporate and leverage local and indigenous knowledge to maximize the adoption of learned practices. Community engagement enables

“In the past, some farmers used organic practices while neighbors used chemicals damaging to their farm... unified efforts lead to more effective solutions and better outcomes.”

Salvadorian farmer

farmers to pool their knowledge and skills to implement interventions that benefit the wider community and preserve shared resources, such as building terraces to conserve soil and digging community water canals to store water. Engaging local leadership structures can also help to facilitate mass adaptation and the promotion of climate actions.

“If we have irrigation canals, the drought will not be a problem”

Haitian farmer

FARMERS RECOGNIZE THE IMPORTANCE OF THEIR AGENCY FOR ADDRESSING CLIMATE CHANGE BUT STRESS THE NEED FOR EXTERNAL SUPPORT TO FINANCE CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE LIKE IRRIGATION, LAND DEVELOPMENT, AND STORAGE SYSTEMS.

Farmers emphasized the need for public and private investment to finance these projects. Public and private-sector investments in climate-resilient infrastructure and technologies can strengthen resilience and enhance the effectiveness and profitability of regenerative practices and climate actions.

“We need marketing channels which are helpful for the benefit of farmers and need minimum support prices for produces”

Indian farmer

IMPROVED MARKET CONDITIONS (MARKET ACCESS AND PRICES) ARE CRUCIAL FOR ENABLING FARMERS TO INVEST IN CLIMATE-RESILIENT INPUTS AND TECHNOLOGIES THAT CAN WITHSTAND CLIMATIC SHOCKS, increasing farmer income, and enabling investments in training, technology, and labor by farmers and communities.



photo credit Root Capital

FARMERS KNOW THE STAKES AND WANT TO BE PART OF THE SOLUTION

It needs to be in the livelihood interests of farmers to take action. Making climate actions and regenerative agriculture profitable and productive for smallholder producers is critical to realizing meaningful smallholder climate solutions and addressing development challenges at scale.

The feedback from farmers in this report emphasizes how aligning and calibrating knowledge dissemination, technological diffusion, community engagement, market improvements, infrastructure investments, and access to finance can be catalytic for unlocking and advancing the climate actions of smallholder farmers in the Global South.

Our key objective was to give farmers a voice to inform further understanding of their context, challenges, and what they need to participate in climate action. As laid out in this report, farmers know the stakes, recognize the challenge, and want to be part of the solution. To realize and scale smallholder and indigenous climate solutions, we must ensure that these communities have a seat at decision-making tables to ensure that new standards, regulations, protocols, and climate finance mechanisms take into account the evolving challenges confronting farming communities in the

Global South, and catalyze the energy and agency of hundreds of millions of farming families to address climate change.

Farmer-facing organizations, like those who constitute the membership of the CASH Coalition, international financial institutions, governments, private firms, and other entities working to advance climate-positive agricultural transformation must be mindful of the value of community-based approaches to training and promoting knowledge on regenerative practices and climate solutions.

Community-based approaches encourage collective action, facilitate farmer-to-farmer knowledge transfer, and incorporate and leverage local and indigenous knowledge to maximize the adoption of learned practices. Engaging local leadership structures can also help to facilitate mass adaptation and the promotion of climate actions.



photo credit Comaco

Public and private-sector actors can strengthen farmer climate action by improving access to climate-resilient infrastructure and technologies. Agricultural value-chain actors, such as extension service providers, logistics providers, and buyers, should identify investment opportunities – or be incentivized to invest in – climate-resilient and regenerative agriculture. Public and private-sector actors should be designed to meet community needs and calibrated to catalyze widespread adoption of regenerative agriculture and climate-mitigating actions.

Further research is needed to inform the matching of farmer needs and aspirations with market opportunities and the realization of climate solutions at scale. This report contributes to filling this space, giving farmers a voice. They know the stakes, recognize the challenge, and want to be part of the solution. To realize and scale smallholder and indigenous climate solutions, we must ensure that these communities have a seat at decision-making tables to ensure that new standards, regulations, protocols, and climate finance mechanisms are cognizant of the evolving challenges confronting farming communities in the Global South, and catalyze the energy and agency of hundreds of millions of farming families to address climate change.

HEAR THEIR VOICE



photo credit Root Capital

Annex 1 – Quantitative survey questionnaire

Farmer Voice Survey – 2023 Household Final Questionnaire

(Countries: Colombia, El Salvador, Nigeria, Zambia, India, Myanmar, Tanzania, Rwanda, Kenya & Haiti)

Administrative Information

Questionnaire number	[][][][][][]					
Date of interview	DD	[][]	MM	[][]	YY	[][]
Time of interview: (24-hour clock)	Start	HH	MM	Stop	HH	MM
		[][]	[][]		[][]	[][]
Name of interviewer:						
Country	1. Colombia 2. El Salvador 3. Nigeria 4. Zambia		5. India 6. Myanmar 7. Tanzania		8. Rwanda 9. Kenya 10. Haiti	

INTRODUCTION TO SMALLHOLDER FARMER

Good morning/afternoon/evening. My name is ... from CASH representative per country (Comaco, One Acre Fund, Acceso, Proximity Designs, Babban Gona, Conexsus or Digital Green). On behalf of the Climate Action for Smallholders (CASH) Coalition, we're currently conducting a farmers' survey in relation to agriculture and weather/environmental changes, with an objective of understanding its impact on your livelihood and agricultural practices. This will help in understanding the needs of farmers in regard to weather/environmental changes that may be affecting various farmers across your community and the world.

The interview will take about 15-20 minutes. There are no right or wrong answers. You do not have to answer any question you do not want to answer. You can choose not to participate in the survey.

If you participate, you can stop at any time without problems. We will not tell other people about your response or use any farmers' names in any reports. Your name will be kept private and separate from the information you provide, in a secure office.

If you have any questions about this household survey, you can contact our colleagues **Insert your name (the Local survey partner in each country)** on his/her mobile number xxxx,

Q1: Would you like to have any further clarifications before we proceed?

1. Yes >>> (Accept and briefly respond to the respondent's queries)
2. No >>> Proceed to Q2

Q2: Are you willing to take part in this interview?

1. Yes
2. No >>> Thank the respondent and terminate the interview.

Thank you for your willingness to participate in this survey.

Q3: What language would you prefer to be interviewed in?

- | | |
|----------------|------------|
| 1. English | 6. Burmese |
| 2. Swahili | 7. Telugu |
| 3. Kinyarwanda | 8. Hindi |
| 4. Creole | 9. Lozi |
| 5. Spanish | |

Section A: Demographics

#	QUESTION	RESPONSE	INSTRUCTIONS
A1	What is your name?		Type in
A2	Which gender does the respondent identify with?	1. Male 2. Female 3. Prefer not to say. 990. Other (specify)	
A3	How long have you been farming?		Numerical; Just type in the rounded years
A4	What kind of crops do you grow in your farm?	Staple crops Cash crops	Multiselect

SECTION B: WEATHER/ENVIRONMENTAL CHANGE AWARENESS AND IMPACT

B1	How often are extreme weather events (high heat, intense rainfall, flooding, drought and other) happening on your farm?	Never Rarely Sometimes Always Often	Read Out
B2	B2.1 Did you have one of these extreme weather events happen on your farm THIS YEAR?	Yes No	
	B2.2 OVER THE PAST FIVE YEARS? Have you experienced an extreme weather event on your farm over the past five years?	1. Yes 2. No	
	B2.3 Have you had any CROP LOSS due to these extreme weather events THIS YEAR or IN THE PAST FIVE YEARS?	1. Yes 2. No	
	B2.4 Did you notice your YIELDS DECLINE, due to these extreme weather events THIS YEAR OR IN THE PAST FIVE YEARS?	1. Yes 2. No	
B3	B3.1 Do you know if these extreme weather events – high heat, intense rainfall, drought, flooding, and others) are happening beyond your farm?	1. Yes 2. No	
	B3.1 Do you know if these extreme weather events are happening in other parts of your country?	1. Yes 2. No	

	B3.2 Do you know if these extreme weather events are happening in other parts of the world?	1. Yes 2. No	
B4	B4.1 Do you think the condition of your soils is better or worse or the same, compared to 5 YEARS AGO?	1. Better 2. Worse 3. No Change	
	B4.2 Have you noticed whether there are more, fewer, or about the same amounts of earthworms or beneficial insects like bees on your farms compared to 5 YEARS AGO?	Decreased No Change Increased Did not notice	
B5	B5.1 How concerned are you about the weather/environmental changes i.e., extreme weather events?	Very concerned Somewhat Concerned Not Sure Not concerned Not concerned at all	<i>Read Out</i>
	B5.2 Why?		<i>The enumerator to write to the response.</i>
SECTION C: DESIRE TO CHANGE			
C1	Are you aware of any farming practices that help solve these problems of extreme weather events, worsening soils, and declining environment?	1. Yes 2. No	<i>If 2>>>>C3</i>
C2	Do you use any of these practices on your farms?	Yes No	<i>If 1>>>>C4</i>
C3	Would you be willing to switch to improved practices or apply additional improved practices to help solve the weather/environmental changes problem?	1. Yes 2. No	
C4	C4.1 Do you think you have an important role as a farmer in helping solve the worsening weather events and environmental problems?	1. Yes 2. No	
	C4.2 Why?	Type in..	<i>Interviewer type in...</i>
C5	Do you intend to pass your farm on to your children and future generations?	Yes No	
SECTION D: ACTIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS			
D1	In your opinion, what do people think farmers' roles are when it comes to the environment and changing climate?		<i>Interviewer type in....</i>
D2	How would you want people to see farmers' roles differently when it comes to the environment and changing climate?		<i>Interviewer type in....</i>

--- End ---

Thank you very much for your time.

Annex 2 – Focus Group Discussions guide

Climate Action for Smallholders (CASH)

Focus Group Discussion Guide

TARGET: Smallholder Farmers

MAIN OBJECTIVE: To understand the impact of agriculture and weather/environmental changes on farmers' livelihood and agricultural practices. This will help in understanding the needs of farmers in regard to weather/environmental changes that may be affecting various farmers across your community and the world.

LOCATION: Colombia, El Salvador, India, Myanmar, Zambia & Haiti

SECTION A: INTRODUCTION

- Introduce self, country partner.
- Introduce Focus Group Discussion process ~ interactive, participative, no right or wrong answers.
- Explain the need to record the discussion for report writing.
- Ensure respondents of complete confidentiality ~ to obtain unbiased responses.
- Request respondents to switch off mobile phones to avoid interruptions.
- Explain the session length will be 2 hours, as well as where the bathrooms are.

Welcome and Orientation

Introduce yourself and thank participants for taking the time out of their busy days to spend the time together here today.

If anyone external to the community (i.e., partners per country team) is present ~ introduce them and explain the reason they are there.

Explain to everyone that they will have a chance to introduce themselves.

Rules of Engagement

A set of ground rules, both for participants and note-takers/observers.

Our promise to participants:

Privacy: We will listen carefully to everything you say. However, when we share what we have learnt from you, we will make sure that everything will be made anonymous. We will not share your name or any of your personal details, and nothing you say will be linked to you personally. We will share a consent form to allow us to continue with the session.

We will be voice recording the session so we can capture what you're saying accurately, but this recording will not be made public.

To listen with care and respect: Our role here is to guide the discussion, and to ensure that everyone gets a chance to share their stories and perspectives, within the time we have there together.

What we would like from participants in return:

Your honest experience and opinions: You might all have different views; every single viewpoint is valuable. So, feel free to express your opinion even if it is different to others. We want to learn from lots of different voices.

To hear everyone's voices: Please try to express yourself clearly and concisely and let others speak too.

SECTION B: WARM-UP

We have set up this meeting to hear your thoughts and ideas about the difficulties you may have faced in the recent past, are currently facing, or fear you might face soon relating to your farming or livelihoods. There are no right or wrong answers today. We simply want to hear what you think about the subjects we will be asking you about. You are allowed to agree with the opinions of other members or disagree with them if you think otherwise. At the end, we want to hear what each one of you thinks.

To begin our discussion today, I would like us to start by introducing ourselves, please tell us;

- Your name
- How you are feeling about the current farming season

SECTION C: ENVIRONMENT CHANGE AWARENESS AND IMPACT

MODERATOR SAY: In this first part of our discussions, we will be asking about the unpredictable difficulties you face in your farming. Understanding these difficulties will help us work better together to make you more resilient and more prosperous.

MODERATOR ASK: What are the biggest risks/difficulties that worry you the most when you think about your farming over the coming years?

NOTE-TAKER NOTE: *We are concerned about the agriculture related risks farmers face. Please list down the risks/challenges that the farmers have mentioned.*

MODERATOR ASK: *Please probe on the below areas if not mentioned.*

- *Pests: 'So far, no one has mentioned the incidence of pests or crop diseases as a change. Are you at all concerned about this?'*...
- *Weather: 'So far, no one has mentioned changing weather conditions (e.g., drought, floods, erratic rainfall, temperature) as a change. Are you at all concerned about this?'*...
- *Soil health: 'So far, no one has mentioned any changes in soil health, such as decreasing soil fertility, increasing soil acidity, or soil loss due to erosion. Are you at all concerned about this?'*

MODERATOR ASK: In which ways exactly does the risk/difficulty you describe for (.....) impact your ability to prosper?

- the health of your soils?
- the pests and diseases on your farm?
- the weather you experience on your farm.
- “Other agriculture related risk” from farmers answers
- “Other agriculture related risk’ from farmers answers

NOTE-TAKERS NOTE: *The purpose of this question is to get farmers to explain how the changes/risks they have mentioned above impacts their ability to prosper / sustain their livelihoods. Just as with the previous question, we will go through the options one after the other.*

SECTION D: DESIRE TO CHANGE

MODERATOR ASK: **Do you think you are/will be able to withstand and overcome the concerns you've listed and how they impact your ability to prosper? How so?**

NOTE-TAKERS NOTE: *We want farmers to share thoughts on their preparedness for **EACH** of the agriculture-related risks we began focusing on from question 2.*

MODERATOR SAY: Now we would like to know what steps/actions you could take to mitigate the risks/difficulties of each of these changes that you mentioned earlier.

MODERATOR ASK: What steps/actions are you taking to mitigate the risks? What do you do already?

NOTE-TAKER NOTE: *List down the steps/actions.*

MODERATOR ASK: What steps/actions could you take to mitigate the risks that you are not practicing?

MODERATOR ASK: Thinking of the risks/difficulty you described, what would you say has caused this? Why?

NOTE-TAKER NOTE: *If farmers are not mentioned please ask below.*

Farmers: ‘So far, no one has mentioned farmers as playing a role in the risks/difficulties. Do you think your actions as farmers play a role in the change?’ Why?

MODERATOR ASK: Now that you feel you play a role in the risk/difficulties that you experience. If an organisation introduced different farming methods to counter this weather risk/difficulties that you experience, would you be open to practice them? Why? Why Not?

MODERATOR ASK: How would you like to be engaged by this organisation? Any other way?

MODERATOR ASK: What gives you hope as a farmer?

MODERATOR ASK: How do you think you can use your knowledge as a farmer to mitigate weather and environmental problems?

MODERATOR ASK: What strengths do you believe you bring to help solve these problems?

MODERATOR ASK: How would you like to take action to help solve these problems?

MODERATOR CLOSE: THANK YOU FOR YOUR TIME, WE HAVE COME TO THE END OF THE DISCUSSION

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