

FINAL REPORT OF THE CLIMATE CHANGE TRAINING WORKSHOP FOR RURAL WOMEN LEADERS IN RIVERS STATE, NIGERIA

Project Title	Climate change training workshop for rural women leaders in rivers state, Nigeria
Location	Rivers State Nigeria
Implementers	<p>Gender Responsive Climate Change Adaptation Initiative in Nigerian Agriculture (GCAINA) in collaboration with:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Center for Disaster Risk management and Development studies, University of Port Harcourt - Institute for Agricultural Research and Development, University of Port Harcourt.
Lead & Focal Persons	<p>Dr. Chinwoke Clara Ifeanyi-obi CHRHS Fellow & Research Fellow, AIMS NEI Fellowship Program for Women in Climate Change Science; Supported by IDRC Canada</p> <p>Permanent address Department of Agricultural Economics and Extension, Faculty of Agriculture, University of Port Harcourt, Rivers State. Nigeria Email: clara.ifeanyi-obi@uniport.edu.ng</p> <p>Prof. Andrew Obafemi Director, Center for Disaster Risk Management and Development Studies, University of Port Harcourt, Rivers State. Nigeria Email: Andrew.obafemi@uniport.edu.ng</p> <p>Dr Joseph Orluchukwu Director, Institute of Agricultural Research and Development, University of Port Harcourt, Rivers State. Nigeria Email: joseph.orlduchukwu@uniport.edu.ng</p>
Duration	6months
Introduction	<p>In the bid to support the overall goal and objectives of the Gender-Responsive Climate change Adaptation Initiative in Nigerian Agriculture (GCAINA)] project in mainstreaming gender into climate change adaptation initiative in Nigeria, a training seed application was made to the Center for Human rights and Humanitarian Studies on the 17th of October 2021 and a favorable response received on the 4th of November 2021 and the subsequent release of 1000USD training seed grant. This was to be used for the training of rural women Leaders in Rivers state in Climate Smart Agricultural practices (CSA). It was planned with the intent of increasing the climate change knowledge and capacity of rural women leaders in Rivers State hence contribute to closing the knowledge gap in climate change between rural men and women in agriculture. This activity was implemented by the lead applicant in collaboration with the Center for Disaster Risk management and Development Studies (CDRMDS), University of Port Harcourt and the Institute for Agricultural Research and Development (IARD), University of Port Harcourt.</p>

Project Goal and Purpose	The workshop was organized with the intent of improving rural women leaders' knowledge on climate change, causal factors, its effects and possible adaptation options available for them hence facilitate uptake.
Project Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Increase basic climate change knowledge of rural women in Rivers State - Increase knowledge of climate smart crop management practices among rural women in Rivers - Increase knowledge of Climate Smart soil management practices among rural women in Rivers State - Enhanced Climate Smart pests and diseases management skill among rural women in Rivers State - Increase conflict management skill of rural women leaders in Rivers state - Support rural women with improved crop varieties to adapt to climate change impacts
Activities	
Activity 1	<p>Inception meeting (Pre workshop meeting)</p> <p>The pre-workshop meeting which was initially scheduled for only the collaborators was enlarge to accommodate all the presidents and secretaries of the identified active rural women cooperative societies in the state. This was deemed necessary to give the women opportunity to relate their area of need and expectations from the training to the organisers. The meeting was graciously hosted by the Rivers State Agricultural Development Programme (ADP). The ADP is the official government arm in charge of agricultural advisory (extension) services in the country.</p> <p>During the meeting, the women had the opportunity to relate their key problems which they would want the training to tackle to the team.</p> <p>Access the report of the Pre-Workshop meeting using the link below: https://drive.google.com/file/d/1ul3VkQBJ3dVLd4HixpLmUJvtb8Ud1aXx/view?usp=sharing</p> <p>Access the pre workshop training Pictures and video clip: https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1j43YkLTwoJYURLaAegN7JeBpvnlm_6pp?usp=sharing</p>
Activity 2	<p>Training workshop</p> <p>A two-day Climate Smart Agriculture Training workshop was help on the 9th and 10th of March, 2022 at the Playfield Nature Park, Port Harcourt from 9am to 3pm each day.</p> <p>The training Modules and the facilitators for the Day 1 Day 1(9th March) include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Helping rural farmers understand and respond effectively to climate change outcomes- Dr Chinwoke Ifeanyi-obi - Climate Smart crop management practices for Cassava-Maize-Vegetable farming system- Dr Moses Okwusi - Managing pests and diseases under a changing climate in Cassava-Maize-Vegetable farming system- Dr Usman Zakka - Effective leadership and management of cooperative societies - Dr V.C. Ugwuja (Session A) <p>The training Modules and the facilitators for the Day 2 (10th March) include:</p>

- Climate Smart Weed Management Practices for Cassava-Maize-Vegetable farming system- **Dr Moses Okwusi**
- Climate Smart Soil Management practices for Cassava-Maize-Vegetable farming systems- **Dr J. Orluchukwu**
- Value addition in Cassava, Maize and vegetables; practical examples- **Prof. O.M. Adesope**
- Effective leadership and management of cooperative societies - **Dr V.C. Ugwuja** (Session B)

Details of each module treated during the training is contained in the CSA training manual produced for the training. It could be accessed using the link provided below. Participants for the training were 30 rural women leaders selected from the 23 Local government areas of Rivers state (though about 11 rural women leaders attended without being invited). In addition, key administrative and management staff of the Rivers state Agricultural Development Programme (ADP) were on ground to offer assistance and share their experiences during questions and answer sessions. Also, staff of the National Root Crop Research Institute, Umudike, Project collaborators and five researchers from the university of Port Harcourt were also in attendance. The GCAINA project mentees were also in attendance to offer technical support.

Pre evaluation and post evaluation questionnaire was administered to the participants to help assess their key socio-economic characteristics, attitudes and perceptions towards CSA training. The findings of this evaluation was found relevant to policy makers and researchers hence developed as a Policy brief (Titled ‘Could capacity building increase rural women participation in climate change adaptation initiative in Nigerian agricultural Sector?’) and journal article (Titled ‘Promoting rural women leaders involvement in climate smart agriculture discourse through capacity building in Rivers State, Nigeria’).

Link to the policy brief could be accessed using the link provided below while that of the journal article will be shared once the article is published.

Demonstration, briefing and distribution of improved varieties of cassava and Maize was done on the last day of the training. Each participant learnt about improved species of cassava available at the National Root Crop Research Institute, Umudike and maize that could help them withstand extreme weather event as well as ensure increase productivity.

The improved specie of cassava given to the participants were: UMUCASS 36 (vitamin A cassava), NR 87184, TMS 0505, TMS 0581 and TME 419. These species are high yielding (could give up 725t/Ha), early maturing, CMD resistance, high starch, early bulking and drought tolerate species. They were also given Sugar king F1 specie of maize. It is a tropical hybrid of sweet corn which has a strong plant vigour, strong root system making it tolerant to drought and flooding. It has excellent eating quality and early maturity.

Training was successfully concluded in 2 days achieving remarkable improvements in the climate change knowledge and capacity level of the rural women leaders.

Follow on discussion to monitor the progress of the improved varieties distributed is already in progress. Wrap up meeting was held in May to allow facilitators and other key participants profile lessons learnt from the training conducted. Remarkable

	<p>outputs and outcomes were recorded from this training as reported in the output and outcome section.</p> <p>Links to training documents and media publications Brief documentary of the programme could be accessed at: Part 1: https://youtu.be/Uw5C3UZGv3Q Part 2: https://youtu.be/EU0rwS49V98</p> <p>News publication of the programme could be accessed at: Firstnews-https://firstnewsng.com/general-news/group-trains-1000-women-farmers-to-tackle-climate-change-impact/ Environews-https://www.environewsigeria.com/1000-women-farmers-trained-to-tackle-climate-change-impact/</p> <p>Access the policy brief here: https://drive.google.com/file/d/1TcKhf1KxRlaVE-NPZNhwz2us6e1SdIU/view?usp=sharing</p> <p>Access the training manual here: https://drive.google.com/file/d/1qrWgfuBFdEY2P16E4CDb8xRHo5x6YI7t/view?usp=sharing</p> <p>CSA Training pictures: Day 1: https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/17-O7oaZCh26vNfQ00BWIZQMNPFEYO5xs?usp=sharing Day 2: https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1Hrot2rxS3W01QKEM8iTzsu09Ubv4vhL?usp=sharing</p>
<p>Activity 3</p>	<p>Training wrap up meeting A wrap up meeting for the collaborators and facilitators of the training was held on Wednesday 18th May, 2022 via zoom. This meeting was supposed to hold one month after the training but was delayed to see if the industrial strike action of the academic and non-academic staff union of universities could be called off so a physical meeting be held. The meeting was attended by all the facilitators during the training as well as the collaborators. The major lessons from the workshop as listed by the facilitators during the wrap up meeting were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Such trainings should include key extension agents who are the frontline agricultural information agents. Comments and contributions as well as feedbacks from them based on their field experience could give important insight. - Such training should have more practical sessions for a more indepth understanding by the rural women bearing in mind that the participants were rural women without basic knowledge in modules learnt. - Also, time allocated for the training wasn't sufficient because of the educational background of the participants. They needed a lot of explanations

	<p>to enable them understand topics been treated. Such trainings should last for a minimum of one week.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Coverage in terms of number of participants is small. It will be difficult for one rural women leader to make appreciable impact in a whole Local government area in cascading the training down. Provision should be made for more women to participate in subsequent trainings. - Provision should be made to develop the training modules into short videos. This will help the rural women recall subjects learnt during the training. Those who were not opportune to attend the training could easily learn from such Video clips than the written training manual.
<p>Activity 4</p>	<p>Follow up discussions</p> <p>Follow up discussions with workshop participants is already going on via WhatsApp platform (formed for all participants and facilitators of the training) and physical visits to their farms. Through the platform, we are able to monitor the progress of the participants in respect of the improved varieties given to them to plant as well as support them in cascading the training down to members of their cooperative society. Participants also get speedy response to their farming challenges through the WhatsApp platform. This activity will continue as its embedded into the community service activities by the faculty of Agriculture (Extension practice) as well as the community service of IARD. The progress of the rural women will be evaluated at intervals and possible support given.</p> <p>In addition to the online follow up and support, participants are visited at their farms to monitor progress made with respect to the improved varieties given to them.</p> <p>Pictures taken during the last follow up discussion in a participants farm at Aluu community could be accessed here: https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/16z32Tx5qOPXoIEcOlrUM-HqP9hCn8sXV?usp=sharing</p>
<p>Adjustments made due to challenges encountered</p>	<p>This workshop was proposed to hold in the second week of March, 2022 at both the Center for Disaster Risk Management and Development Studies (CDRMDS) and Institute of Agricultural Research and Development (IARD) demonstration farm, University of Port Harcourt, Rivers State, Nigeria.</p> <p>An inception meeting to be held at the Center for Disaster Risk Management and Development Studies was planned to precede the training with a wrap up meeting to be held a month after the training and three subsequent follow up Discussions.</p> <p>Unfortunately, both the Academic and Non-academic Staff Union of Universities in Nigeria embarked on industrial strike action making it impossible to hold any activity involving academic staff in the university which was the planned venue of the training. The Center for Disaster Risk Management and Development Studies (CDRMDS) and Institute of Agricultural Research and Development (IARD) could not fulfil their obligation in terms of venue, technical staff and farm that was supposed to be used for the training.</p> <p>In order to ensure the training activity was still implemented, some adjustments were made.</p>

	<p>GCAINA Project was scheduled to hold a one-day training workshop for the rural women on the identified area of need through the field survey carried out in the research project. The CHRHS planned one day was merged with GCAINA one day training to a two-day comprehensive and more elaborate training activity for the rural women leaders in Rivers State. This was to leverage on GCAINA resources as a substitute for the resources supposed to be provided by the CDRMDS and IARD which was thwarted by the industrial action of the Academic staff union of universities (ASUU).</p>
Key Outcomes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Increased knowledge and capacity of rural women on climate change and climate smart agriculture innovations and management practices particularly on the topics handled. b. Established new and strengthened weak existing collaborations and linkages between research and development centers in the university and key beneficiaries specifically rural women c. Identified more gaps in climate change knowledge and adaptation of rural women agricultural activities in Rivers state d. Better understanding of climate change knowledge and capacity challenges of rural women in Rivers State e. Overall improvement in living standard of rural women facilitated by better adaptation to climate change threats f. Contributed to the development of actionable roadmap to gender –responsive climate change adaptation in rural Nigeria g. Contribute to my planned initiative, developing a “Climate Smart Village” in the university of Port Harcourt.
Key Outputs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Development of a policy brief b. Programme documentary uploaded in YouTube c. Production of a Climate Smart training manual for rural women d. Climate Smart Agriculture WhatsApp platform for rural women leaders in Rivers State e. Journal article developed from the qualitative data collected during the training f. Programme pictures uploaded shared in drive
Financial report	See attached
Other documents attached	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Payment receipts for all expenditures (See attached) 2. Workshop attendance sheet (See attached)
Acknowledgements	<p>The African Institute for Mathematical Sciences (AIMS-Rwanda) and Center for Human Rights and Humanitarian Studies (CHRHS), Watson Institute, Brown University are gratefully acknowledged for funding this training.</p>