

POLICIES PROMOTING CLIMATE SMART AGRICULTURE IN NEPAL

According to the Climate Risk Index, 2021, Nepal is the 10th most vulnerable country to climate change. The country is already experiencing a range of climate challenges including erratic rainfall, prolonged droughts, pest infestation and other risks impacting agricultural productivity. In response, Nepal has been directly or indirectly implementing various initiatives to tackle climate issues such as Climate Smart Agriculture (CSA). Recent discourses promote CSA as a sustainable pathway to promoting climate resilient practices, developing supportive policies, strengthening institutions and mobilizing needed finances to achieve sustainable agricultural development for food security in changing climate.

While Nepal currently lacks dedicated CSA policies, there are provisions that indirectly support and promote CSA practices in Nepal. In this regard, here are some key policies that are actively working on agriculture and climate resilience and their linkage to CSA in Nepal-



National Agricultural Policy (2004)
Indirectly provides basic groundwork for resilient agriculture



National Fertilizer Policy (2002)
Support use of fertilizer to enhance productivity but have limited relevance to CSA



Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC, 2020)
Explicitly mentions CSA as supportive measure but lack detailed provisions for implementation

Fifteenth Five-Year Plan (2019-2024)
Focus on agricultural productivity, resilient food system and recognition of climate change impact on agriculture



Agricultural Biodiversity Policy (2007)
Supports biodiversity conservation and agricultural resilience



Key Policies and their linkage to CSA

National Climate Change Policy (2019)
Recognizes climate adaptation in agriculture, but lack specific provision for implementation



Agriculture Development Strategy (ADS, 2015-2035)
Promotes productivity enhancing initiatives, employment and sustainability



National Adaptation Programme of Action (NAPA, 2010)
Strong focus on adaptation strategies and sets groundwork for future CSA related policies



Local Adaptation Plan of Action (LAPA, 2011)
Supports localized climate sensitive agricultural techniques



Seed Vision (2013-2025)
Enhances seed production and distribution system but does not directly address climate resilient seed varieties.

National Land Use Policy (2015)
Promotes efficient land use for agricultural purpose and potential to support CSA if integrated with climate change



Key challenges in implementing CSA in Nepal

Although Nepal's policies show great initiatives to address climate change and agricultural challenges, there are gaps that needs to be addressed to improve CSA implementation. Listed below are some of these challenges-



Lack of comprehensive CSA integration and implementation strategy results in fragmented efforts and limited farmer support.



Insufficient localized strategies hinder region-specific adaptation measures.



Weak integration of climate smart land use practice leads to land degradation and reduced agricultural productivity, impacting successful CSA adaptation.



Inadequate funding frameworks and resource allocation limits development and scaling up of CSA practices.



Insufficient ground level data and research constrains the design of effective CSA programs tailored to farmer's needs.



Weak monitoring and evaluation system impede progress tracking, gap identification, policy update and CSA scaling up efforts.

References
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