Excerpt on Learning Platforms from CGIAR Research Program on: *Climate Change, Agriculture and Food Security,* Full Proposal 2017-2022, July 2016

CCAFS Phase II builds directly on the experience of CCAFS Phase I but repositions CCAFS as an Integrating CRP, and thereby helps CGIAR achieve its ambitions for a more coherent and integrated portfolio. CCAFS will comprise four Flagship Programs (FPS): FP1: Priorities and Policies for CSA; FP2: Climate-Smart Technologies and Practices; FP3: Low Emissions Development; and FP4: Climate Services and Safety Nets. **Mainstreamed in the FPs are six Learning Platforms (LPs, see Section 1.0.7)**. These are **a key mechanism to integrate climate change work across CRPs while providing a facilitated platform for knowledge sharing, integration and coordination**. Involvement of other CRPs in CCAFS LPs may include direct programmatic research involvement and/or co-investment (see 1.0.1 Rationale and scope.)

The CCAFS programmatic structure is shown in CRP Figure 6. There are four Flagship Programs. **There are also six Learning Platforms that integrate with other CRPs and across CGIAR centres. Four of these are run under FPs and two are run independently, cutting across all FPs**. CCAFS operates from farm to global levels, with different FPs having responsibility for different themes in different levels (CRP Figure below). It is essential that the FPs coordinate their work streams.

FP1: Priorities and Policies for CSA will improve evidence and tools on enabling policy environments and priority-setting for targeted investment to support the scaling of CSA technologies to ultimately contribute to food and nutritional security under climate change. The FPL will be based at ILRI. The FP will include a cross-CRP LP on *Ex-ante evaluation and decision support for climate-smart options (LP1).*

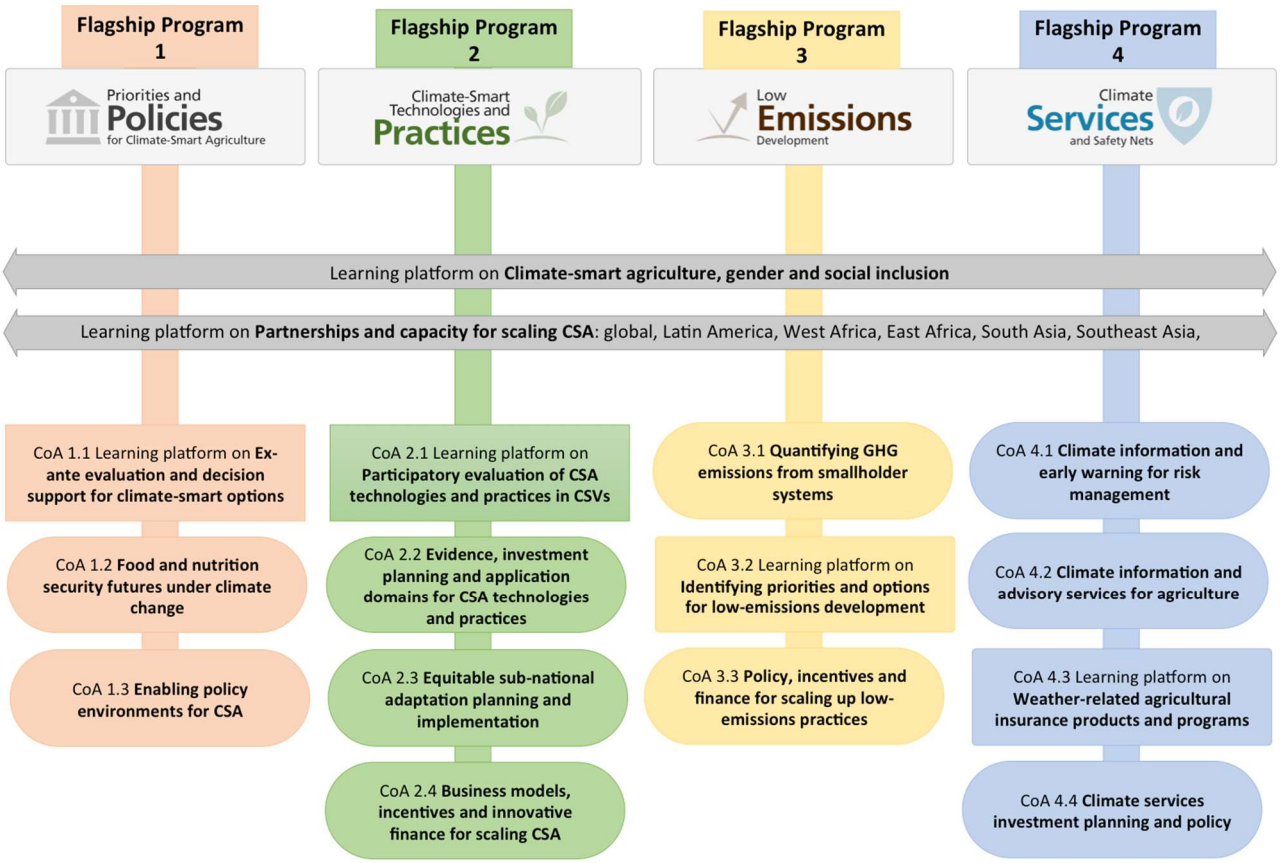
FP2: Climate-Smart Technologies and Practices will provide the evidence on the synergies and trade-offs among technologies and practices, towards the achievement of the distinct pillars of CSA across a range of agro-ecologies and social contexts. The FPL will be based at CIAT. The FP will include a cross-CRP LP on *Participatory evaluation of CSA technologies and practices in CSVs (LP2).*

FP 3: Low Emissions Development will test the feasibility of reducing agricultural GHG emissions intensities at large scales while ensuring rural food and nutrition security in low-income and middle-income countries. The FPL will be based at strategic partner University of Vermont. The FP will include a cross-CRP LP on *Identifying priorities and options for low-emissions development (LP3).*

FP4: Climate Services and Safety Nets will address critical gaps in knowledge, methodology, evidence, and capacity needed to effectively implement a set of scalable interventions that use climate-related information to manage climate-related risk. The FPL will be based at strategic partner IRI. The FP will include a cross-CRP LP on *Weather-related agricultural insurance products and programs (LP4).*

LP5 on CSA, gender and social inclusion will undertake research to inform, catalyse and target CSA solutions to women and other vulnerable groups, increase the control of disadvantaged groups over productive assets and resources, and increase their participation in climate-relevant decision-making. The GSI Research Leader, based at strategic partner WISAT, will lead delivery of this LP in coordination with all FPs and the Partnerships LP, coordinating closely with the CGIAR Gender and Agriculture Network.

LP6 on partnerships and capacity for scaling CSA will position CGIAR as the leading global research organization for developing country food systems and climate change, by managing partnerships and capacity development at global, regional and national levels to deliver impact from research. The Global Research Leader on Scaling CSA will lead a team of RPLs to deliver this LP in coordination with all FPs and CRPs. (See 1.0.6 Program structure and flagship projects).



CRP Figure 6. CCAFS programmatic structure (CoAs indicate Clusters of Activity; square boxes show CoAs that function as LPs)

While CCAFS has programmatic research content, it also has a major role to integrate climate change across all CRPs, and in fact across a range of partnerships. The CCAFS strategy for achieving a fully integrated CGIAR portfolio, from farmers' fields to global processes, involves five mechanisms, Learning Platforms are one of it as follows:

(1) Impact pathways. CCAFS established integrated regional impact pathways, involving numerous partners and Centres (including scientists already participating in other CRPs). These will be revisited in relation to ongoing Site Integration planning. An integrated impact pathway focus helps to shape partnerships, cross-CRP collaboration and build common purpose. Annex 3.6 provides an example of the approach.

(2) Learning Platforms (LPs). CCAFS will host six LPs – these will involve a body of research activities within their thematic area, exchange of lessons learnt on methods and tools, events focusing on emerging results, synthesis of results across CRPs, and communication. It is estimated that 44% of the overall CCAFS budget is allocated to LPs. The six LPs are as follows (each is linked into specific Site Integration plans – see Annex 3.6 for more detailed roles and linkages).

LP1: Ex-ante evaluation and decision support for climate-smart options (including downscaled climate data, regional climate outlook, prioritization frameworks)

LP2: Participatory evaluation of CSA technologies and practices in Climate-Smart Villages (including integrated assessment of CSA options)

LP3: Identifying priorities and options for low-emissions development (including guidelines for GHG measurement, identifying priority mitigation options)

LP4: Weather-related agricultural insurance products and programs (including global analyses to identify constraints and opportunities, lessons from pilots)

LP5: CSA, gender and social inclusion (supporting CSA gender specialists on climate-specific topics)

*LP6: Partnerships and capacity for scaling CSA (*position CGIAR as leading global research organization for developing country food systems and climate change; manage national to global partnerships for climate change policy impact and scaling CSA)

(3) Climate Change Contact Points. CCAFS has established Contact Points in each Centre. Many Contact Points have roles in other CRPs so will be familiar with the activities in other CRPs. Contact Points will facilitate two-way flow of strategic information between CCAFS and other CRPs in their Centre and identify additional opportunities for collaboration. Specific roles for each Contact Point have been established (Annex 3.6).

(4) Project Activity Planning. Each CCAFS project, and future CCAFS projects, will identify in the "Planning and Reporting System" (MARLO) the linkages with other CRPs, including levels of co-investment. Project collaboration often starts at the concept stage, through interactions between individuals from different CRPs.

(5) Internal Learning. To ensure success in the Cross-CRP collaboration strategy, attention will be given to internal learning. This will consist of two elements. (1) Cross-CRP collaboration will be one element in MELIA (Annex 3.5). For example, annual work plans for each LP will be developed, and will be annually assessed by relevant participants. MELIA will also feed into decisions on which LP to phase out and which to start, as resource limitations preclude a focus on more than the six topics selected. For example, once work on index-based insurance is well advanced (LP4), it may be opportune to shift focus to another topic. (2) The effectiveness of the above mechanisms will depend on the skills of the individuals, e.g. Contact Points, leaders of LPs. All these individuals will have annual appraisal (including 360 degree feedback).

More information on the specific Learning Platforms can be found in the respective Clusters of Activities description section of CCAFS Phase II full proposal.