



SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURAL INTENSIFICATION RESEARCH AND LEARNING IN AFRICA

GHANA NATIONAL LEARNING ALLIANCE



Natural
Resources
Institute

Implemented by:





Background

Increasing agricultural productivity in order to meet the global challenge of food security and in particular to support Sub-Saharan Africa's growing population comes with its own challenges such as environmental degradation, loss of biodiversity and effects of climate change. These challenges coupled with other prevalent social problems including high levels of poverty and rising inequality in Africa give cause for the consideration of different approaches and methods of agriculture that sufficiently address these problems with limited negative consequences. Against this backdrop, the concept of sustainable agricultural intensification (SAI) has emerged with a generally accepted aim of increasing agricultural productivity while maintaining or improving environmental sustainability.

In the context of Africa where developing and implementing an effective and equitable SAI is seen as a complex challenge, the Sustainable Agricultural Intensification Research and Learning in Africa (SAIRLA) programme, funded by the Department for International Development (DfID), was introduced in 2015 and will run till 2020 under the management of WYG and the Natural Resources Institute of the University of Greenwich. The SAIRLA is focusing on assessing how SAI can be developed in ways that enable women, youth and poorer smallholders in Africa to participate in and benefit from agricultural development.

The program has commissioned research projects and is facilitating multi-scale learning to understand different ways of achieving Sustainable Agricultural Intensification (SAI) and their developmental implications. SAIRLA is functioning through two processes: a competitive research into areas such as equity issues, policy processes, key risk factors for smallholder farmers, access to and use of market and agronomic information, and sustainability strategies. The second part consists of the facilitation of a SAIRLA Learning Alliance between research organisations and other stakeholders. SAIRLA is facilitating the development of multi-stakeholder learning platforms at national levels in the six countries. The participating countries are Burkina Faso, Ethiopia, Ghana, Malawi, Tanzania and Zambia.

SAIRLA is designed to contribute to Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) that seek to end poverty, fight inequality and injustice, and tackle climate change by 2030.

The Ghana National Learning Alliance

Within the framework of the SAIRLA Learning Alliance, the National Learning Alliance (NLA) for Ghana was set up to give guidance on how to generate, share and facilitate use of SAI knowledge by decision makers in ways that enable poorer smallholders, particularly women and youth to participate in and benefit from agricultural development in Ghana. Facilitated by the CABI West Africa Centre with support from CSIR-STEPRI, the GH-NLA also seeks to effectively engage and foster learning among policy/decision makers, private investors, civil society groups, farmer-based organizations and other key stakeholders on SAI systems and processes that are most effective and suitable for Ghana based on concrete research evidence. This is aimed at deepening understanding of how relevant government policies, when appropriately formulated and implemented, can trigger the right investments and other actions that will accelerate agricultural modernization and development in Ghana.

Project Goal

The goal of the GH-NLA is to make SAI research evidence available and utilized by decision makers including government, investors and other key actors to deliver more effective policies and investments in sustainable agricultural intensification that strengthens the capacity of poorer farmers especially women and youth, to access and benefit from agricultural development programmes in Ghana.

Vision

The vision of the GH-NLA is to enhance the wellbeing of the smallholder agricultural value chain actor, particularly women and youth through effective policies and investments in sustainable agricultural development.



Mission

The mission of the Ghana-NLA is to facilitate SAI research evidence use by decision makers for effective policy processes and investments that will enhance the wellbeing of poorer smallholder farmers particularly women and youth.

Strategic Objectives

To attain its vision and mission, the GH-NLA has the following as its strategic objectives:

- To facilitate co-generation of research evidence that addresses equitable access to SAI processes by small holders particularly women and youth
- To effectively engage stakeholders and facilitate SAI research evidence use by policy makers, investors and implementers in decision making processes
- To jointly identify means of achieving effective implementation of policy and business strategies that improves the capacity of poorer small holders, especially women and youth to achieve SAI and youth to achieve SAI
- To network with local and external organisations to facilitate SAI social learning and knowledge management.

Expected Project Outcome

The GH-NLA seeks an outcome where decision makers (policy makers and investors) at national and local levels have access to and opportunity to engage with an evidence base on what works and what is unlikely to work to enable poorer smallholders, especially women and youth, to benefit from SAI in Ghana.

Structure of GH-NLA

The project is made up of a Secretariat, the Core Facilitation Team and the Learning Alliance Platform. The Secretariat is hosted and supported administratively by CABI from where the NLA facilitator and other Core Team members operate. The Core Facilitation Team is made up of the Project Director, NLA Facilitator and other key staff co-opted from partner institutions.



These include a high-level Policy and Institutions Advisor, an M & E/Gender Specialist, a Communications Specialist, a Policy Specialist and representatives from the Ministry of Food and Agriculture (MoFA), Association of Ghana Industries (AGI), Ghana Federation of Agricultural Producers (GFAP) and Ghana Agricultural Workers Union.

The NLA Platform is a bigger group of about 60 people comprising of members of the Core Facilitation Team, SAIRLA Project Leads and key representatives from relevant organizations and strategic institutions (public and private) nominated, seconded and elected by multi-stakeholders at the national mobilization workshop as well as the Secretariat. These may include businesses, the Media, CSO, NGOs, FBO, Traditional Councils, religious bodies.

The International Learning Alliance

While the National Learning Alliances (NLAs) are operating at the national level in the six African countries participating in the SAIRLA program, an international multi-stakeholder learning platform is also established at the Sub-Saharan Africa level called the International Learning Alliance (ILA). The ILA includes all the SAIRLA research projects, the six NLAs, SAIRLA programme management team staff and other SAIRLA partners, including African regional organizations and interested international development players. The ILA develops and implements a strategy for SAIRLA to engage with and inform decision makers (policy makers and investors) and for capacity strengthening through engaging with programme lessons and emerging research evidence.

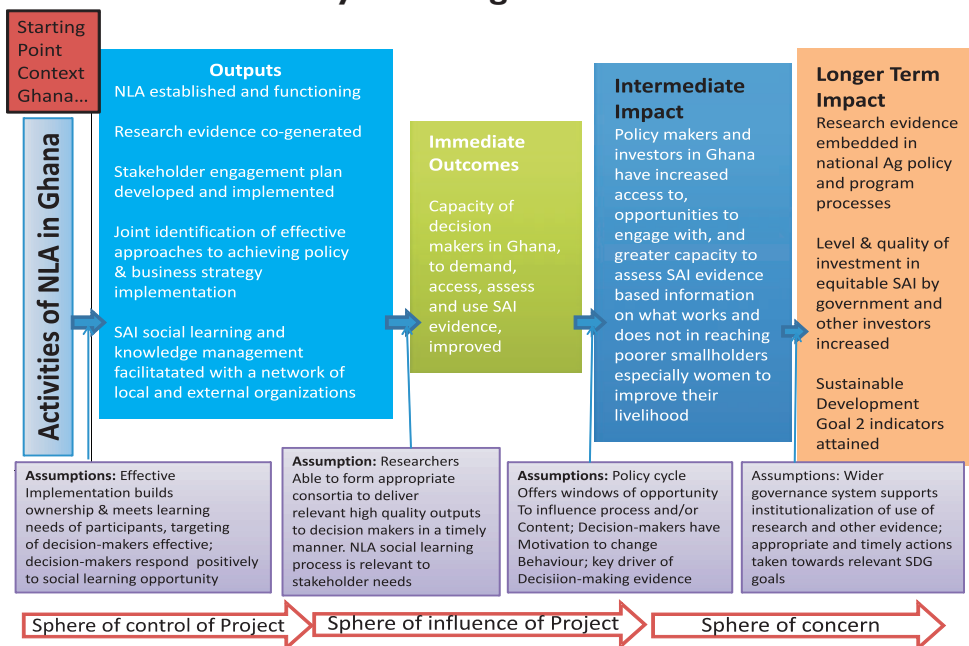
SAIRLA Research Project Partners:

1. Gender and Legume Alliance (GALA)
2. Supporting Smallholder Farmers' Decision-Making: Managing Trade-offs and Synergies for Sustainable Intensification (SITAM)
3. Improving the Use of Tools to Make Agricultural Intensification more Equitable (Tools & Metrics)





The GH-NLA Theory of Change



Quick Facts

Project: Sustainable Agricultural Intensification Research and Learning in Africa (SAIRLA), Ghana National Learning Alliance

Donor: Department for International Development (DfID)

Managed by: WYG and Natural Resource Institute, University of Greenwich

Implemented by: Centre for Agriculture and Biosciences International (CABI) with support from Science and Technology policy Research Institute (CSIR-STEPRI)

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