

# Putting climate-smart agricultural policies to work in landscapes through sub-national capacity building programs

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## Challenge

Livelihoods and ecosystems in East Africa are being threatened by climate change and variability, resulting in resource insecurity and pervasive poverty. Agricultural production in the region is especially vulnerable to rising temperatures and changes in rainfall patterns and is further exacerbated by degraded landscapes and depleted ecosystem services.

Climate-smart agriculture (CSA) has been promoted as an approach to integrate climate adaptation and mitigation into agriculture development. National governments have developed CSA policies and programs, technical capacity of extension officers has been built, and farmers are receiving training on localized CSA practices.

The challenge is that:

- broad adoption of CSA is low, yet needed to address the scale of climate impact
- coordinated action beyond the plot-level to achieve ecosystems services and landscapes functionality is lacking
- subnational governance, finance, and technical capacity to plan and scale CSA is limited

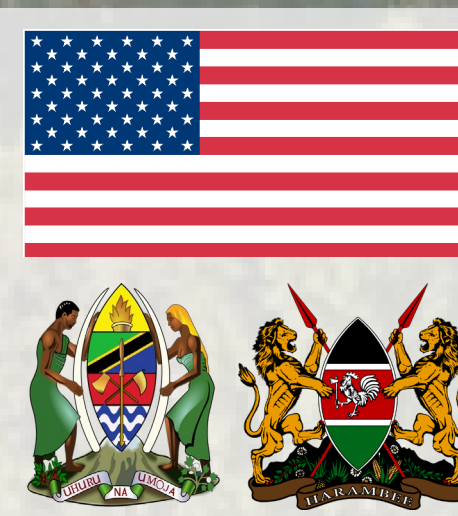
## Response

Coordinated subnational action planning will improve the resilience of communities to climate impacts and sustain natural resources they depend on.

Landscape CSA (L-CSA) Action Planning curricula were developed bridge national level climate policy commitments in the land sector and farmer knowledge and skills in CSA practice.

- Support alignment with multiple UN-SDGs and national goals
- Build capacity for CSA to be addressed in a landscape-jurisdictional, territorial, and spatial context
- Consider varied system linkages such as policy, institutional, and human components that influence land-use decisions and conservation efforts (Scherr et. al, 2012)
- Target adaptation- and mitigation-focused initiatives
- Create inclusive stakeholder-driven management strategies for landscapes and communities

The curricula were designed to build the leadership of subnational authorities and to support the creation of enabling environments for coordinated CSA actions through extension, local land use planning, finance, and other planning and implementation mechanisms.



These studies were made possible by the support of the American people through the Department of State and the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), under technical leadership from the U.S. Department of Agriculture, conducted in partnership with the United Republic of Tanzania and the Government of Kenya. The contents are the responsibility of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the views of the United States Government.

## Landscape CSA Action Planning

### Process

A training curricula outline was developed to be adaptable and replicable in different country contexts and grounded in planning cycle phases. Pilot teams contextualized based on existing planning processes, policy environment, agroecological context, local capacity, and data availability.

**Stakeholders involved:** National government CSA focal points, subnational planning and program officers in agriculture and natural resources, and technical organization to support training.

### Training Modules

1. Climate change impact on agriculture
2. Introduction to CSA as an approach
3. Building a collaborative CSA action plan for your landscape or jurisdiction
4. Linking climate knowledge and information with CSA decisions, prioritization, and planning
5. Building an enabling environment for CSA and existing national/subnational policies
6. On-farm adaptation planning and implementation
7. Monitoring, learning, and evaluation

### Outputs:

- Cross-sectoral landscape/jurisdictional CSA action and investment plans
- Multi-stakeholder platforms for adaptive planning and management

## Case Studies: TZ & KE

### Commonalities

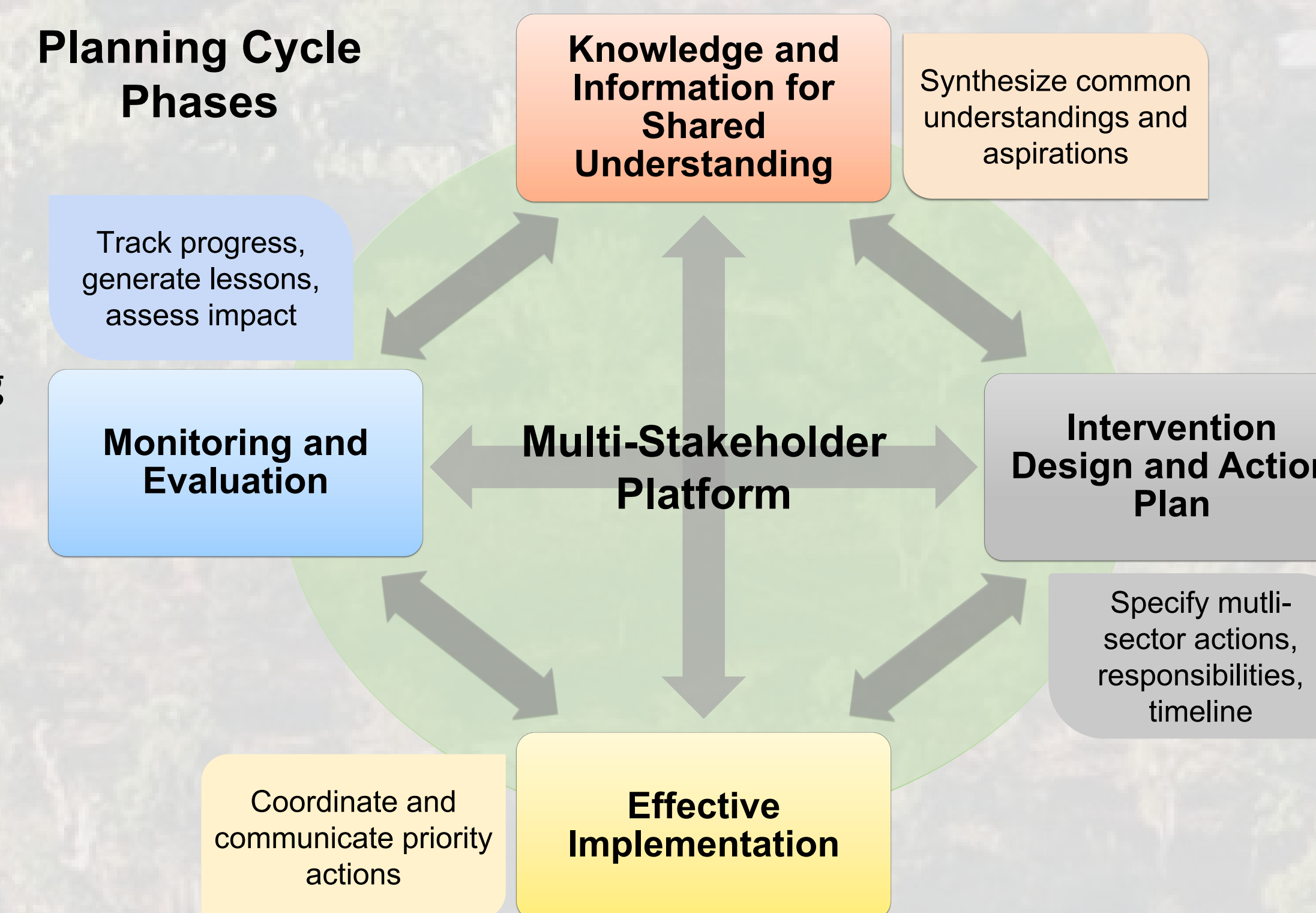
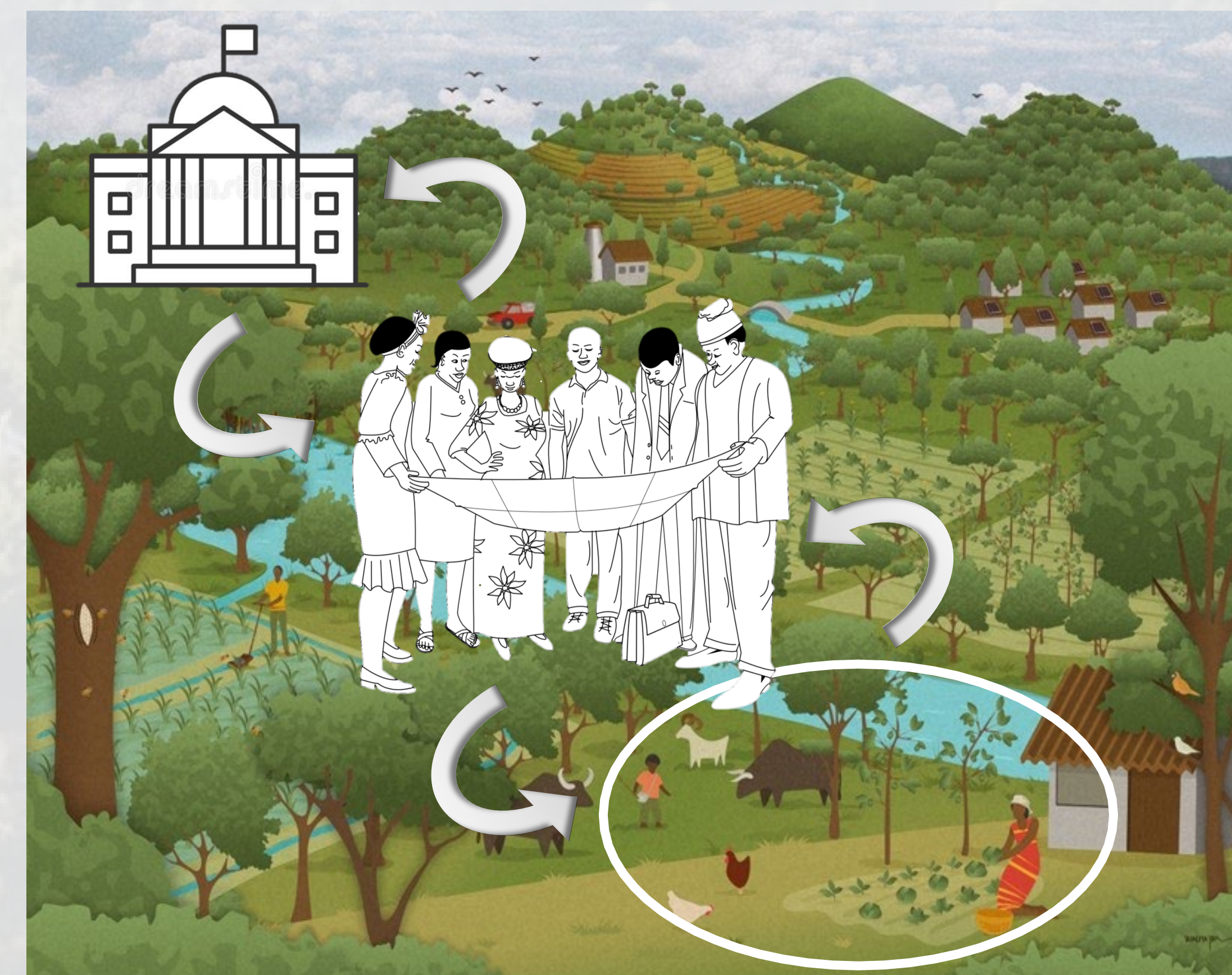
- National climate and CSA strategies in place
- National CSA government and NGO alliances
- Shift towards decentralized governance models and ongoing policy socialization efforts underway
- Subnational buy-in, capacity, and action needed to allocate budget and achieve results through government led programming

## Tanzania District Action Planning

A 5-day L-CSA curriculum complemented the President's Office of Regional Administration and Local Governments roll out of a decentralized agriculture plan and was tailored for regional and district stakeholders to create localized CSA action plans.

### Results of 2019 LCSA Training:

- Over 60 officers trained across 9 districts
- District Action Plans developed and shared regionally
- Integration of CSA planning within local budget proposals
- Cross-sectoral and cross-district coordination established to share lessons on action planning and implementation



## Kenya County CSA Integration

A 1-day socialization with County Executive Committees and 4-day training with technical officers complemented the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock, Fisheries, and Irrigation efforts to socialize the Kenya CSA Implementation Framework.

### Results of 2019 CSA Trainings:

- Over 200 officers trained across 3 counties
- County Action Plans, 11 Project Concepts developed
- Projects proposed to Counties and 3 funded for implementation
- Data books developed on CSA practices by agroecological zone
- Highlighted need for climate change units/officers at county level

## Outcomes

- Farmer- and Ministry-initiated CSA pilot plots and **awareness campaigns** to disseminate knowledge
- Stakeholder **networks strengthened** for CSA and broader collaborations, e.g. successful United Nations Development Program concept notes for coastal mangrove reforestation and saltwater intrusion prevention activities
- Local government budgets included **financial and political support** for CSA Action Planning
- **Socialization of CSA and national CSA policies** and programs for implementation at the subnational level

## Lessons Learned

- Training overcame limited awareness of **integrated landscape approach**
- **Provided foundational framework** for planning cross-cutting CSA interventions
- **CSA framing** proved valuable for diverse projects and proposals related to climate resilience, livelihoods, and agriculture
- Process fostered **buy-in to CSA Action Planning** by leaders at multiple political levels
- **Cooperating on landscape action planning** builds confidence and leadership for follow through and avoids duplication of efforts
- Officials now in position to **interpret and customize national policies** for subnational context
- **Developing new collaboration activities will help address funding and other constraints**

## Factors for Success

- Competency-based training model, **“learn-by-doing”**
- **Stakeholder mobilization** most effective when officers involved farmer/youth/women groups
- **Targeting the relevant audience** is crucial
- **Access to usable data**, such as agrometeorological and localized weather information and impacts of CSA practices, key for successful planning
- Technical knowledge alone not enough – **“soft” skill training** needed as much as technical – proposal writing, advocacy/lobbying, facilitation
- **Political support** for the prioritization of CSA action in regional and district budget allocation

## Barriers to Implementation

- Lack of awareness of national CSA policies
- Developing **M&E baselines**
- Inadequate **financial resources**
- **Additional training** needed to build **human capital** and proficiency in CSA for implementing action plans