Upscaling Climate Smart Agriculture and Post Harvest Loss Assessment in Malawi

ACCRA ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSIONS

Birchwood Hotel, Johannesburg

5 – 6th March 2020

INTRODUCTION

ADVERSE EFFECTS OF CLIMATE CHANGE

- A lot of run-off
  - Soil and Nutrient Erosion
  - Accumulation of Water in low lying areas e.g. The Shire Valley
  - This has lead frequent flooding hence crop & livestock loss
- **ON POST HARVEST**
  - Farmers loose grain and products, they already harvest
  - Silent catalyst of hanger in households

ADVANCES ON CSA & PHLA

ON CLIMATE SMART AGRICULTURE

- Policy developed and it is being implemented
- Designated LRCD that advocates Climate Smart Practices
- Government running annual campaigns on use of Manure and CA
- Programs under CCARDESA such has APPSA release technologies that are Climate Smart including:
  - CA
  - Re-use of Waste Water in Rice production (Drainage water re-use)
  - Drought Tolerant Maize
  - Seven different types manure have been generated for crop production

Advances cont'd

ON POST HARVEST

- Structured Laboratory studied are being conducted to asses the damages and control procedures
- There is advocacy in integrated pest and disease control e.g. use of Aflasafe for g/nuts
- Indigenous Knowledge System and practices are being embraced and promoted: E.g. Use of common herbs to control pest and diseases.

Up Scaling CSA

- Popularising CSA Framework among all stakeholder
- Capacity building on CSA practices and implementation
  - Training, filed demonstrations, field days, Farmer Field School
- Need for more resources
  - Efforts are being done by projects e.g. Sustainable Agricultural Productivity Programme (SAPP), ASWAp – SP, Malawi Drought Resilience Project (MDRP)
- Research
  - Technologies that have been released need to be popularised e.g. varieties, water saving technologies
- Improved coordination in the implementation of CSA

Post harvest loss assessments

- The PHL figures available are only on maize
- Losses reported are mainly only on storage rather than the whole PHL chain
- LGB and MW are major storage pests of maize
- Contributing towards a 15.7% (PHL Report 2011)
- Though over 40% of farmers treat maize with either synthetic or liquid formulated insecticides
- Currently, some studies are focusing on other crop e.g. Legume crops
- Methodologies need to be looked into

Post harvest losses assessments

- Capacity building to the farming clientele on good technologies for post harvest losses
- These technologies include use of
  - PICs bag,
  - Release of biological predators such as TN that feeds on LGB eggs
  - Use of Silos and Containers
  - In the case of beans, use and promotion of bean varieties tolerant to bean Bruchid (Bean Weevil)
- Structured field assessments on crop losses

Post harvest losses assessments *cont…*

- Aggregation and Sharing of data and results on crop losses have not been thorough.
- Crop loss assessments leave out other stages along the chain:
  - Appropriate assessment need to consider losses on:
    - Transportation/Threshing/Winnowing/Pest Damage/Rotting
    - A special initiative has to be put in place to pool results of losses of different crops: CGIARs/DARS/Crops Dept/LRCD
- Field loss assessments must be linked with laboratory crop loss assessments.

END

- THANKS FOR YOUR KIND ATTENTION