



# Findings from SEACRIFOG Stakeholders Consultation Workshops

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SEACRIFOG project promotes the EU-Africa cooperation dialogue at different levels (policy, science, society) on the following themes: *land use, land use change, climate-smart agriculture, food security, carbon cycle and greenhouse gas (GHG) observations*.

In order to identify user needs, SEACRIFOG project initiated the **process to engage relevant stakeholders** from Africa and EU to exchange and gather existing knowledge. Three workshops have been organized in **Eastern Africa** in Kenya, Nairobi (31<sup>st</sup> May 2017) and **Western Africa** in Ghana, Sunyani (16<sup>th</sup> June 2017) and **Southern Africa** in Lusaka, Zambia (18th April 2018). In total, 73 participants from 33 organizations across Africa attended these three SEACRIFOG Stakeholder Consultation workshops.

## Main findings of SEACRIFOG Stakeholders Consultation workshops

The three SEACRIFOG Stakeholders Consultation Workshops (Eastern Africa, Western Africa and Southern Africa) underlined the importance of **sharing data and knowledge** and the need to develop not only technologies and research infrastructures, but also strong and collaborative networks. For all three thematic groups (LUC, food security, GHG and CSA) **data availability, accessibility, and accuracy** was the core of all discussions. The workshops also identified an urgent need to address a farmers responsive research to provide accessible know-how in terms of technology and good agricultural practices (López-Ballesteros et al., 2018).

## Aims of SEACRIFOG Consultation workshops

The aim of the SEACRIFOG Stakeholder Consultation Workshops was to identify general user needs and knowledge gaps in the area of research infrastructure related to: **1) Land use change implications on food security, 2) GHG observations, carbon stocks and climate change mitigation, 3) Climate smart agriculture in Africa**. In Zambia, the third topic focused on **capacity development**.

TAB 1: Summary of workshops findings

TOPICS	REMARKS
<b>DATA NEEDS AND GAPS</b>	Presence of lots of data but: - Low data availability, accessibility, sharing, networking, accuracy and visibility - Data in not usable/understandable format - Problems of <u>time</u> and <u>spatial</u> resolution, low interoperability and quality of data and metadata, needs for data repository and increased frequency of data up to-date - Satellite images as useful tool for information sharing and communication with stakeholders about the state of the art of the environment.
<b>INFRASTRUCTURES</b>	- Investment needed (e.g. into technologies and equipment) - Many efforts in place, but coordination lacking, specific government subsidies required, inadequate road connections from farms to the main markets
<b>CAPACITIES</b>	- Need for data management skills - Need for capacity building to understand and implement guidelines for GHG emission reporting - Appropriate use and monitoring of NDCs - Nationally determined contributions that were established by Paris Agreement in order to achieve long-term goals
<b>CONSTRAINTS</b>	<b>Financial resources</b> -Inadequate financial resources <b>Land</b> - Complex land tenure systems - Land suitability, affordability and fragmentation - Land grabbing and illegal activities (mining, charcoal, logging, etc.) <b>Urbanization</b> - Pressure on farming land and land conversion (from farms to urban areas)
<b>SOLUTIONS</b>	<b>Communication</b> - Improve the connection between existing systems (research infrastructures, datasets, etc.) - Farmers responsive research, in response to farmers needs - Bridge between scientific and traditional knowledge for innovative solutions - Considering central rule of farmers as data source and data users of scientific information, products, services, etc. - Citizen science could be a new kind of low cost monitoring infrastructure - Improvement and promotion of climate smart agricultural practices with pilot farming systems (multi-cropping, appropriate irrigation systems, agroforestry, etc.) <b>Market &amp; Prices</b> - Poor and inadequate infrastructures to access to the market - Inadequate storage and processing facilities - Price insecurity of agricultural products - Inadequate system to certify low carbon emission products - Communication, use of different terminology <b>Know-how and connections</b> - Accessible know-how sharing (mobile technology and innovative technologies, education, communication networks, etc.) - Land classification and land productivity assessment - Increase the use of RS data and GIS application - Improved connection between government and farmers through the extension offices
<b>ADAPTATION VS. MITIGATION</b>	Adaptation is a priority for Africa, while mitigation is not. Mitigation can be seen also as an opportunity: mitigation practices are often linked to adaptation practices; sustainable productions (soil health, nutrient and carbon conservation, etc.); market opportunity for new technologies

Source: López-Ballesteros, A., Beck, J., Bombelli, A., Grieco, E., Lorencová, E. K., Merbold, L., Brümmer, C., Hugo, W., Scholes, R. (Bob), Vačkář, D., Vermeulen, A., Acosta, M., Butterbach-Bahl, K., Helmschrot, J., Kim, D.-G., Jones, M., Jorch, V., Pavelka, M., Skjelvan, I. and Saunders, M. (2018) 'Towards a feasible and representative pan-African Research Infrastructure network for GHG observations', Environmental Research Letters. doi: 10.1088/1748-9326/aad66c.

