



Nigerian Forum for Agricultural Advisory Services NIFAAS

Report of the South-South Zonal Policy Discourse on Uptake and Integration of Climate Smart Agriculture (CSA) into Policy and Practice, held on 11th February at the Institute of Petroleum Studies, University of Port Harcourt



BACKGROUND:

Following the approval of the proposal submitted by the Nigerian Forum for Agricultural Advisory services (NIFAAS) to the African Forum for Agricultural Advisory services (AFAAS), the project team of NIFAAS [comprising of the central executives of NIFAAS, all working group leaders and selected members of Foresight and Climate Smart Agriculture Working Group (FCSAWG) members] swung into action to ensure effective implementation of the project. After the Training workshop on Climate Smart Agriculture on the 28th of January at the University of Ibadan, Policy

discourse was slated to hold in all geopolitical zones of the country between the 1st and 2nd week of February. The policy discourse for SouthSouth zone was hosted by the Faculty of Agriculture, University of Port Harcourt and held on the 11th of February, 2021 at the Institute of Petroleum studies auditorium in the University of Port Harcourt.

ATTENDANCE:

Key stakeholders in policy making and Agriculture were in attendance to discuss extensively on the way forward in increasing uptake of CSA as well as integrating it into policy. Some of the dignitaries from the government ministries in attendance include; the director of Agriculture, Bayelsa Ministry of Agriculture, Dr. Ebasi Okoya; the programme manager, Bayelsa Agricultural Development Programme represented by Mr Tulagha, Ebiundu; Rivers State Commissioner for environment represented by Mr Loveday Ukaulor; Director for Agriculture, Rivers State Ministry of Agriculture, represented by Mr Agada Sunday; the director of Extension services, AkwaIbom state Agricultural Development Programme; assistant director of Agriculture, AkwaIbom state ministry of Agriculture, Mr Edet Willie Udokah. Also farmers and private agencies were represented in the discourse, in attendance were; Engr. Amadi Fidelis, chairman, commercial farmers association of Rivers State; chairman, council of Nigerian Farmers, Rivers State chapter; Director, National Coalition on Gas Flaring and Oil spills in the Niger Delta, Engr. Ben Ubleble and others (Ref. Attendance list, Appendix 1)

Principal officers from the host institution, University of Port Harcourt was heavily in attendance. The Vice Chancellor, Prof. Stephen Okududu who was represented by the Dean, Faculty of Agriculture, Prof. Ibisime Etela was in attendance till the end of the programme. Others include, Prof. O.M Adesope, associate dean of graduate school; Dr Eucharia Nwaichi, Director, Exchange and Linkages and very many others (ref to attendance list, Appendix 1)

PROGRAMME DESCRIPTION:

The programme was initially slated to hold at the Faculty of Agriculture but was later moved to the Institute of Petroleum studies to ensure the participants have serene environment void of distractions for such an important event. Registration started at 9.45am while the programme kicked off at 10.25am prompt. After recognizing dignitaries and welcoming of all guests, Dr Ekanem Jemimah, a member of NIFAAS from AkwaIbom State University briefed participants on the objectives and mission of NIFAAS as well as the purpose of the policy discourse. Major highlights of the programme were the presentation on the concept of Climate Smart Agriculture (CSA) Technologies, Innovations and Management practices (TIMPs) by Dr Chinwoke Clara Ifeanyi-obi, coordinator of the NIFAAS Foresight and Climate Smart Agriculture Working Group which was followed by the presentation on the state of CSA TIMPs in the SouthSouth Zone; challenges and prospects by Dr Anthony Onoja, president, Agricultural Policy and Research Network (APRNet). The panel discussion was very insightful as participants shared their experiences and suggested actionable ways to facilitate CSA uptake and integration into policy. For details on the programme, see Appendix 11(programme for SouthSouth policy discourse)

STATE OF CSA TIMPs KNOWLEDGE AND UPTAKE IN THE SOUTH-SOUTH REGION OF NIGERIA

The awareness, knowledge and uptake of CSA TIMPs in the South- South Region of Nigeria is still very low despite the high vulnerability of the zone to climate change. Majority of the farmers are still using crude farming practices which cannot withstand the adverse effects of climate variability. It is surprising that key farmers associations leaders are not knowledgeable in CSA. Farmers and Government institutions are yet to embrace CSA TIMPs in the region. This has impacted negatively on food security in the zone.

CHALLENGES TO CSA TIMPs UPTAKE IN THE ZONE

Several factors were highlighted during the panel discussion as major challenges to CSA uptake in the zone. They include:

1. **Funding problem:** In South- South region, the issue of transaction costs which is the cost of implementing changes and bringing about innovation is a major problem. Before now there was a major funding from World Bank through ADP to establish Agricultural Extension Services in Nigeria. Significant progress was made then in uptake of available innovations, but with the withdrawal of World Bank support, it has become very difficult for ADP to facilitate uptake of any innovation including CSA due to no funding to support cost of implementation. Less than 3% of the national budget goes to Agriculture, such a meagre allocation cannot make any reasonable impact.
2. **Lack of awareness of climate smart agriculture by the farmers.** there is still low level of awareness and knowledge on CSA among farmers in the zone. This has made it difficult for these farmers to adopt the practice of CSA.
3. **Poor access to finance by farmers.** Majority of the farmers in the zone still operate on a subsistence level hence low-income earner. CSA uptake requires some level of finance to support it. These farmers do not have the financial capacity as well as access to funds that will enable them embrace the CSA TIMPs.
4. **Poor state of feeder roads to market and high level of insecurity:** it was observed that majority of the feeder roads linking major farming communities to major markets in the zone are in very poor state. Farmers as a result of this find it difficult to take their farm produce to the market due to poor access arising from poor feeder roads and insecurity.
5. **Weak access to climate change information.** The uptake of CSA TIMPs is largely dependent on the ability of the farmers to get up-to-date information on climate condition. The unavailability of this information affects the uptake of CSA TIMPs in the area.
6. **Lack of Institutional support and awareness.** Some key institutions to CSA uptake do not recognize problems posed by Climate Change. They lack the awareness and do not understand the concept of CSA TIMPs which hinders their ability to provide the framework for farmers to embrace CSA TIMPs.
7. **Farmers misunderstanding of farming business and government support.** It was observed that majority of the farmers in the zone still perceive agriculture as a way of life

and not a business venture. This has affected their level of commitment and willingness to invest in agricultural activities. On the side of government, they wrongly believe that government must solve all their problems free of charge making them very reluctant to invest in activities from the government that will benefit their farming venture.

8. **No statistical data to assist in policy formulation.** Data is basically on memory recall, which makes the available data highly unreliable for policy formulation in the zone.
9. **Extension agent/ Farmer ratio is too high.** There are very few extension workers to several farm families. This makes agricultural extension services ineffective as they find it difficult to have the recommended coverage to reach out the farmers on CSA TIMPs in the zone.
10. **Most farmers in the zone are women,** and they do not have tenure security rather they have only land use rights, which hinders the practice of long-term CSA methods such as Agroforestry because the lands are on lease
11. **High investment costs** which discourage farmers and other relevant stakeholders to invest in CSA TIMPs in the zone.
12. Poor access to inputs makes it difficult for the farmers to adopt such CSA TIMPs as use of drought resistant varieties, salt tolerant and improved varieties which will increase their resilience.
13. **Lack of commitment by the ADPs** which should be primarily be at the forefront of CSA TIMPs awareness and uptake. This is attributed to the lack of financial support from government to support their activities.

FACTORS MILITATING AGAINST THE INTEGRATION OF CSA INTO POLICY IN THE ZONE

1. There is no known strategic plan on ground by any government to integrate CSA issues into policy in the zone
2. There is a wide gap between the farmers, Extension Agents and government agencies
3. Some institutions are not aware of CSA practices, awareness gives birth to embrace the need for policy formulation.
4. Gender is not mainstreamed in ownership of productive resources
5. There is no framework for farmer groups on CSA TIMPs in the zone.

IDENTIFIED POLICES IN THE ZONE THAT HAVE INTEGRATED CSA ISSUES

Currently, there is no known policy in the South-South zone that has integrated CSA issues

ACTIONABLE ROADMAPS TO INCREASING CSA UPTAKE AND INTEGRATION INTO POLICY AND PRACTICE

S/N	Action to be done	Personnel needed	Resources needed	Timeline	Expected outcome
1	Revitalization of ADP	*Government at all levels; *Key professional associations and bodies in Agricultural advisory services including NIFAAS, APRNet, AESON, RUSAN: *Government synergy	*Expertise from EA *ICT *Government funding	1 year	*Communication gap between EAs and farmers will be closed. * Uptake of CSA practices facilitated * EA/ farmer ratio will be improved
2	Writing proposals to Climate Change funders to in other to attract finance for CSA research and uptake	Research institutes and Academia	*Proposal writing experts	3 months	*Innovations on CSA will be readily available for uptake by the farmers
3	All local funders such as Bank of Industry, Bank of Agriculture, CBN, Ministries should synergize as one body to achieve a targeted goal	BOA, BOI and CBN Personnel	Advisory committee constituted by the local funders	2 years	*Fund to support CSA TIMPs uptake will be readily available. *A targeted effort to assist farmers will be achieved, not staggered efforts
4	Revitalization of Researchers-Extension Agents- Farmers Linkage	*Research institutes *Academia *ADP *Farming groups	*Researchers' expertise *Demo farms *Improved varieties of inputs	3 years	*CSA information will be accessible to all users *Data for CSA policy formulation will be available

			* ICT for dissemination of findings		*CSA TIMPs will be accessible to famers
5	Traditional practices which have resemblance with CSA practices should be improved to cover the 3 arms of CSA	*Researchers *ADP * Farming groups	*Researchers' expertise *Demo farms * Government/ Private sector funding	2 years	*Improved traditional practices *Increased use of farmers traditional knowledge
6	Having a cost-sharing funding programme where farmers can contribute to the funding of CSA	*Farming groups *Ministry of Agriculture * NGOs *Private Sectors	* Government/ Private sector funding	1 year	*More commitment from farmers in the uptake of CSA because of their financial commitment
7	Government and Private sector getting involved in CSA, especially in carbon credit, and having a mindset that it is a profitable venture	*Climate Change Organizations * private sectors * Government agencies * International development agencies	*Climate Change experts Funds from Government, Private Sectors and International development agencies	5 years	Government will make money climate change mitigation through CSA practices; such mitigation can be taken abroad

Pre-Workshop Evaluation

Gender

The distribution of the respondents is shown in fig. 1. It can be observed that 63% of the respondents were male while 37% were female.

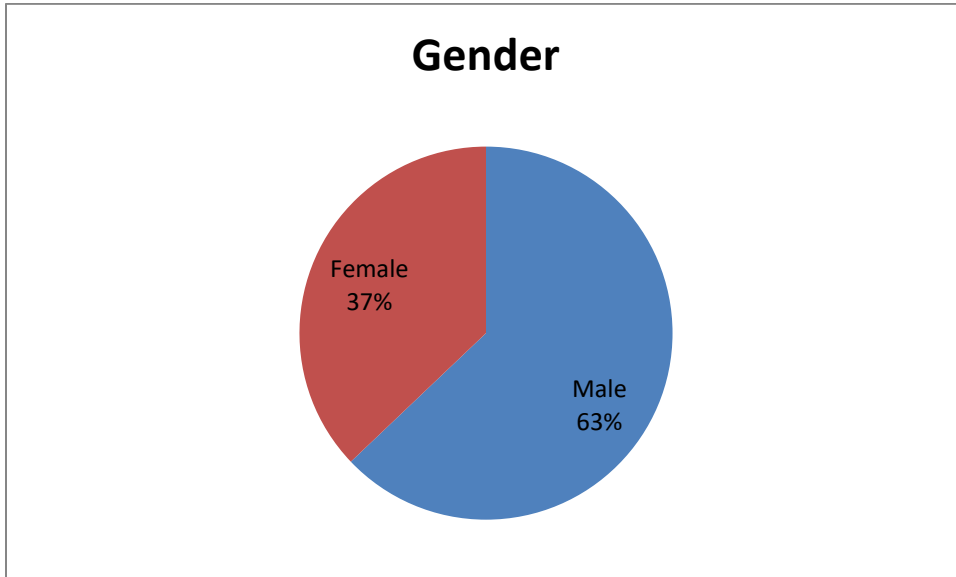


Figure 1: Gender distribution of the respondents

Age distribution of the respondents

Age distribution shows that 54.3% of the respondents aged 41 – 50 years formed majority of the participants. In addition, respondents above fifty (50) years and those below forty (40) years old accounted for 37.1% and 8.6% respectively.

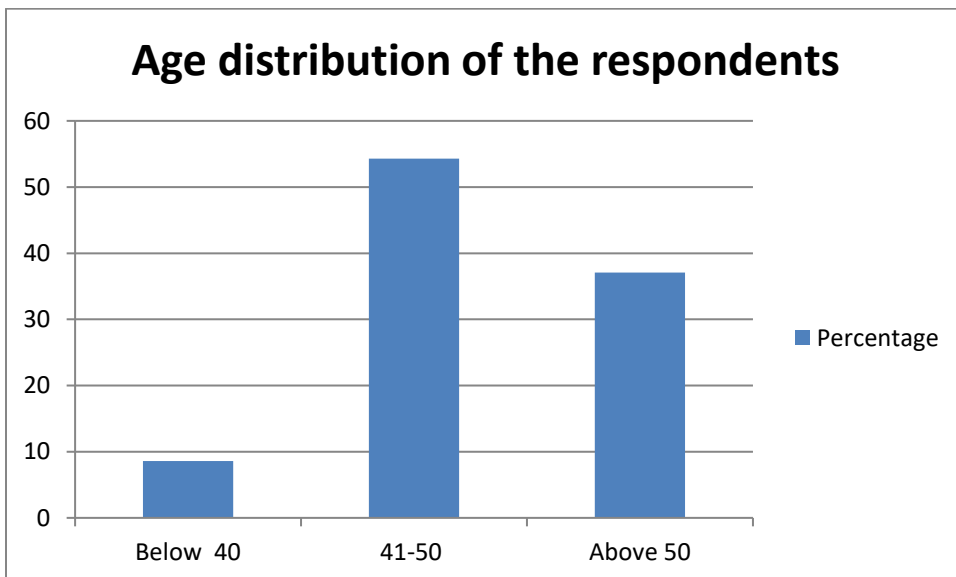


Figure 2: Age distribution of the respondents

Occupation distribution of the respondents

Majority of the respondents indicated that they are researchers (54.3%), this is followed by civil servants (31.4%), farmers (8.6%) and extension agents (5.7%).

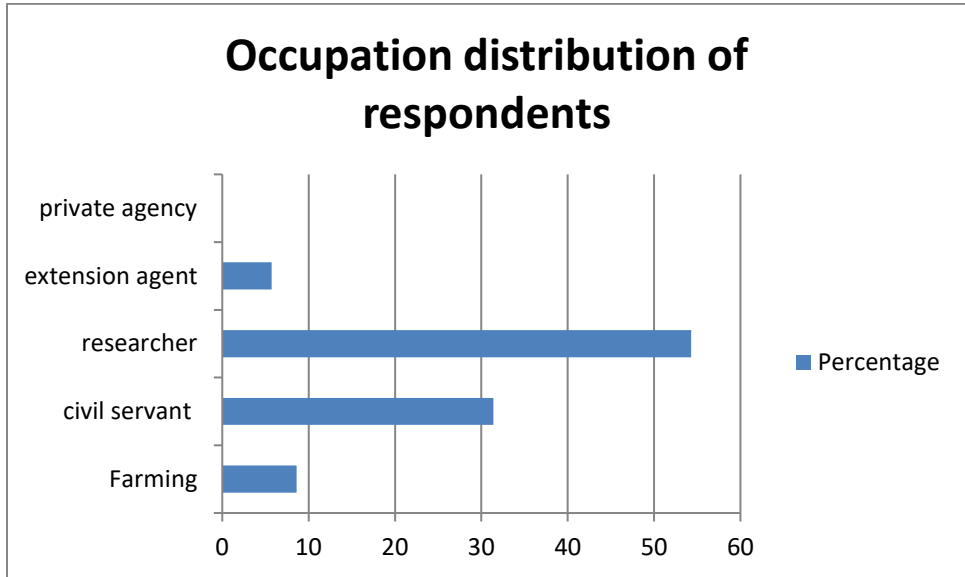


Figure 3: Occupation distribution of the respondent

Heard of climate smart agriculture before now?

Majority of the respondents (85.7%) indicated that they have heard of climate change before now while 14.3% have not heard of it.

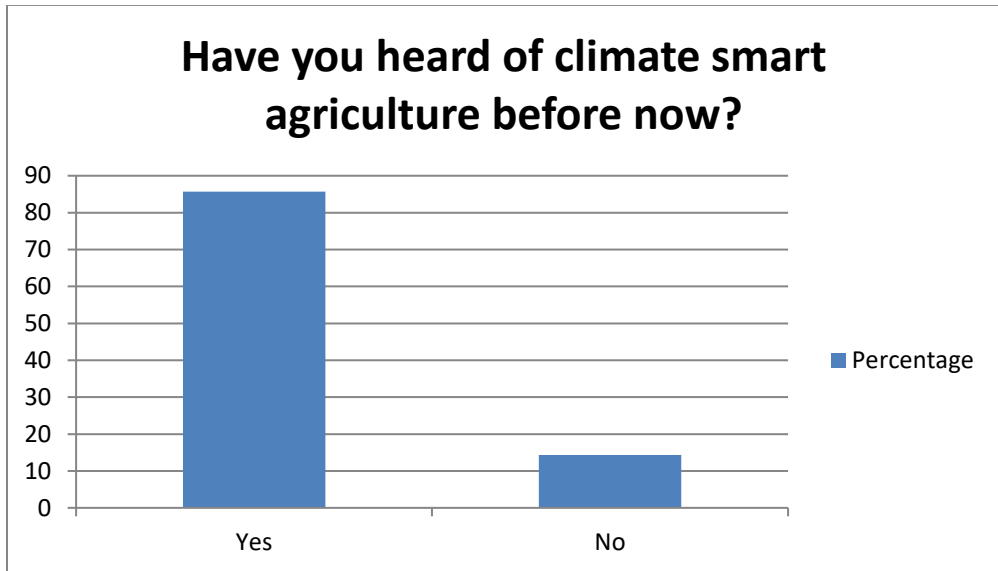


Figure 4: Heard of climate smart agriculture before now?

Respondent's level of knowledge

Regarding the respondent's level of prior knowledge on climate smart practices, majority (50%) indicated that they have average knowledge about climate smart practices before now. The respondents (50%) also had high and low knowledge of climate smart knowledge jointly.

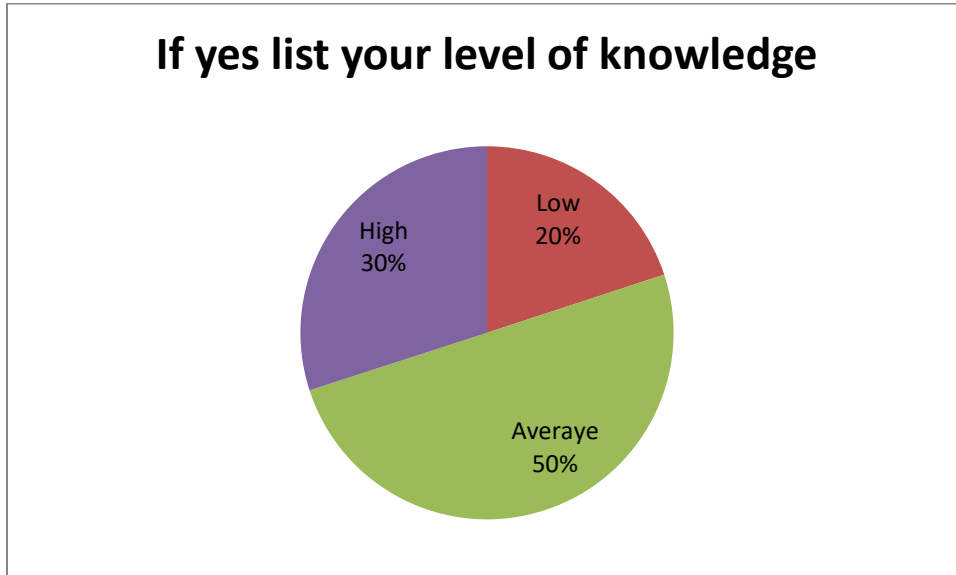


Figure 5: Respondents level of knowledge

Are you aware of any climate smart policy operational in the zone, If yes list them

As regards awareness, 8.6% indicated awareness of climate smart policies operational in the zone while the majority (91.4%) responded negatively.

The following were listed as climate smart policies operational in the south south zone; use of greenhouse technology for growing crops in Akwa Ibom state, and pilot pasture cultivation program at Akwa Ibom State (these are actually CSA practices). They also mentioned use of flood resistant varieties of crops, improved non-rain fed agriculture, promotion of farmer's adoption of climate smart crops (which are still CSA practices), Greenhouse policy and policies on established emission baseline.

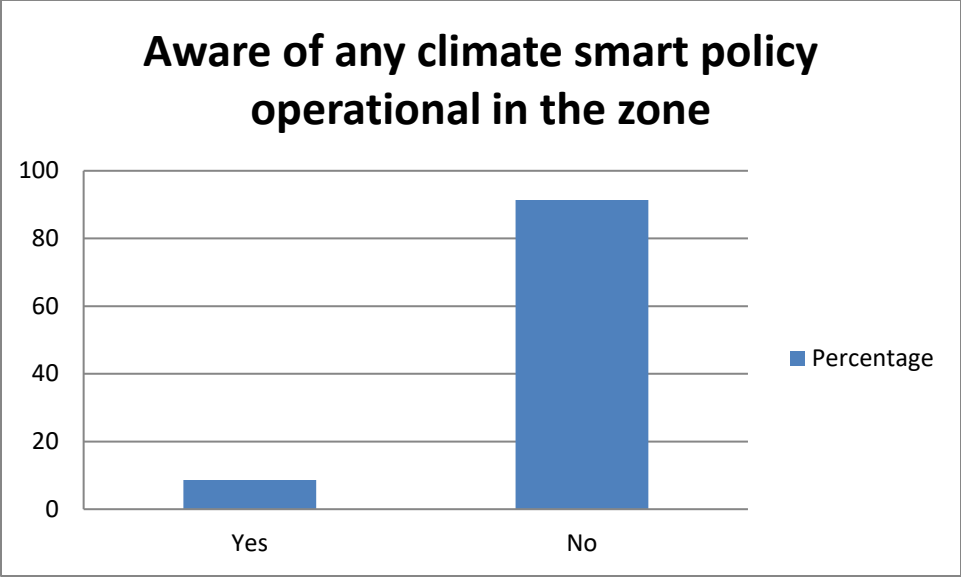


Figure 6: Aware of any climate smart policy operational in the zone

Awareness of any CSATIMPs

Majority of the respondents (71%) indicated that they are aware of Climate Smart Agricultural technologies, Innovations, and management practices.

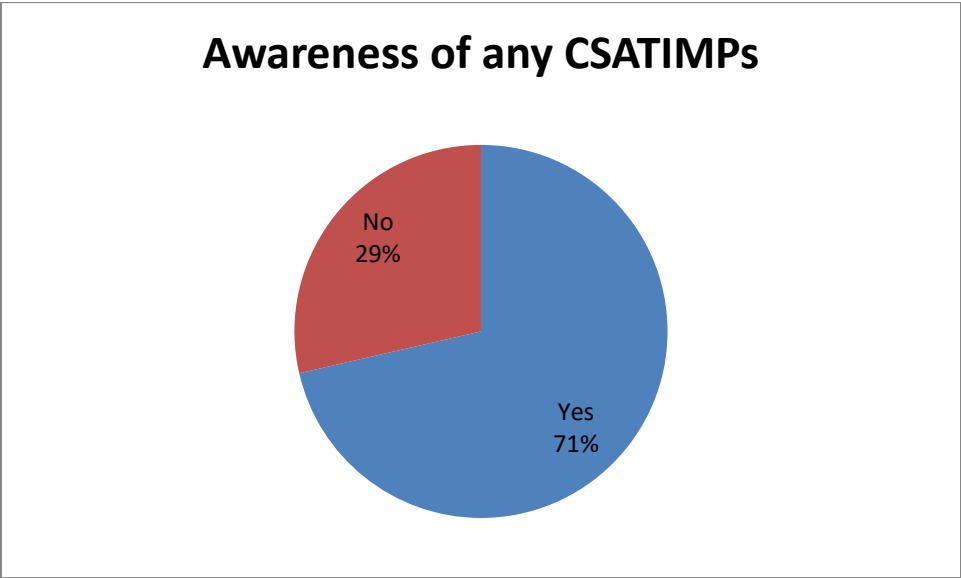


Figure 7: Awareness of any CSATIMPs

Climate smart agricultural technologies, innovations and management practices known by respondents

The respondents indicated that use of improved crop varieties (71.4%), crop management practices (57.1%), mixed farming (54.3%), soil management (51.4%) among others were known to them. The respondents also specified weather forecast innovative technologies as other climate smart agriculture technologies, innovations and management practices they are aware of.

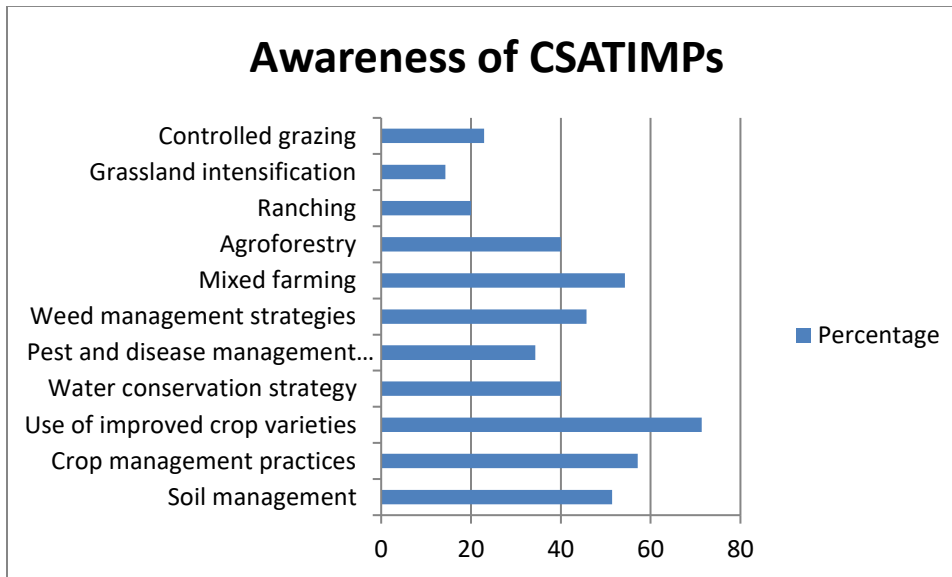


Figure 8: Awareness of CSATIMPs

Prior attendance to CSA training before now

Majority of the respondents (77.1%) indicated that they have not attended any training on CSA before now.

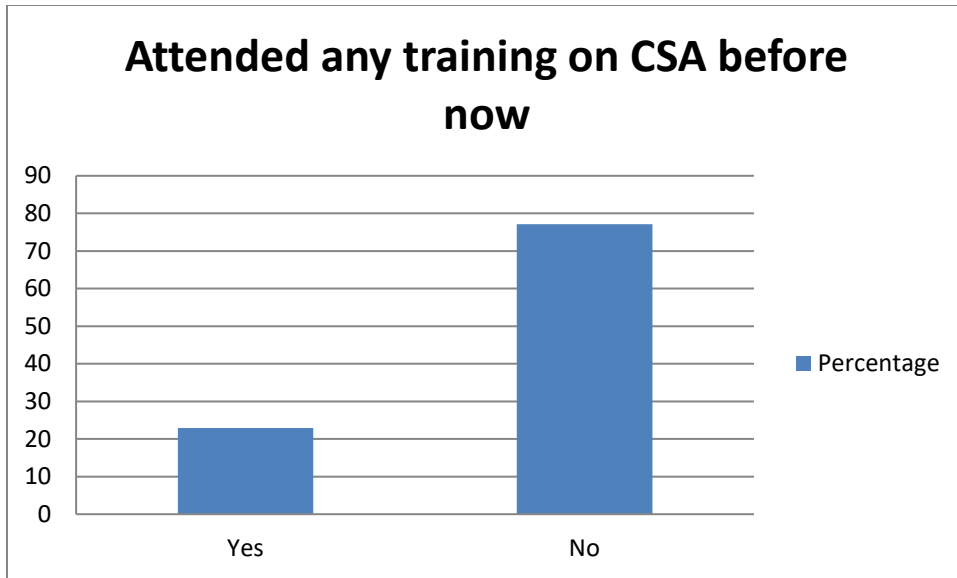


Figure 9: Prior attendance to CSA training before now

What are your expectations from this policy discourse?

Responding to their expectations from the policy discourse, the participants indicated that the discourse should contribute to increasing their limited knowledge on CSA TIMPs, and it should establish actionable roadmap to integrating CSA into policy as indicated by the organisers. The participants also indicated that expect the discourse to be a forum where all key stakeholders will interact and generate new ideas in increasing CSA uptake. Development of policy framework for uptake and mainstreaming of CSA into local, state, zonal, international and regional level was also stated.

They also expect to know more about the activities of NIFAAS and to equip themselves with knowledge of new technology, innovation and management practices on CSA, get robust information on CSA and generate framework for formulation of a good policy that will be based on bottom-top approach. To develop appropriate CSA policy that is easy to implement, quick to adopt and integration of CSA into existing government policies.

POST WORKSHOP EVALUATION

Helpfulness of training in improving knowledge of CSA

All the participants indicated that the training was helpful as shown in fig. 10.

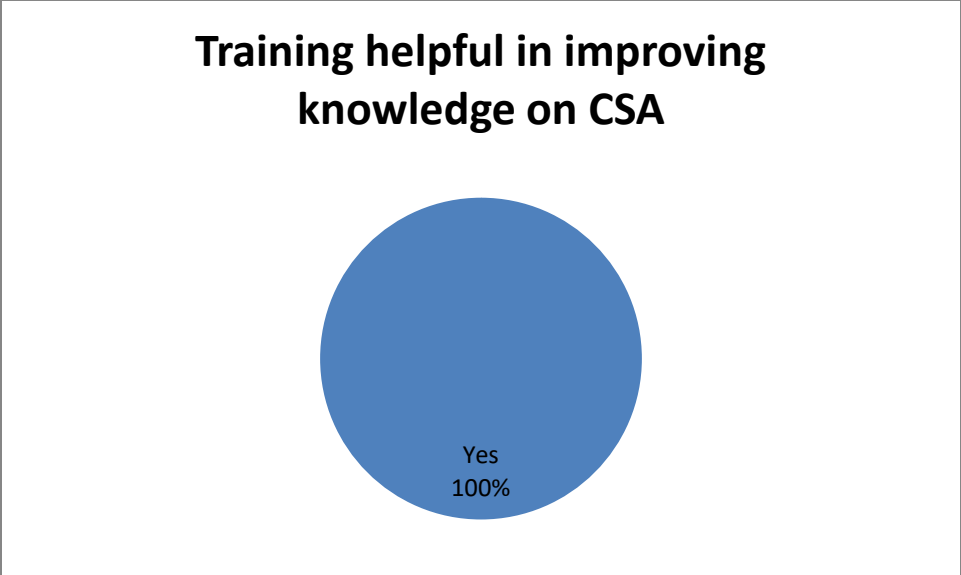


Figure 10: Helpfulness of training in improving knowledge of CS

Level of satisfaction on the training

The participants indicated they were satisfied (51.4%) and highly satisfied (48.6%) with the outcome of the training. In addition, the mean satisfaction score is 2.49.



Figure 11: Level of satisfaction on the training

Thought on CSA been well captured in policies in Nigeria

The respondents (91.4%) indicated their thought that CSA is not captured in Nigerian policies.

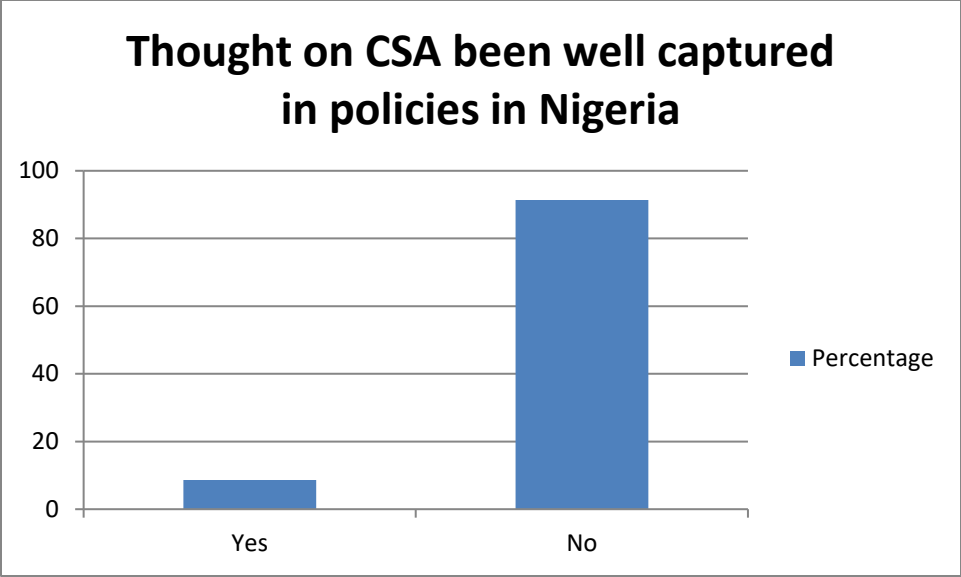


Figure 12: Thought on CSA been well captured in policies in Nigeria

Need for the inclusion of CSA in Nigeria policy

Majority of the respondents (94%) indicated that there is a need for the inclusion of CSA in Nigeria policy.

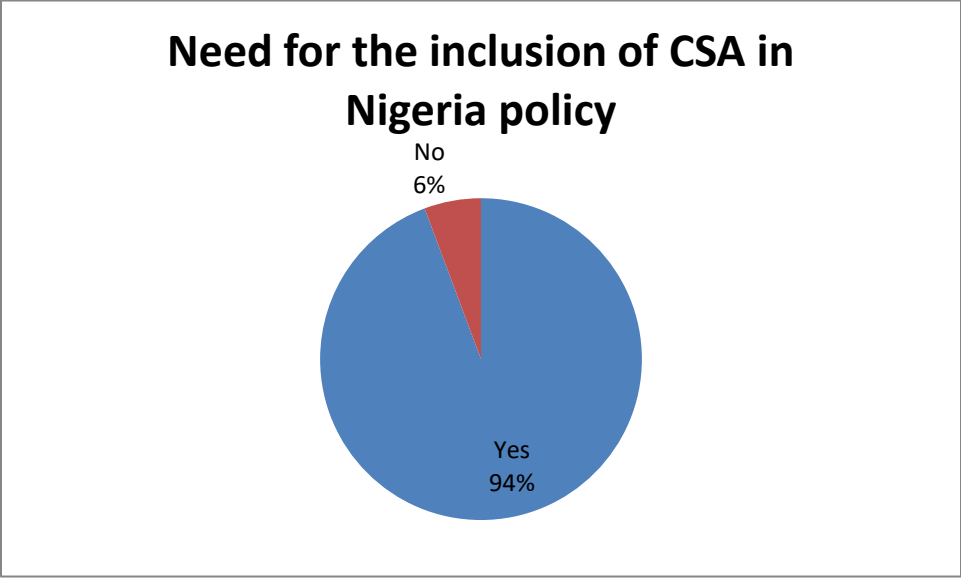


Figure 13: Need for the inclusion of CSA in Nigeria policy

Role to play in integrating CSA TIMPS into policy in the zone

The participants (91.4%) indicated that they are ready to play a role to integrate CSA TIMPs into policy in the south south zone.

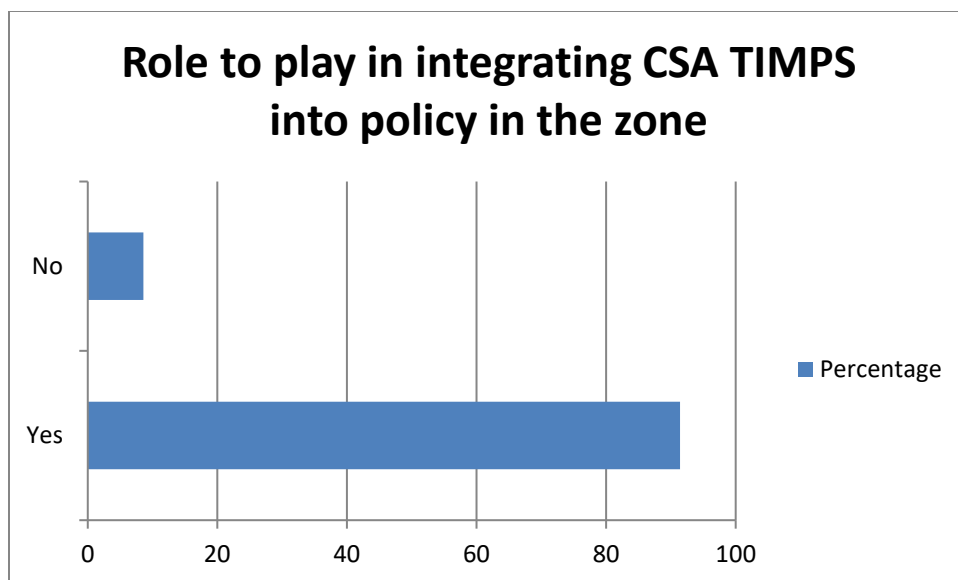


Figure 14: Role to play in integrating CSA TIMPS into policy in the zone

Expected role to play in integrating CSA TIMPS into policy in the zone

The participants indicated they need to do more research in CSA, disseminate CSA information to the end users, produce data to support the adoption and integration of CSA into policy, and develop CSA portfolio that is site- specific to farmers, integrate issues of climate and environmental friendliness into lectures, go into research and extension of knowledge in this area, transmit new development to the end users (farmers) and other stakeholder through integration of CSA TIMPS into policies in educational teaching, do more advocacy, contribute to capacity building in CSA, interface with stakeholders in agriculture sector, share knowledge, in advocacy and policy formulation through state assembly in law making, awareness campaign of CSA, encourage CSA in my organization as an informed linkage between my institution and our clients, help in grass root mobilization of farmers to enhance CSA TIMPS knowledge in the south south region of Nigeria, always present our findings to my state government through my ministry.

Other roles identified by participants include; sensitization of the farmers on CSA, providing extension service to rural farmers based on CSA, awareness creation among farmers and introduction of CSA TIMPs into higher institutions curriculum and advocacy through radio talks will help to educate our people on CSA.

Do you have any challenges in playing the role?

The participants (77.0 %) affirmed that they face challenges in playing their role in integrating CSA TIMPs into policy.

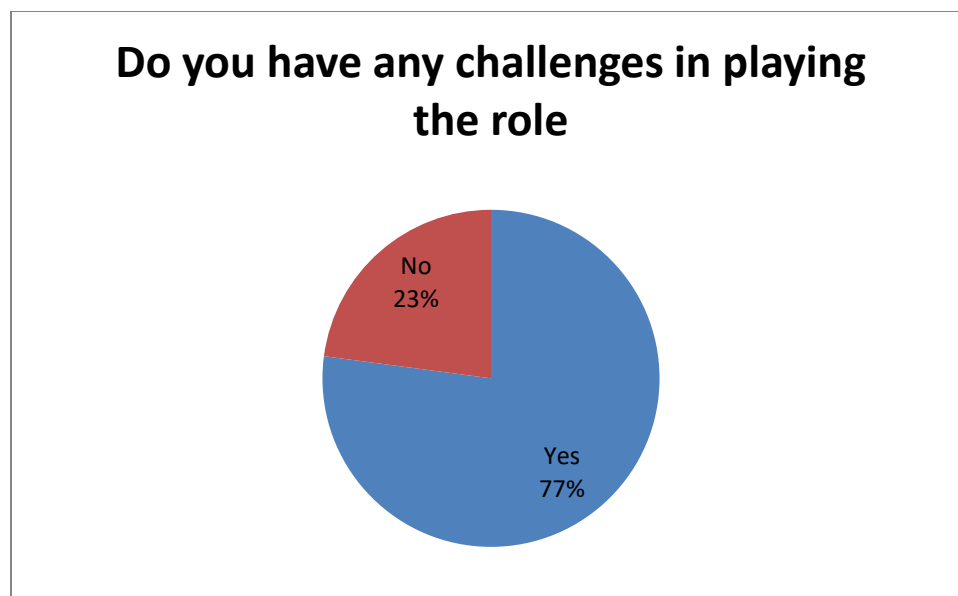


Figure 15: percentage of challenges in playing role

Challenges encounter in playing the role to integrate CSA TIMPs into policy

The participants indicated that they encounter and envisage the following challenges; Lack of fund to implement planned activities in CSA TIMPs, difficulty in getting both the policy makers and implementers to key in, lack of synergy among key stakeholders.

Also listed were limited availability of infrastructure and utilities, finding support to implement identified project, logistics to interface technologies, location specific information, political will by the government or policy makers, and poor funding by the government. Funding the campaign and developing the campaign strategies have always been a problem. Lack of sufficient knowledge and skill on CSA was also identified by the participants to be a major challenge.

Awareness and willingness of stake holder involvement in CSA were also mentioned.

Willing to participate in future training on CSA

All the respondents indicated that they are willing to participate in future CSA training.



Figure 16: Willingness to participate in future training on CSA

Conclusion

The policy discourse was a success. It was aired on Nigeria Television authority (NTA) on Saturday 13th Feb 2021 during the 9.30am news. Infographics, documentary and other means will be used in disseminating the programme outcomes. The financial report is as follows.