

FP304: Enhancing Sustainable Land Management and Climate-Resilient Agri-food Systems in Cote d'Ivoire (LARACI)

Access the document: <https://www.greenclimate.fund/board-document/gcf-b45-02-add05>

We welcome this proposal aimed at strengthening climate resilience for smallholder farmers in Côte d'Ivoire, built around core crops that are central to the food security and livelihoods of the communities it seeks to serve.

First, we note the proposal's rightful acknowledgment that women face significant barriers to land access despite having formal legal rights under Côte d'Ivoire's national framework. The project design responds through cooperative aggregation, alternative collateral mechanisms, and engagement of traditional leaders. We would, however, encourage the reflection on whether these workarounds are sufficient on their own, or whether the project could do more to actively support women in claiming the rights they already legally hold.

Second, the project combines climate-smart agriculture with a focus on agroecology in its goal statement. We encourage this integration, as agroecology principles including reducing external input dependency, building soil biodiversity, and nutrient recycling support long-term soil health and reduce smallholders' exposure to volatile input markets. However, CSA and agroecology rest on different foundations, and this reference appears only in the goal statement without further elaboration. We strongly encourage the use of agroecology principles and practices throughout the implementation phase and we also seek clarity on how the two approaches were sought to be combined in practice.

Third, we are concerned that the promotion of improved crops' varieties at scale carries a well-documented risk of genetic erosion, as economic incentives attached to promoted varieties can displace locally adapted ones that farmers have selected over generations for resilience and sustainability purposes. We would welcome clarity on what measures will ensure agrobiodiversity is actively maintained. We would also like to ask whether GMO seeds have been excluded from the potential improved crops' varieties, which carry for well-known and documented health, environmental and economic negative impacts.

We are equally concerned that the push to commercialize cassava, yam, and rice - crops that serve as the primary food security buffer for poor rural households - could redirect production toward markets at the expense of household food consumption. We would welcome clarity



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on how household food security will be tracked and safeguarded alongside the commercial outcomes.