



Summary of Day 6: Role of women in climate change adaptation and mitigation

Community of Practice: Advancing women in forestry in the context of climate change





Introduction

- 46 participants joined for Day 6.
- Participants were from countries across the Africa sub-region including Algeria, Benin, Botswana, Cameroun, Democratic Republic of Congo, Ethiopia, Ghana, Liberia, Madagasca, Nigeria, Sudan, Zambia, Uganda, Kenya, Zimbabwe, Sierra Leone, Tanzania, South Africa, Mali, Togo, La Cote d'Ivoire,.
- The Resource person was Dr. Faith Muniale. Programme Manager at Tropical Biology Association(Kenya).





Presentation by Faith

The presentation focused on:

- Overview of TBA
- Strategies for addressing climate change: adaptation and mitigation
- Role of men, women and youth in climate change adaptation
- Role of women in food security





Practical ways of mitigating climate change

Various strategies for climate change adaptation and mitigation from individual to global levels were discussed. These included:

- Conservation of electricity
- Use of green energy (LPG, solar energy)
- Switching to electric vehicles where possible
- Reduction in air-travels as much as possible
- Increase consumption of plant diets to reduce emissions from livestock production.





Discussion session: What more can be done?

1. Gender response to CC impacts is inevitable because the contribution of all social groups are needed to achieve the goals of Climate change.
2. Include women voices in decision making processes
3. Enhance women collective efforts – networks
4. Prepare women by empowering them and making them autonomous
5. Advocate, educate, promote, Act. Be a role model
6. Timing is critical in climate action-We need to get every one on board now.





Conclusion / Way forward

- It is important to identify gender-sensitive strategies to respond to the environmental and humanitarian crises caused by climate change.
- Adaptation initiatives should identify and address gender-specific impacts of climate change particularly in areas related to water, food security, agriculture, energy, health, disaster management, and conflict.
- Those who are most affected by climate change today– women, girls and marginalized communities– must be involved in the design and implementation of climate response actions.
- Women's and girl's full and equal participation in decision-making processes is a top priority in the fight against climate change.





Discussion: What can you do at your individual level to mitigate climate change?

Participants shared their experiences to include:

1. Planting more trees around household and gardens
2. Bush fire prevention
3. Practice of agro-forestry systems
4. Creating awareness among farmers including women and youth
5. Increase of use of electricity and gas rather than firewood or charcoal
6. Conserve the soil and reduce pressure on the forest
7. Limit the use of polluting equipment's
8. Encourage the use of green energy like solar
9. Recycling domestic waste for compost
10. Use of plastics for container farming
11. Sharing best practices with regards to compost, water harvesting and general management issues
12. Government to promote and support women led climate change activists
13. Empower women with knowledge in climate change through sponsorship courses





What adaptation to CC have you observed in your community?

- Development of organic gardens
- Practicing bees keeping in natural forest to prevent tree cutting
- Organization of local events in relation climate change
- Increased tree planting





What are some of the tools we can give women to enhance their participation in climate change mitigation

- Building their intellectual capacity through skill-based training
- Documentation of success stories from other women in climate change
- Improving indigenous approaches to climate change adaptation and mitigation
- Create awareness on the need of backyard garden to help check soil erosion
- Access to resources like land, water
- Provision of alternate livelihoods in forestry sector like ecotourism and NTFP's





Thank you

