



Adaptation Research Alliance

# **Desk-based Review on Smallholder Agriculture Co-creation Programme Scoping**

## Duration

13 March - 1 May

## Title

Desk-based Review on Smallholder Agriculture Co-creation Programme Scoping

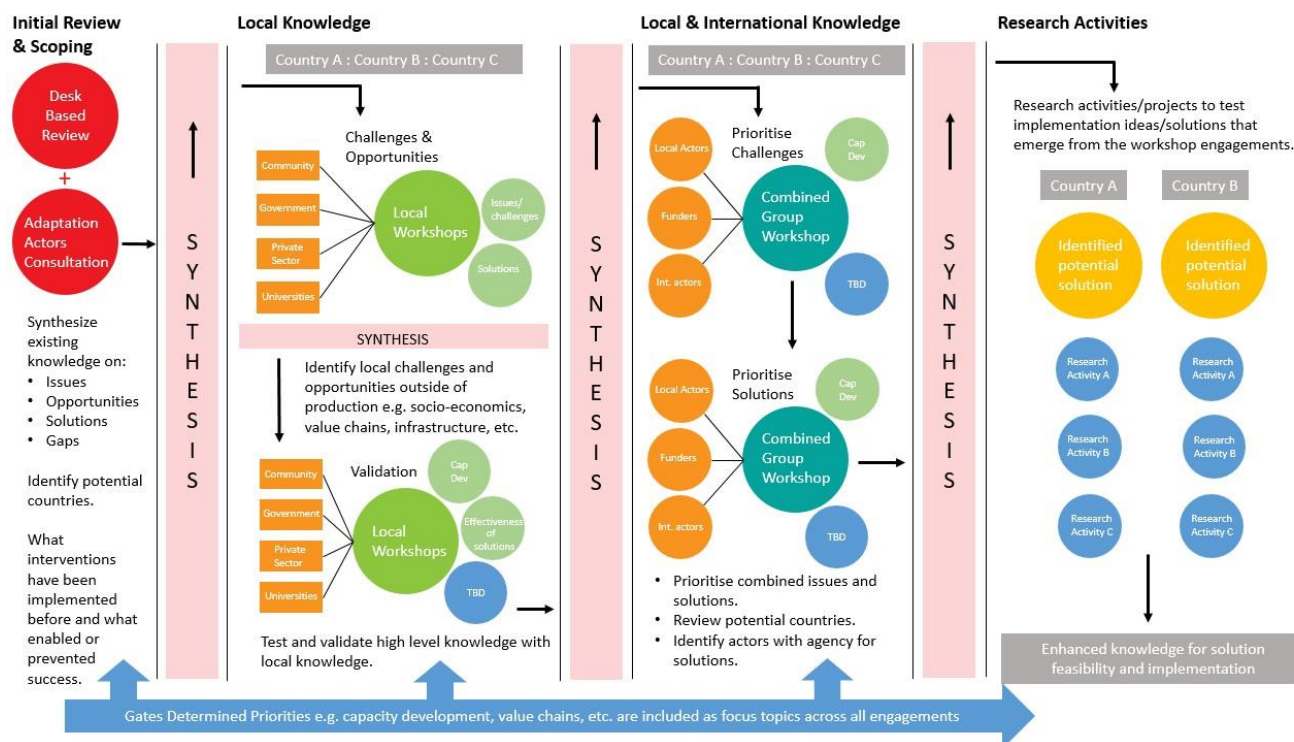
## Background to activities

The ARA (Adaptation Research Alliance) is a global collaborative effort with over 160 members that seeks to catalyse increased investment and capacity for action-oriented research that supports effective adaptation to climate change – primarily in developing countries – at the scale and urgency demanded by the science. The ARA focuses on ensuring that increased ambition can be delivered through evidence-based action and recognising that practical action is required to minimize and avert loss and damage. We need a step-change on adaptation, collaborating with governments, business, and Civil Society Organisations (CSOs), to prepare for climate risks, mobilise further action, and increase adaptation financing.

The ARA operates within three strategic functions (Advocacy, Research Planning and Cooperation and Resource Mobilisation and Delivery) and four core values, which are operationalised through activities which enable its [Theory of Change](#).

**One of these activities includes support for a scoping a co-creation process for an action-oriented research programme on smallholder agriculture with the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation.** The aim of the co-creation process with the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation (BMGF) will be to ensure that local knowledge and voices inform the strategic, scientific and action direction of philanthropic investments, thus enabling greater potential impact and sustainability for local partners.

For this Co-creation Space on Smallholder Agriculture, the ARA proposes a series of multi-stakeholder workshops which include a diversity of climate and agriculture stakeholders across government, civil society, research, academia, the private sector, and international organisations. It is important to accommodate the integration of input from one workshop phase to another, allowing discussions and decisions to evolve over time. The process starts with high level knowledge generation that draws on outcomes and learning from past projects/programmes and relevant international adaptation actors. In parallel, local knowledge is generated with actors within strategically selected countries and thematic foci. The outcomes of these processes are synthesised to provide the basis for identifying challenges and solutions that can be prioritised per country.



## Objective

The ARA is looking for an organisation to carry out a Desk Based Review (DBR) on smallholder agriculture adaptation issues and opportunities to inform the thematic and geographical scope for the co-creation process. The DBR should help to identify potential research priorities within countries/ regions to ensure that proposed/identified activities can bring together relevant actors to achieve shared goals.

To provide some initial ideas, the following challenges have been identified that a future action research program could respond to through locally-led solutions, although different or additional themes are likely to emerge through the DBR. These themes would need to be targeted more specifically on local, country, or regional priorities, but include:

- Combining or bundling adaptation strategies/solutions effectively so they have a synergistic effect on reducing risk, reduce barriers to adoption, boost resilience, and have a greater likelihood of achieving scale and sustainability.
- Integrating different types of adaptation evidence and analysis, including economic, social/cultural, and biophysical, to inform decision-making and accelerate adaptation action where multiple stakeholders and disciplines are involved.

- Supporting steps toward transformation to more climate-resilient livelihoods – moving beyond incremental adaptation of current agricultural systems if they are not meeting people’s needs.

The review will serve as the starting point for a series of consultations with national and international actors and will also help to narrow the geographic and thematic scope of the co-creation process. The consultations will expand on the issues, solutions, and opportunities identified in the DBR, identifying what enabled or prevented successful implementation in past projects/ programmes, from expert experience.

## Activities

The Desk Based Review (DBR) is expected to draw learning and information from the wider adaptation community on smallholder agriculture issues, particularly learning, recommendations and opportunities from past and current programmes, as well as from wider scientific literature. The geographic scope of the review shall include a high level regional focus (East, West and Southern Africa) as well as the following countries: Burkina Faso, Ghana, Ethiopia, Kenya, Malawi, Mali, Mozambique, Nigeria, Rwanda, Tanzania, Uganda. The review will:

- Develop a stakeholder mapping including institutional capacity and focus areas of research for East, West and Southern Africa as well as each aforementioned country in smallholder agriculture adaptation action-oriented research. This may include:
  - University programs
  - National research systems
  - Farmer organisations and cooperatives
  - Certain NGOs
  - In-country partners of donor projects like CLARE and WISER, and CGIAR projects like AICCRA, among others.
- Develop a summary of past needs, prioritization exercises, policy and action in each country (e.g., the African Academy of Sciences’ Food Security and Nutrition Research Priorities in Africa, AICCRA activities, National Adaptation/sector Plans, etc.).
- Develop criteria for identifying opportune countries to help refine the geographic scope (e.g., demand).

The supplier will also work closely with the ARA Secretariat to identify potential scope and research questions that could inform a new adaptation programme on

smallholder agriculture. Written reports presenting the outcomes and knowledge generated from the DBR will be submitted and presented to the ARA Secretariat and BMGF representative.

## Deliverables and outputs

- Framework for assessing and prioritising potential topics and focus of activities (for instance sustainability, etc) and for narrowing the geographic spread of options.
- Report detailing the outputs of the desk-based review of current needs and opportunities for smallholder agriculture in Africa (due 1 May 2023)
- Presentation and discussion of findings with ARA Secretariat and BMGF (due 1 May 2023)

The ARA Secretariat in conjunction with the ARA members, will support the supplier to identify potential stakeholders for the workshops, and will manage communications that promote participation at the events.

## Reporting Requirements

Short, weekly meetings will be held with ARA Secretariat team member, Julio Araujo, to update on progress and challenges. This will include the kick-off meeting in early February with BMGF. Communication will also take place on an ad hoc basis via email and MS Teams.

## Timeline

Week commencing	February					March		
	13 Mar	20 Mar	27 Mar	3 Apr	10 Apr	17 Apr	24 Apr	1 May
Kick-off meeting								
Draft stakeholder mapping								
Draft research insights								
Draft research programmes & examples								
Final draft report								
Feedback and revision								
Final report								
Presentation of report								

## Budget, Personnel and Payment Schedule

The total budget from the ARA for personnel and overhead costs is **30,000.00 GBP**, which will be paid on completion of the report. Payment will be paid for completed output and not for total days.

## Application and eligibility requirements

The Supplier(s) should submit a proposal of how they plan to identify transdisciplinary issues and solutions that can be addressed by the potential smallholder agriculture programme.

All work will be remote and online.

Suppliers based in the global south will be strongly favoured.

The application should provide:

- A methodology for approaching this piece of work including an initial, illustrative stakeholder list for one focus country,
- CVs of the executing personnel

- A budget including an overview of financial resource use

These should all be provided in one PDF file. The application should demonstrate an awareness of the transdisciplinary nature of smallholder agriculture and climate change adaptation. The proposal is to be limited to 5 sides of A4 (i.e. 5 pages), any additional content provided beyond this will not be considered.

Please submit your application to [secretariat@adaptationresearchalliance.org](mailto:secretariat@adaptationresearchalliance.org) no later than **6 March 2023**.