![CGIAR logo]

CGIAR

Farmer showcasing diverse seed varieties adopted in Hoima, north-western Uganda, each with different properties: drought resistance, disease tolerance, and high iron. The seeds were promoted with support from Uganda's National Crops Resources Research Institute (NaCRRI) and the Climate Change and Food Security program CCAFS.
Credit: ©2016CIAT/GeorginaSmith

CGIAR project on
Adaptation Insights

Annual Technical Report 2024

Disclaimers

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The Artificial Intelligence (AI) software ChatGPT was used to support the editing of parts of this report, specifically to improve clarity, grammar, and style. ChatGPT was not used to generate the content of the report. All edits made with AI assistance were reviewed and validated by the authors to ensure accuracy, coherence, and alignment with the original intent.

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CGIAR Technical Reporting 2024

CGIAR Technical Reporting has been developed in alignment with CGIAR's Technical Reporting Arrangement. This annual report ("Type 1" Report) constitutes part of the broader CGIAR Technical Report. Each CGIAR Research Initiative/Impact Platform/Science Group Project (SGP) submits an annual "Type 1" Report, which provides assurance on progress towards end of Initiative/Impact Platform/SGP outcomes.

As 2024 marks the final year of this CGIAR Portfolio and the 2022-24 business cycle, this Type 1 Report takes a dual approach to its analysis and reporting. Alongside highlighting key achievements for 2024, the report also provides a cumulative overview of the 2022-24 business cycle, where relevant. This perspective captures the evolution of efforts over the three-year period. By presenting both annual and multi-year insights, the report underscores the cumulative impact of CGIAR's work and sets the stage for the transition to the 2025-30 Portfolio.

The 2024 CGIAR Technical Report comprises:

- **Type 1 Initiative, Impact Platform, and SGP Reports:** These annual reports present progress towards end of Initiative/Impact Platform/SGP outcomes and provide quality-assured results accessible via the CGIAR Results Dashboard.
- **Type 3 CGIAR Portfolio Practice Change Report:** This report provides insights into CGIAR's progress in Performance Management and Project Coordination.
- **Portfolio Narrative:** Drawing on the Type 1 and Type 3 reports, as well as data from the CGIAR Results Dashboard, the Portfolio Narrative synthesizes insights to provide an overall view of Portfolio coherence. It highlights synergies, partnerships, country and regional engagement, and collective progress.
- **Type 2 CGIAR Contributions to Impact in Agrifood Systems: evidence and learnings from 2022 to 2024:** This report offers a high-level summary of CGIAR's contributions to its impact targets and Science Group outcomes, aligned with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), for the three-year business cycle.

The Portfolio Narrative informs the 2024 CGIAR Annual Report – a comprehensive summary of the organization's collective achievements, impacts, and strategic outlook.

Elements of the Type 2 report are integrated into the CGIAR Flagship Report, released in April 2025 at CGIAR Science Week. The Flagship Report synthesizes CGIAR research in an accessible format designed specifically to provide policy- and decision-makers at national, regional, and global levels with the evidence they require to formulate, develop, and negotiate evidence-based policies and investments.

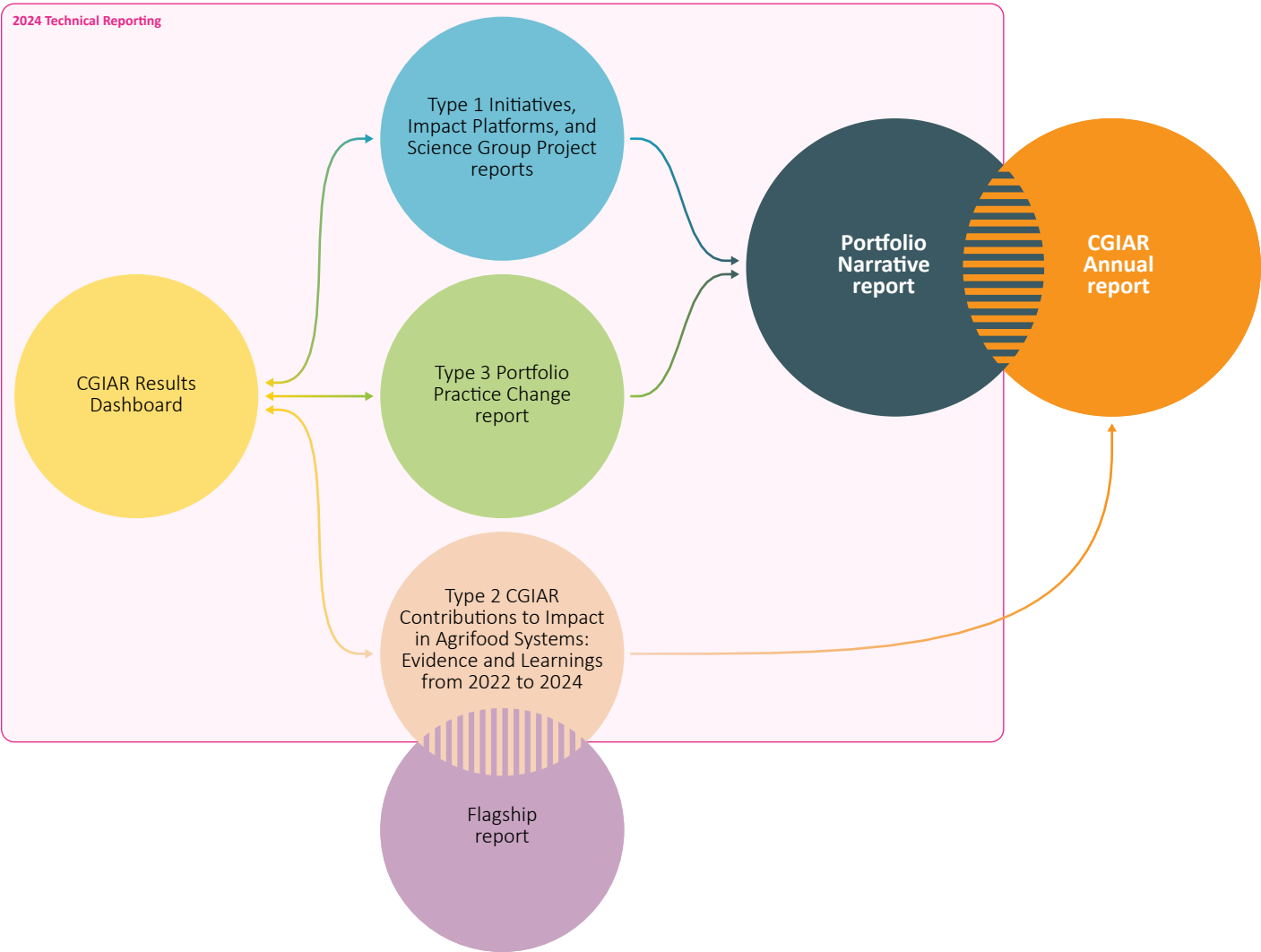The diagram below illustrates these relationships.

Figure 1. CGIAR's 2024 Technical Reporting components and their integration with other CGIAR reporting products.

Section 1: **Fact sheet, executive summary and budget**

Science Group Project name	Adaptation Insights: Accelerating CGIAR-empowered Climate Adaptation
SGP name	Adaption Insights
Science Group Project Lead	Todd Rosenstock- t.rosenstock@cgiar.org
Science Group Project Co-lead	Lucy Njuguna- l.njuguna@cgiar.org
Science Group	Systems Transformation
Start – end date	03 April 2024 – 31 December 2026
Geographic scope	**Regions:** Africa
Approved budget	**2024:** $3.40M
Website link	https://alliancebioversityciat.org/projects/adaptation-insights

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Adaptation Insights Science Group Project (SGP) is designed to advance access to and use of data and methods for adaptation measurement. Although 2024 was mostly the inception phase of the Project, notable progress was made. We built the foundation, shaped a clear strategy, and began delivering value to partners across CGIAR, policy arenas, and the scientific community. The Project is well-positioned to be a key contributor to adaptation evidence and tracking, both in practice and in shaping methods in a variety of fora. We clarified our niche through a diagnostic of CGIAR's reporting architecture, started a gender equality and social inclusion (GESI) analysis, and a review of data gaps – these informed partnerships with internal CGIAR and external partners.

The more than a dozen engagements at the global and national levels placed Adaptation Insights at the heart of climate discussions. For example, our team contributed directly to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) process on the Global Goal on Adaptation (GGA) indicators. We co-authored Chapter 3 of the 2024 United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) Adaptation Gap Report, providing global evidence of implemented adaptation and led high-level dialogues at the Conference of the Parties (COP)29. Our tools and insights shaped Africa and the Least Developed Countries (LDC) Groups' submissions to the UNFCCC and informed workplans for the revision of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) technical guidelines for assessing climate impacts and adaptation.

Additionally, we supported African climate negotiators and national actors like Kenya to build capacity to engage in policy dialogues on the GGA and deliver high-quality adaptation reports such as the first Biennial Transparency Report. Through discussions and engagements with various stakeholders, we better understood the bottlenecks and needs of partners, such as tracking frameworks for large-scale investments and adaptation across a portfolio of projects. These and many other engagements helped refine Adaptation Insights' theory of action . We have also responded to requests by the International Development Research Centre (IDRC), World Bank, and the Global Centre on Adaptation (GCA) to enhance their tracking efforts.

The Project team – spanning the Alliance of Bioversity International and CIAT, ILRI, and IWMI – has become more cohesive. With new staff onboarded and a data synthesis team in place, technical capacity has grown. Despite delays and a canceled Science Week launch, we adapted fast. A lean in-person launch in Nairobi brought together key actors. Broader engagement is ongoing, with strategic conversations expanding our reach and refining our focus.

Adaptation Insights is becoming more than a Project. It is a platform for shaping how adaptation is measured, understood, and scaled. With solid groundwork and growing momentum, 2025 will focus on deepening partnerships, delivering core products, and ensuring CGIAR science supports adaptation where it is needed most.

Since the SGP is still in its early stages of implementation, no major adjustments to our initial plans have been necessary so far. However, we are currently assessing the capacities of our implementing partners to identify any gaps that may require additional human resources or technical expertise. This review will help ensure that the program is well-supported and effectively executed.

One critical point is that the SGP is also mapped to the emerging Climate Action Program in CGIAR's Portfolio 2025, positioning it as a key contributor of data, methods, and tools on adaptation effectiveness across CGIAR's Portfolio. This alignment enhances the Program's potential to inform delivery, reporting, and learning within the Climate Action Program and across other initiatives engaged in climate adaptation.

Integrating citizen science and farmer experiences to enhance the understanding of adaptation outcomes.
Credit: ©2016CIAT/GeorginaSmith

Section 2: **Progress towards End of Initiative outcomes**

Science Group Project-level theory of change diagram

This is a simple, linear, and static representation of a complex, non-linear, and dynamic reality. Feedback loops and connections between this project and other projects and/or initiatives' theories of change are excluded for clarity.

SPHERE OF **CONTROL**

Work Packages

Work Package 1

Defining Our Points of Leverage.

Work Package 2

Tracking Adaptation Implementation and Effectiveness to Improve Access to Climate Data.

Work Package 3

Surfacing Methods to Enable Robust Future Adaptation Tracking.

Work Package 4

Influencing CGIAR's Adaptation Tracking to Catalyze Investments.

SPHERE O

End of Project Outcomes

End of Project Outcome 1

1 ▶
2 ▶ Use of climate data.

End of Project Outcome 2

1 ▶
2 ▶ Enhanced capacities to track adaptation.
3 ▶

End of Project Outcome 3

3 ▶
4 ▶ CGIAR use Adaptation Insights' innovations and recommendations.
2 ▶

ACTION AREA OUTCOMES

IMPACT AREAS

SYSTEMS TRANSFORMATION

1 ▶
2 ▶ **1** · Research institutions, government analytical units, and scaling partners in the Global South have improved knowledge, skills, access to data, capacity to develop tools, innovations, and undertake research to support transformation of food, land and water systems contributing to livelihood, inclusion, nutrition, environmental and climate objectives.

1 ▶
2 ▶ **2** · National and sub-national government agencies use CGIAR research results to design or implement strategies, policies and programs which have the potential to transform food, land and water systems contributing to livelihood, inclusion, nutrition, environmental and climate resilience objectives.

1 ▶
2 ▶ **3** · Global and regional institutions, such as funding agencies, international organizations, and coordinating bodies use CGIAR research evidence in the development of strategies, policies, and investments to drive sustainable transformation of food, land, and water systems contributing to livelihood, inclusion, nutrition, environmental and climate resilience objectives.

GENETIC INNOVATION

1 ▶
2 ▶ **4** · Research institutions, government analytical units, and scaling partners in the Global South have improved knowledge, skills, access to data, capacity to develop tools, innovations, and undertake research to support transformation of food, land and water systems contributing to livelihood, inclusion, nutrition, environmental and climate objectives.

CLIMATE ADAPTATION & MITIGATION

1 ▶
2 ▶
3 ▶
4 ▶ · Equip 500 million small-scale producers to be more resilient to climate shocks, with climate adaptation solutions available through national innovation systems.

· Implement all National adaptation Plans (NAP) and Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC) to the Paris Agreement.

Adopting improved livestock fodder to enhance livestock production and adaptability to climate shocks.
Credit: ©2019 CIAT/Georgina Smith

The use of drones for monitoring rice crops at CIAT's headquarters in Colombia. The Adaptation Insights project aims to leverage such innovative data sources to assess the effectiveness of adaptation practices in responding to climate shocks.
Credit: ©2016CIAT/NeilPalmer

Summary of progress against the theory of change

As the impacts of climate change intensify, adaptation has become a critical focus for policymakers, development organizations, and the private sector. However, despite increasing investments in adaptation efforts, there remains a significant gap in understanding what works, where, how, and for whom. This challenge is particularly pronounced in African agricultural systems, where climate adaptation is essential for ensuring food security and rural livelihoods. The lack of systematic tracking and evaluation of adaptation actions limits the ability of stakeholders to assess progress, learn from past experiences, and scale up effective solutions.

Several structural factors contribute to this gap. Adaptation is highly context-specific, meaning that strategies that work in one location or community may not be effective in another. Additionally, existing knowledge is fragmented, with limited coordination between research institutions, government agencies, and practitioners. Compounding this issue is the absence of standardized methods for tracking adaptation efforts, which makes it difficult to compare results across different regions and projects. Without a strong evidence base, adaptation initiatives risk being misdirected or ineffective, ultimately reducing their impact.

The Adaptation Insights Project is designed to address these challenges by providing a structured approach to collating data on implemented adaptation actions and assessing their effectiveness. By synthesizing evidence, making it accessible and usable, and developing standardized tracking methodologies, the Project aims to improve decision-making, enhance collaboration, and ultimately contribute to more resilient agricultural systems across Africa. Besides enhancing tracking capacities of diverse actors such as

governments, small- and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), and non-governmental organizations (NGOs), the Project is uniquely and deliberately designed to also improve adaptation tracking capacities within CGIAR.

In 2024, the Project focused on its inception phase – laying the strategic and operational foundation. Several assessments were conducted to identify key entry points and inform implementation. This included an audit of CGIAR's adaptation tracking systems, a GESI scoping exercise, and a comprehensive review of existing tools and frameworks. These diagnostics identified major gaps – especially around clarity of methodologies, sustainability of tools, and accessibility. Together, they helped sharpen the Project's niche and guided the design of core products.
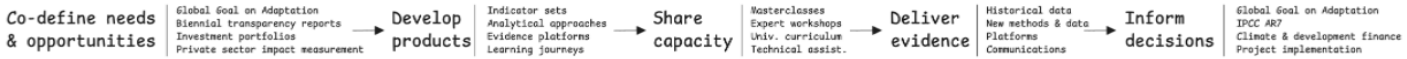
As of the end of 2024, the Adaptation Insights Project has submitted a total of five results, including two knowledge products and three other outputs. The focus has primarily been on producing foundational content that informs CGIAR's role in adaptation tracking. All five results are aligned with the Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation Impact Area as a principal contribution, reflecting the Project's core mandate. Additionally, several results have contributed significantly or principally to Gender Equality, Youth and Social Inclusion (three results), while all five results also tag other Impact Areas – Nutrition, Health and Food Security; Poverty Reduction, Livelihoods and Jobs; and Environmental Health and Biodiversity – as relevant but not targeted. No results have yet been classified under capacity sharing, innovation development, or outcome-level contributions. These reflect the early-phase nature of the Project, with an emphasis on laying the technical and strategic

groundwork, and limited engagement in delivery or policy change to date. As implementation advances, especially under Work Packages (WPs) 2-4, future reporting is expected to include more direct capacity sharing, policy engagement, and co-developed innovations.

Stakeholder engagement was another major priority. A Project launch workshop brought together CGIAR scientists, policy actors, and regional partners to sensitize them about the Project, identify ongoing initiatives that the Project could leverage and prioritize key gaps that the Project could address. Summaries of key discussions were summarized and disseminated through a workshop report and blog. This was complemented by strategic participation in policy dialogues, including contributions to the GGA under the UNFCCC and engagements with key investment and implementation partners. These engagements helped tailor and align workplans with evolving stakeholder demands and positioned the Project to contribute meaningfully to key processes driving adaptation actions. These new insights have been integrated into the Project's theory of action , which articulates key innovations that the Project will promote – that is, impact pathway-based tracking approaches, indicators and datasets – and the mechanisms for enhancing their access and use.

Co-define needs & opportunities	Global Goal on Adaptation Biennial transparency reports Investment portfolios Private sector impact measurement	Develop products	Indicator sets Analytical approaches Evidence platforms Learning journeys	Share capacity	Masterclasses Expert workshops Univ. curriculum Technical assist.	Deliver evidence	Historical data New methods & data Platforms Communications	Inform decisions	Global Goal on Adaptation IPCC AR7 Climate & development finance Project implementation

The first year also saw the initiation of core research tasks – particularly around developing protocols, controlled vocabularies, and data structures needed for evidence synthesis. These will be critical in supporting the Project's aim to deliver robust, scalable tracking methodologies in subsequent phases.

There is also considerable engagement around various innovations. For instance, the Project is contributing to the development of indicators for assessing progress in the GGA. Whilst the GGA was established by the Paris Agreement in 2015, there has been slow progress in defining specific targets and indicators for its assessment. The process of developing GGA indicators involves reviewing existing indicators published by the UNFCCC, many of which originated from submissions by the African Group and LDC Group. We supported these submissions in collaboration with Accelerating Impacts of CGIAR Climate Research in Africa (AICCRA). As part of the team working on indicators for the food and agriculture target, we conducted a comprehensive review of existing indicators and submitted a report with recommendations for consideration at COP29. Additionally, the Project has facilitated dialogue on the GGA process. To support broader stakeholder engagement, we provided the East African Farmers Federation with updates on GGA negotiations and helped identify strategic entry points for their participation in the lead-up to COP29.

To ensure the prioritization of the diverse and growing demand for adaptation tracking, the team developed initial proposals for topics to be considered in the update and revision of the IPCC technical guidelines for measuring climate impacts and adaptation. These proposals emphasized the importance of covering all dimensions of the adaptation cycle, including monitoring, evaluation and learning. This will enhance the value of the guidelines as a resource that diverse stakeholders can use to strengthen their capacities to design, implement and track adaptation. To strengthen engagement, these ideas were shared with African scientists attending the scoping meeting for the IPCC Seventh Assessment Report, equipping them with the necessary insights to actively contribute to the discussions.

Additionally, in collaboration with the Livestock and Climate Initiative, the team contributed to the 2024 UNEP Adaptation Gap Report (AGR) by providing new evidence on implemented adaptation actions worldwide. By incorporating new datasets, such as country reports on progress in implementing National Adaptation Plans (NAPs), the AGR highlighted the range of adaptation actions being undertaken while underscoring the critical need for continued capacity building. This capacity building is essential not only to enhance the production of adaptation tracking data but also to improve assessments of the effectiveness of implemented actions. The audit of results frameworks within CGIAR identified opportunities to improve how adaptation actions and their outcomes are captured. In response, the Project is actively contributing to updates for the second business cycle, ensuring that prioritized indicators and reporting frameworks more effectively highlight CGIAR's achievements and contributions to adaptation and resilience-building.

Progress against End of Project Outcomes

This infographic provides a concise summary of the project's progress toward achieving its Theory of Change End-of-Project outcomes for 2024 period. By drawing on reported results, it offers a comprehensive synthesis of progress made against the established outcome targets, highlighting the project's overall impact and key achievements at the conclusion of 2024.

EOPO 1

By 2026, CGIAR and implementation partners, including funding agencies, international organizations, NGOs, public institutions and private sector actors, use climate data detailing progress in adaptation implementation and effectiveness in reducing climate-related risks.

EOPO 2

By 2026, CGIAR implementation partners, such as funding agencies, international organizations, research organizations, NGOs, public institutions, and private sector actors, have enhanced capacities to track adaptation.

EOPO 3

By 2026, CGIAR functions, including the Climate Impact Platform, the Portfolio Performance Unit (PPU), bilateral projects, and Initiatives use Adaptation Insights' innovations and recommendations.
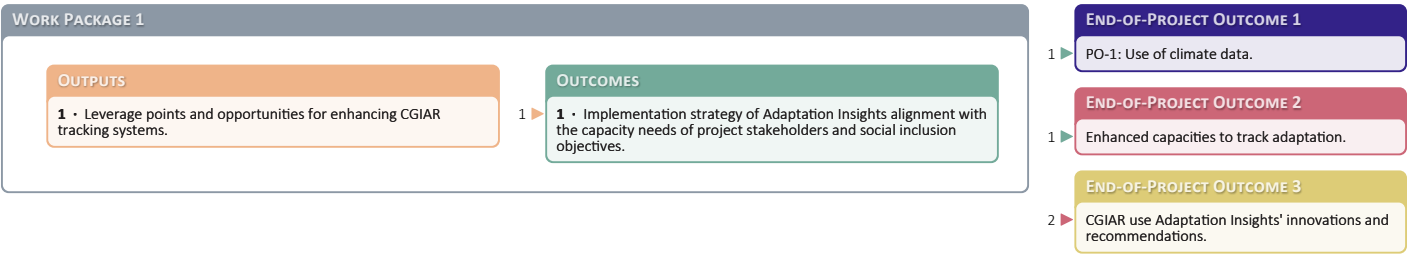
In 2024, the Project focused on building the foundation for future data use. We developed core components – including protocols, controlled vocabularies, and data extraction templates – to support standardized reporting on adaptation implementation and effectiveness. These inputs are being aligned with ongoing decision-making, policy and investment processes. Since datasets have not yet been established, the Project's strong contributions to scientific and policy discussions, as well as adaptation tracking, are essential for ensuring alignment and facilitating the smooth uptake and use of climate data once it becomes available.

In 2024, the Project facilitated various stakeholder engagements, providing timely support to enhance adaptation tracking capacities. This included co-developing indicators for the GGA to enable a robust assessment of adaptation progress at the global level. Additionally, the Project engaged with funders and implementers to design strong monitoring, evaluation, and learning (MEL) systems. These efforts directly support government agencies, NGOs, and Project implementers by offering practical guidance to improve adaptation reporting. Early results from these initiatives already demonstrate progress toward strengthening adaptation tracking capacities of various actors, registering good achievements towards the second outcome.

The Project is already contributing to internal CGIAR systems, but there are many more opportunities. For example, Adaptation Insights staff provided initial feedback on the revisions of CGIAR Climate Impact Area indicators. Such engagements help Adaptation Insights' work to be well-positioned to catalyze institutional reform efforts that can help improve the development of adaptation evidence and better understand CGIAR's contribution.

Section 3: **Work Package progress**

WP1: Defining our leverage points

WORK PACKAGE 1		END-OF-PROJECT OUTCOME 1

WORK PACKAGE 1

OUTPUTS

1 · Leverage points and opportunities for enhancing CGIAR tracking systems.

OUTCOMES

1 ▶ **1** · Implementation strategy of Adaptation Insights alignment with the capacity needs of project stakeholders and social inclusion objectives.

END-OF-PROJECT OUTCOME 1

1 ▶ PO-1: Use of climate data.

END-OF-PROJECT OUTCOME 2

1 ▶ Enhanced capacities to track adaptation.

END-OF-PROJECT OUTCOME 3

2 ▶ CGIAR use Adaptation Insights' innovations and recommendations.

Work Package 1 progress against the theory of change

This period covered the inception phase. Key activities included establishing financial and reporting systems under CGIAR's Performance and Results Management System (PRMS), launching the Project internally and externally, and conducting core analyses: a niche analysis, a CGIAR adaptation reporting audit, and a GESI review. These outputs now shape the direction of WPs 2-4.

Despite early delays, WP1 made significant progress. The Project launch, originally planned as part of CGIAR Science Week in Nairobi, was disrupted by protests. The team adapted by organizing a streamlined in-person event in October 2024. This convening included key East African stakeholders and helped raise Project visibility within and beyond CGIAR. Broader engagement is ongoing and remains a focus moving forward.

Crucially, the adaptation audit helped identify timely and influential intervention points in CGIAR's evolving reporting systems. These include revisions to the Climate Change Impact Area indicators, new guidance for PRMS tagging, and opportunities to shape the design of the 2025-27 Type 2 report, the MELIA strategy, and the climate indicator bank. The team has positioned itself to co-develop these reforms with the System Office and PPU, ensuring adaptation tracking is embedded into the next phase of CGIAR science.

A core activity under WP1 was the niche analysis, led by the Alliance. This analysis mapped the current landscape of adaptation tracking tools, frameworks, and repositories, with a focus on understanding their functionalities, usability, geographic reach, and real-world application. It assessed over 40 tools and indicator sets relevant to agriculture and climate resilience, identifying major gaps in integration, guidance materials, and social inclusion metrics. The findings confirmed that no single tool captures the full picture of adaptation progress, reinforcing the Project's aim to create more cohesive and interoperable approaches. The analysis also highlighted fragmentation in user guidance, the underuse of gender-sensitive metrics, and the lack of sustainability strategies for tool maintenance. These insights are now informing the design principles for Adaptation Insights' core outputs, ensuring they respond to actual user needs across government, research, and development sectors.

The core assumptions of WP1 have held: CGIAR has internal opportunities to improve adaptation tracking and a strategic role to play globally. WP1 laid the groundwork – conceptually and institutionally – for that contribution to take shape.

WP2: Tracking adaptation implementation and effectiveness to improve access to climate data
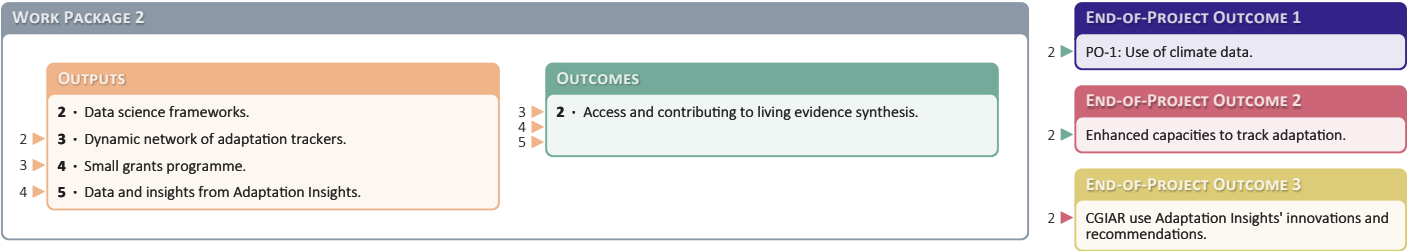
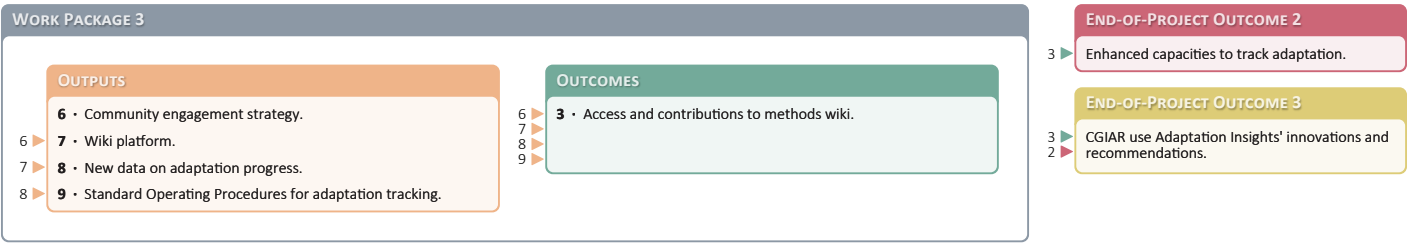## Work Package 2 progress against the theory of change

WP2 is building the evidence base for adaptation – defining where it is occurring and its effectiveness so that it can inform both policy and investment decisions. In contrast to WP1, which focused on establishing strategic foundations, WP2 has centered on data development. While no final outputs were finalized during this phase, several intermediate steps are now in progress or near completion.

This phase of WP2 focused primarily on framework design and testing. The tools under development lay the groundwork for large-scale evidence gathering and synthesis in 2025. The most notable milestone is the development and completion of the protocol for adaptation effectiveness, which outlines the framework, methods and workflows for compiling evidence on what works in agriculture adaptation. The protocol is innovative in several ways. It structures the search strategy around the adaptation cycle, ensuring systematic data extraction on adaptation strategies, their rationale, implementation context, effects (short to long term), and adoption and effectiveness factors. It combines controlled and generic vocabularies to balance specificity with inclusivity, broadening the evidence base. Additionally, it integrates qualitative and quantitative evidence from both peer-reviewed and grey literature, advancing knowledge on what works, where, and when. Finally, the workflow leverages human and machine-learning tools to enhance efficiency and support a dynamic, continuously updated evidence synthesis. A parallel protocol on adaptation implementation is under development, defining how to track adaptation actions across the continent. Both rely on some of the latest advances in data science, including machine learning, large language models, and web scraping, to automate data synthesis and provide replicable and scalable insights into agricultural adaptation

Progress has also been made on a set of vocabularies and data templates – critical building blocks for data harmonization across projects and countries. These include taxonomies for adaptation actions and effectiveness metrics, as well as extraction templates to capture information on outcomes, locations, and beneficiaries, including gender and social inclusion. These resources will ensure consistency in the way adaptation actions and results are categorized and analyzed, supporting future synthesis and reporting. Further, they may become a broader standard for use in other CGIAR Programs and Projects.
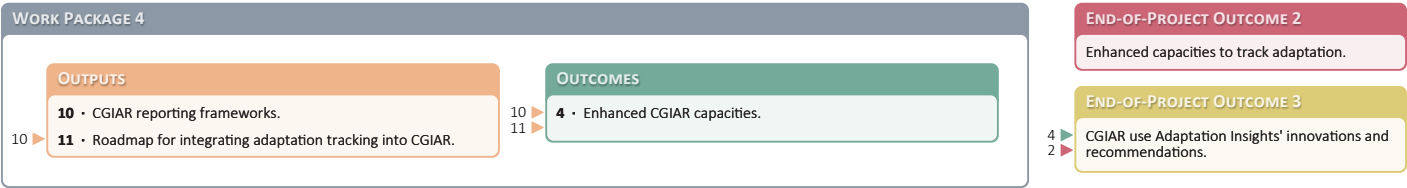
WP3: Surfacing methods to enable robust future tracking

Work Package 3	
Outputs	**Outcomes**
6 · Community engagement strategy.	3 · Access and contributions to methods wiki.
6 ▶ 7 · Wiki platform.	
7 ▶ 8 · New data on adaptation progress.	
8 ▶ 9 · Standard Operating Procedures for adaptation tracking.	

End-of-Project Outcome 2
3 ▶ Enhanced capacities to track adaptation.

End-of-Project Outcome 3
3 ▶ CGIAR use Adaptation Insights' innovations and
2 ▶ recommendations.

Work Package 3 progress against the theory of change

As of December 2024, and in line with the Project's workplan, WP3
has not started. The WP is on track.

WP4: Influencing CGIAR's adaptation tracking to catalyze investments

Work Package 4	
Outputs	**Outcomes**
10 · CGIAR reporting frameworks.	10 ▶ 4 · Enhanced CGIAR capacities.
10 ▶ 11 · Roadmap for integrating adaptation tracking into CGIAR.	11 ▶

End-of-Project Outcome 2
Enhanced capacities to track adaptation.

End-of-Project Outcome 3
4 ▶ CGIAR use Adaptation Insights' innovations and
2 ▶ recommendations.

Work Package 4 progress against the theory of change

WP4 builds on the CGIAR adaptation audit conducted under WP1, which identified key entry points for strengthening internal reporting systems and aligning adaptation tracking with investment logic. In 2024, WP4 began providing technical inputs to these reform processes. Notably, the team contributed initial feedback on the revised Climate Change Impact Area indicators, supporting consideration of System-wide metrics that reflect the latest thinking on adaptation and mitigation. Further engagement with CGIAR performance systems, including PRMS and Initiative-level M&E, is planned for 2025. The WP is on track.

Work Package progress rating summary

| WORK PACKAGE	PROGRESS RATING & RATIONALE
1	🟢 On track WP1 delivered its core inception-phase activities as planned. These included establishing systems for implementation, completing the niche analysis and adaptation audit, and launching the Project. While the gender analysis has not progressed, and external disruptions required reworking the launch strategy, these issues did not compromise the overall trajectory or outcomes of the WP. WP1 provided a strong foundation for the Project's next phases.
2	🟢 On track While the majority of WP2 activities are still in early stages, as expected given the timeline of activities, current progress reflects the presumed timeline and activities. The WP is now on track to deliver foundational components needed for future data collection, analysis, and use.
3	🟢 On track As of December 2024, and in line with the Project's work plan, WP3 has not started. The WP is on track.
4	🟢 On track As of December 2024, and in line with the Project's work plan, WP4 has not started, but many foundational engagements have been initiated to ensure the delivery of this WP. The WP is on track.

Definitions

🟢 On track
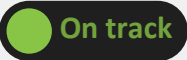
- ✅ Progress largely aligns with Plan of Results and Budget and Work Package theory of change.
- ✅ Can include small deviations/issues/delays/risks that do not jeopardize success of Work Package.

🟡 Delayed

- ⚠️ Progress slightly falls behind Plan of Results and Budget and Work Package theory of change in key areas.
- ⚠️ Deviations/issues/delays/risks could jeopardize success of Work Package if not managed appropriately.

🔴 Off track
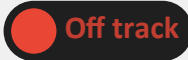
- ❌ Progress clearly falls behind Plan of Results and Budget and Work Package theory of change in most/all areas.
- ❌ Deviations/issues/delays/risks do jeopardize success of Work Package.

ADAPTATION INSIGHTS' EXTERNAL PARTNERS

The diagram maps the external partners of Adaptation Insights, organized by partner type. The numbers in brackets represent the number of results each partner has contributed to. The list of partner acronyms is available here.

Partnerships and Adaptation Insights' impact pathways

Partnerships are central to how Adaptation Insights delivers impact. The Project operates through a networked model – drawing on relationships with global institutions, national governments, regional platforms, CGIAR Initiatives, and technical experts. These partnerships shape the Project's science, drive uptake, and ensure that outputs meet the real-world needs of decision-makers. In 2024, strategic engagement with these partners allowed the Project to directly influence climate negotiations, national reporting, and investment monitoring.

At the global level, the Project positioned itself at the heart of adaptation policy processes. Team members were nominated as technical experts to the UNFCCC's UAE-Belem Work Programme on GGA indicators. Through this, Adaptation Insights shaped indicator mapping, contributed to formal submissions, and helped connect impact pathways to global tracking priorities – particularly for agriculture. In parallel, we contributed as lead authors to the UNEP Adaptation Gap Report, ensuring evidence from CGIAR and partners informed agenda-setting at COP29. We also co-hosted side events with AGNES, deepening dialogue between African negotiators and global technical processes.

Regionally, we supported African climate negotiators through training and policy engagement. In partnership with AGNES and the UN Foundation, we helped prepare negotiators for the 60th session of the Subsidiary Bodies (SB60) and COP29 by breaking down key decisions and sensitizing participants to IPCC and UNFCCC timelines. These efforts elevated Africa's voice in global processes and ensured that Adaptation Insights remained tightly linked to regional priorities.

At the national level, we supported Kenya's first Biennial Transparency Report (BTR) in partnership with AICCRA and the CGIAR Research Initiative on Livestock and Climate, helping to capture data on adaptation actions and results. Discussions are underway to extend this support to other countries in 2025.

The Project also partnered with international financial institutions, most notably the World Bank. In Ethiopia, we provided technical input into the M&E framework for the LLRP II program. In Togo, we worked with the Bank and the Global Center on Adaptation (GCA) to define expected adaptation benefits of a new investment. These engagements demonstrate how CGIAR science can inform program-level adaptation tracking for major funders.

Further partnership discussions are ongoing with IDRC to co-develop an M&E framework for the new RECAF program and contribute to a shared results framework for multilateral development banks. These partnerships bring scientific methods closer to funders' operational systems.

The scientific community remains a key partner. We engaged with Wageningen University, sharing our approach to adaptation synthesis and exploring joint work on methodologies. We also contributed to IPCC scoping meetings, presenting recommendations for adaptation tracking in future technical guidelines, rooted in African experience and grounded in practice.

Throughout 2024, these partnerships were more than complementary – they were catalytic. At the output level, partners contributed to shaping tools, frameworks, and indicator sets. At the outcome level, they are helping ensure these outputs are used to influence reporting systems, finance mechanisms, and global norms.

Looking ahead, the Project will deepen partnerships with national actors and delivery systems – including NARES and key government agencies – to embed adaptation tracking into routine planning and reporting. We will also continue to align with multilaterals and donors to promote uptake of core methods and co-develop impact pathways for scaling.

West African Farmer Manually Watering His Cabbage Field During An Arid Rainy Season.
Credit: EyeEm / Alamy Stock Photo

Portfolio linkages and Adaptation Insights' impact pathways

The Adaptation Insights Project has been intentionally designed to operate across multiple layers of the CGIAR Portfolio. Its theory of change depends on strategic alignment with other Initiatives and institutional units that can support delivery, amplify uptake, and embed tracking systems across CGIAR's research and operations. In 2024, it established linkages with several key Initiatives to help position Adaptation Insights as both a source of innovation and a partner in institutional reform.

One of the most strategic connections has been with the World Bank-funded **AICCRA** program. AICCRA has served as a critical sounding board, enabling Adaptation Insights to better understand the evidence needs of actors ranging from World Bank investment teams to small and medium enterprises focused on adaptation. This engagement helped catalyze the scientific framing of the Project while also offering a fertile testing ground for future scaling. AICCRA's networks and delivery platforms provide a direct pathway to embed Adaptation Insights tools into real-world decision-making.

The **Excellence in Agronomy Initiative** began engaging with the Project to explore how it can better capture adaptation processes and effectiveness through its MELIA systems. These conversations will be taken forward under the new **Sustainable Farming Program**, providing a potential testbed for tracking tools within high-volume agronomic interventions. Meanwhile, the **Livestock and Climate Initiative** emerged as a key collaborator, particularly in Ethiopia. Insights from its Tracking Adaptation in Livestock Systems (TAiLS) work have directly informed the design of Adaptation Insights' core

products. Joint engagement around the Lowland Livestock Resilience Program (LLRP), in partnership with the World Bank, has also created opportunities to align adaptation tracking with large-scale investment planning.

Collaboration with representatives from the **Portfolio Performance Unit (PPU)** has been important to both 2024 delivery and 2025 planning. Adaptation Insights has contributed ideas to ongoing revisions of CGIAR's MELIA strategy, specifically indicators, and will be engaging particularly around how adaptation outcomes are tracked. These engagements have created a clear institutional synergy: the partnership ensures that methodological innovations from the Project can contribute to how adaptation is reported across CGIAR.

Adaptation Insights also developed links with the **Climate Change Impact Platform**, particularly around advocacy, communications, and engagement. The Platform provided a key interface for engaging with partners. This collaboration ensured that the Project's insights fed into, and is informed by, high level discussions on climate adaptation.

These linkages build synergies. They sharpen the Project's understanding of what matters to users, while also offering pathways for uptake, testing, and co-development. In turn, Adaptation Insights contributes tools, concepts, and evidence that strengthen the delivery of and evidence for other Initiatives and institutional units. This integration is essential for ensuring that adaptation is not only a cross-cutting priority — but a measurable, actionable part of CGIAR's impact.

Section 7: **Key result story**

Helping put adaptation tracking on track

Partnerships drive the development of data, methods, and tools that make adaptation data more available and useful for decision-making.
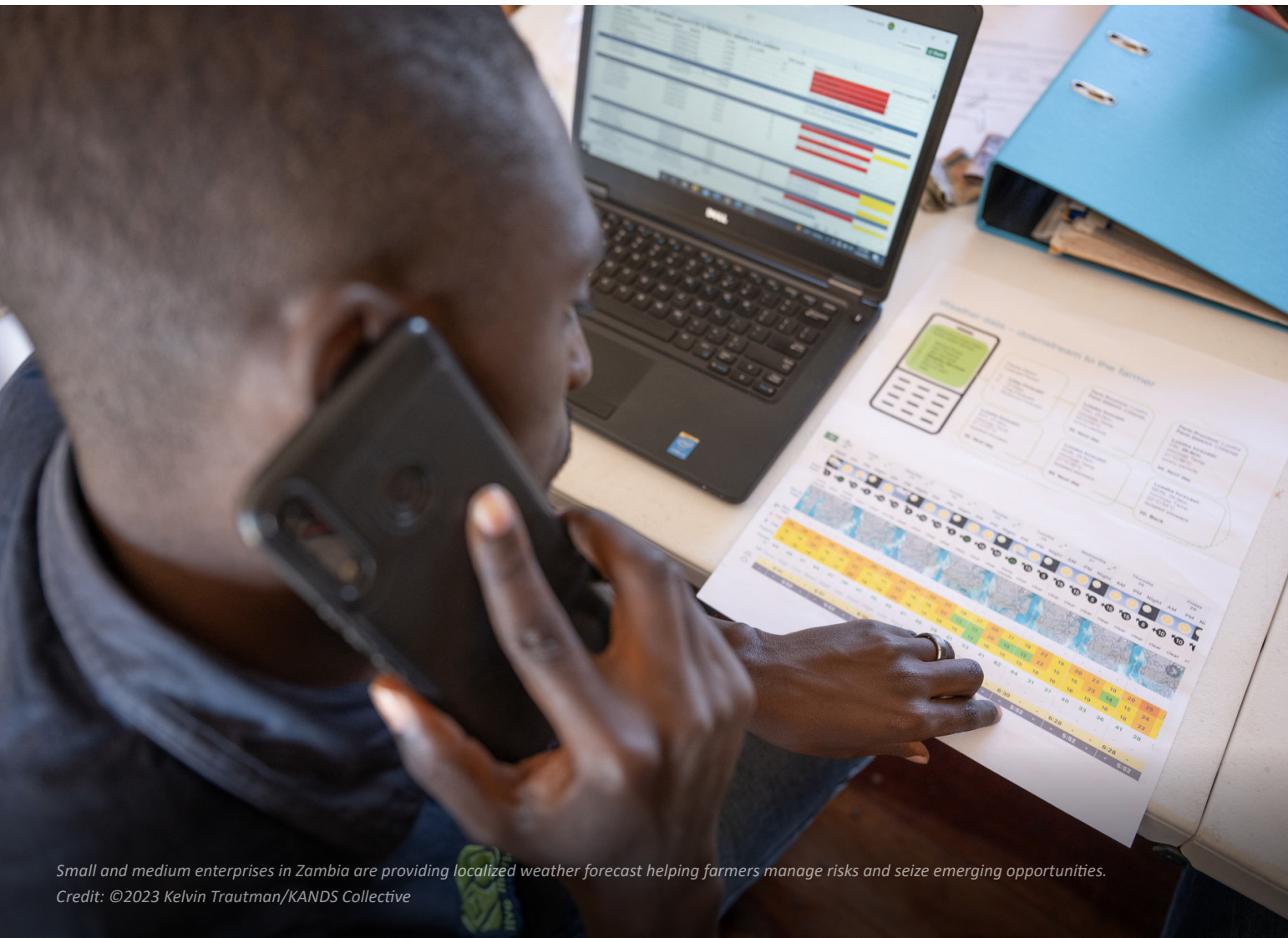
Small and medium enterprises in Zambia are providing localized weather forecast helping farmers manage risks and seize emerging opportunities.
Credit: ©2023 Kelvin Trautman/KANDS Collective

Primary Impact Area

Other relevant Impact Areas targeted

Contributing Initiative

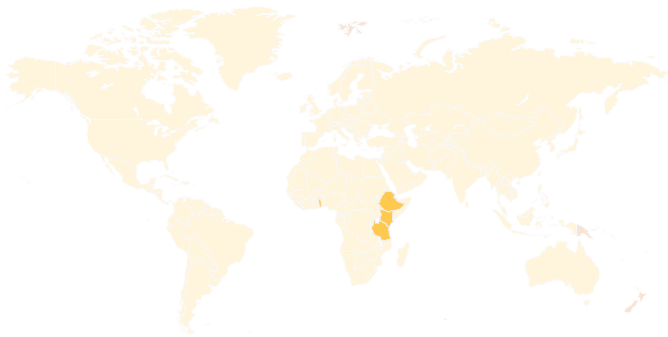Livestock and Climate · Excellence in Agronomy · AICCRA

Contributing Centers

The Alliance of Bioversity International and CIAT · IWMI · ILRI

Contributing external partners

AGNES · GCA · UNEP · World Bank · IDRC

Geographic scope

Regions: Africa · Global

Countries: Ethiopia · Kenya · Tanzania · Togo · multiple global engagements

Adaptation Insights is helping put adaptation tracking on track by placing partners at the center – letting their needs and use cases set the agenda for the remainder of the Project. This partner-first approach is guiding the development of demand-driven tools and methods that improve how adaptation data is produced, shared, and used. Partners like Accelerating Impacts of CGIAR Climate Research for Africa (AICCRA), the African Group of Negotiators Experts Support (AGNES), the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the World Bank are shaping core products that respond to real needs at global, regional, and national levels.

The Adaptation Insights Project was designed to address the growing demand for effective adaptation tracking while overcoming key challenges in this area. These challenges include the lack of a universally agreed conceptual framework, difficulties in identifying suitable methods and indicators, and limited data availability and quality.

The Project's primary objective is to enhance the production, accessibility, and application of adaptation-related data to inform and improve policies and investments. To achieve this, Adaptation Insights develops and promotes tailored strategic products, such as adaptation tracking frameworks, datasets, and analytical tools, to meet the needs of diverse stakeholders.

A key approach of the Project is stakeholder engagement and the establishment of strategic partnerships. By working closely with initiatives such as the CGIAR Programs, AICCRA, as well as external partners like the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), AGNES and the Global Center on Adaptation, the Project ensures that adaptation tracking tools are refined and widely adopted.

Adaptation Insights has made strides towards significant contributions to adaptation tracking at global, regional, and national levels. At the global level, the Project actively engages in the UNFCCC process, particularly in the development of Global Goal on Adaptation (GGA) indicators. Team members have served as technical experts contributing to negotiations and framework development. Additionally, the Project played a critical role in the UNEP Adaptation Gap Report (AGR), contributing to the synthesis of adaptation efforts globally.

At the regional level, Adaptation Insights collaborated with AGNES to strengthen Africa's position in GGA negotiations. The Project also worked to update indicators for adaptation tracking, ensuring Africa's unique adaptation needs were represented. Nationally, it supported Kenya's first Biennial Transparency Report (BTR), integrating key adaptation data for reporting to the UNFCCC.

The primary beneficiaries of Adaptation Insights' work include climate negotiators, policymakers, and organizations responsible for adaptation planning and implementation. These groups will directly benefit from improved frameworks, technical guidance, and data-driven insights that enhance adaptation strategies. By engaging in policy dialogues, capacity-building workshops, and technical collaborations, Adaptation Insights has formed the relationships that can help strengthen adaptation tracking mechanisms at multiple levels.

Several important activities were conducted to ensure the link between innovation and impact. These include contributing to workshops for African climate negotiators, providing technical inputs to the UAE-Belem work programme, and supporting adaptation measurement efforts for diverse stakeholders helping the Project understand the needs. For example, the Project also engaged in collaborations with the World Bank, the International Development Research Centre (IDRC), and the East African Farmers' Federation to advance adaptation tracking frameworks in specific contexts.

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> Effective adaptation tracking is critical for ensuring that investments lead to meaningful resilience-building outcomes. The Adaptation Insights Project has played a key role in bridging the gap between policy and practice, ensuring that adaptation efforts are evidence-based and impactful.
>
> Lucy Njuguna, Technical Expert, Adaptation Insights, CGIAR

Poultry farming in mixed crop-livestock systems. Poultry keeping is an important adaptation strategy, helping women and youth diversify sources of livelihood and nutrition.

Credit: AICCRA/ Brook Makonnen