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CLIMATE-SMART AGRICULTURE: ADAPTING FARMING
PRACTICES TO CLIMATE CHANGE

Marc COSTEA, Fernanda Hernandez VARGAS, Angela Becerra BERNAL, Raul
PAȘCALĂU, Laura ȘMULEAC

University of Life Sciences "King Mihai I" from Timișoara

Corresponding author: laurasmuleac@usvt.ro

Abstract:

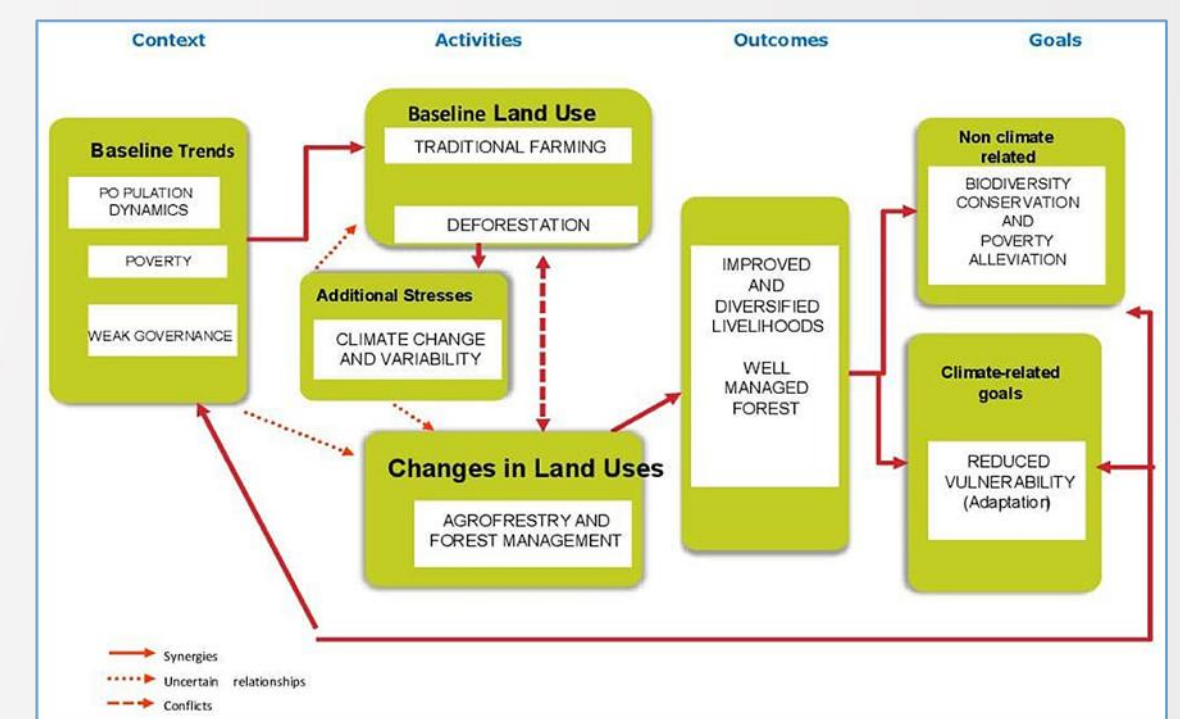
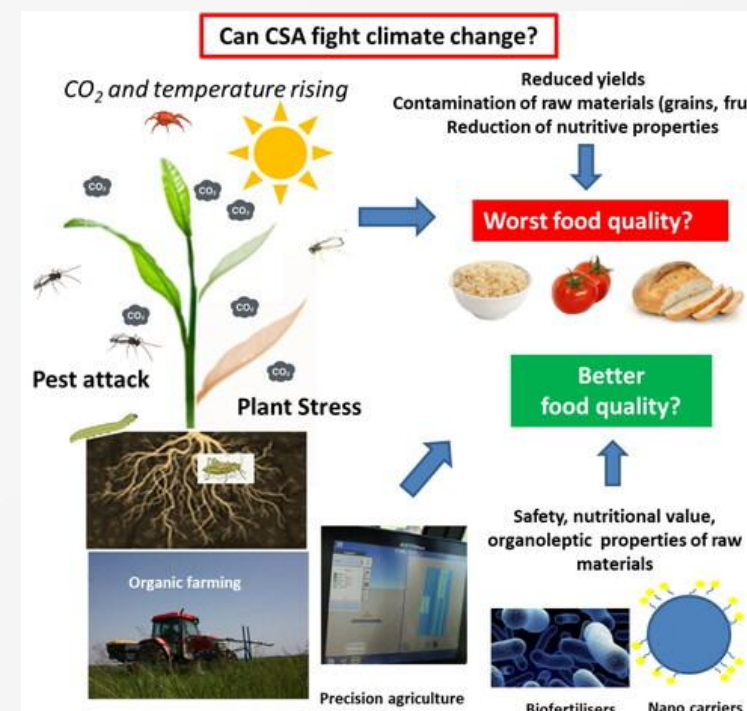
Climate-Smart Agriculture (CSA) represents an integrated approach to transforming and reorienting agricultural systems to effectively respond to the challenges of climate change. It aims to sustainably increase agricultural productivity, enhance resilience (adaptation), and reduce or remove greenhouse gas emissions (mitigation), wherever possible. Climate change poses severe risks to global food security through shifting weather patterns, prolonged droughts, and more frequent extreme events, threatening the livelihoods of millions of farmers worldwide. CSA promotes the adoption of innovative and adaptive farming practices such as conservation agriculture, precision farming, agroforestry, improved irrigation efficiency, and the use of climate-resilient crop varieties. These strategies not only improve soil health and water use but also enhance the capacity of ecosystems and communities to withstand climatic shocks. Furthermore, the integration of modern technologies—such as remote sensing, Geographic Information Systems (GIS), and weather forecasting—supports data-driven decision-making, enabling farmers to optimize inputs and reduce environmental impact. Effective implementation of CSA requires supportive policies, financial incentives, capacity-building programs, and collaboration among governments, research institutions, and local communities. By aligning agricultural practices with environmental sustainability goals, CSA contributes to achieving food security, poverty reduction, and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). In conclusion, Climate-Smart Agriculture provides a viable framework for adapting farming systems to the realities of a changing climate, ensuring that agriculture remains productive, resilient, and environmentally responsible in the 21st century.

Keywords: climate changes, smart agriculture, practices, farming, adaptation



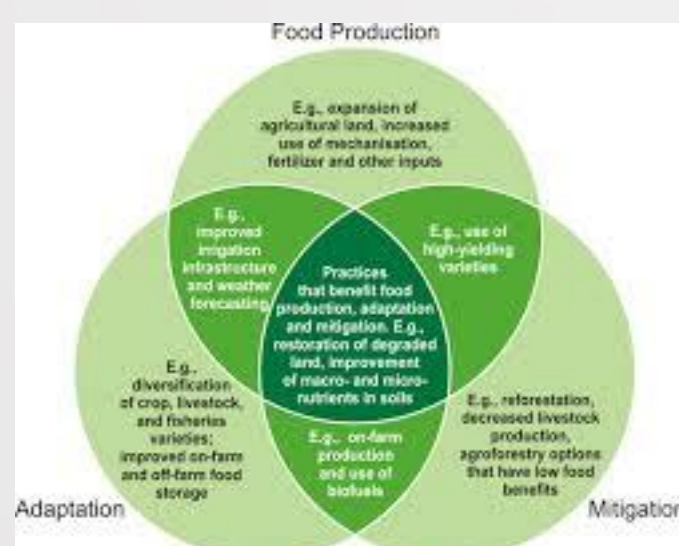
• Results and discussions

The findings revealed a growing awareness among farmers of the impacts of climate change, though the level of adoption of Climate-Smart Agriculture (CSA) practices varied widely across regions. Conservation agriculture and crop diversification were the most commonly adopted strategies, while precision farming and advanced irrigation systems remained limited due to high costs and lack of technical knowledge. Statistical analysis showed a positive correlation between CSA adoption and factors such as education level, access to extension services, and availability of financial support. Farmers with greater access to climate information and training demonstrated higher resilience to climate variability and reported increased productivity and resource efficiency. Qualitative analysis highlighted that socio-economic constraints, insufficient policy support, and limited access to credit remain major barriers to large-scale implementation. However, the study also identified strong community-based initiatives and local innovations that enhance adaptive capacity, including the integration of indigenous knowledge with modern technologies. Overall, the results suggest that while CSA offers significant potential to improve agricultural resilience and sustainability, its success depends on supportive institutional frameworks, capacity-building programs, and inclusive policy interventions that empower smallholder farmers to adopt climate-smart practices effectively.



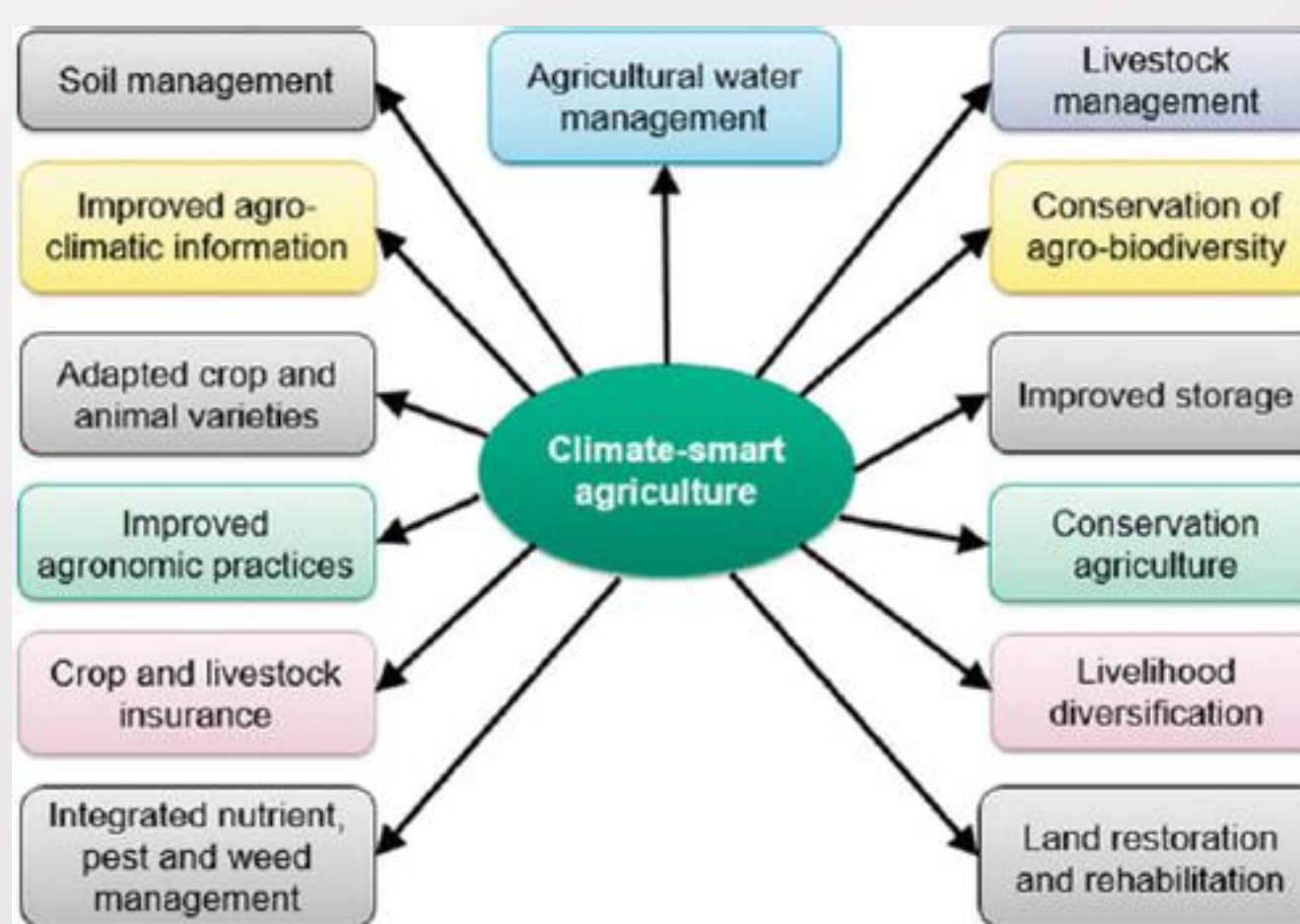
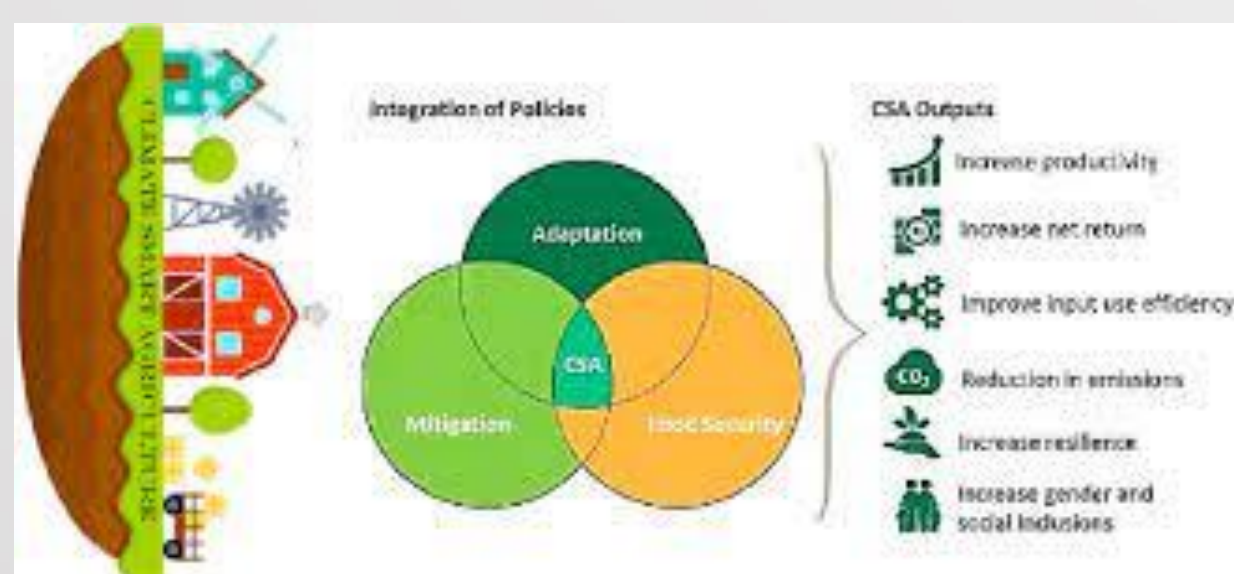
Introduction

Agriculture is one of the most climate-sensitive sectors of the global economy, directly dependent on temperature, rainfall, and ecological stability. In recent decades, climate change has intensified, leading to unpredictable weather patterns, extended droughts, floods, and rising global temperatures. These changes threaten agricultural productivity, food security, and the livelihoods of millions of smallholder farmers, particularly in developing countries. The increasing vulnerability of farming systems underscores the urgent need for adaptive and sustainable agricultural practices. Climate-Smart Agriculture (CSA) has emerged as a strategic framework to address these challenges. Defined by the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) as an approach that "sustainably increases productivity, enhances resilience (adaptation), and reduces greenhouse gas emissions (mitigation)," CSA integrates environmental, economic, and social dimensions of sustainability. It emphasizes context-specific solutions, recognizing that adaptation strategies must align with local climatic, ecological, and socio-economic conditions. The implementation of CSA involves a wide range of practices, including conservation agriculture, agroforestry, crop diversification, precision farming, and the use of drought- and heat-tolerant crop varieties. Furthermore, advances in technology—such as remote sensing, Geographic Information Systems (GIS), and climate forecasting tools—play a crucial role in supporting data-driven agricultural management. Despite its promise, CSA faces challenges related to financing, policy support, and farmer capacity-building. Therefore, an integrated and participatory approach involving governments, research institutions, and local communities is essential. This study explores the key principles, technologies, and policy mechanisms that underpin Climate-Smart Agriculture and evaluates its potential to build resilient and sustainable farming systems in the era of climate change.



Material and methods

This research employed a mixed-methods approach integrating both qualitative and quantitative techniques to evaluate the adoption and effectiveness of Climate-Smart Agriculture (CSA) practices. Research was conducted in diverse agro-ecological zones characterized by varying degrees of climate variability, including both rain-fed and irrigated systems. Primary data were collected through field surveys and structured interviews with smallholder farmers, agricultural extension officers, and local policymakers, focusing on farming practices, awareness of climate change, and the implementation of CSA strategies such as conservation tillage, crop diversification, agroforestry, and efficient irrigation systems. Secondary data were sourced from meteorological records, government reports, and published literature from institutions such as the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO). Quantitative data were analyzed using descriptive statistics and correlation analysis to determine relationships between CSA adoption and variables such as farm size, income level, and access to information. Qualitative data from interviews were coded and thematically analyzed to identify barriers, perceptions, and local innovations related to CSA implementation..



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