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LINKAGES AMONG KEY ACTORS IN THE CLIMATE CHANGE AND FOOD SECURITY INNOVATION SYSTEM IN NIGERIA, SIERRA LEONE AND LIBERIA

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Introduction

Africa remains one of the most vulnerable continents to climate change because of the continent's dependence on natural resources and its weak adaptive capacity

The performance of the agricultural sector continues to be relatively disappointing in the sub-region as growth has been increasingly on the decline.

Linkages, interactions and learning mechanisms among the component actors are notably weak and/or often non-existent. Empirical evidence revealed several linkage gaps and missing links among and between the actors in the systems.

Institutions, for example, universities and research institutes innovate in isolation and although research were taking place at various national and international organizations, the coordination is dysfunctional, and poorly linked to the productive sector.

Consequent upon this, it is pertinent that answers be sought to the following questions: are there special training on climate change and adaptation measures in the three countries under study? are there the presence of linkages/collaborations among actors in the climate change and food security innovation systems across the three countries? and do the existing domestic environment support climate change adaptation and food security issues in these countries?

Results

Majority of the respondents across the three countries possessed no special training on climate change adaptation and on food security issues.

Intensity and Trends of Linkages / Collaboration Among Key Actors in the Climate Change and Food Security Innovation System

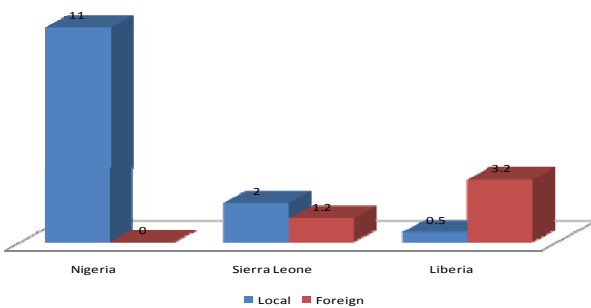


Figure 1: Farmers' reported existence of local and overseas collaborations on climate change and food security in Nigeria, Sierra Leone and Liberia

Nigeria tends to have higher linkages / collaborations among the actors in all the domains followed by Liberia in three out of the four major domains, while Sierra Leone only showed a higher intensity than Liberia in the area of linkage with policy makers.

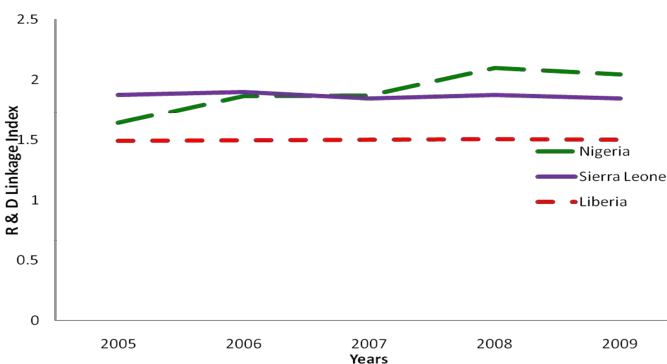


Figure 2: Perceived trend of linkage between farmers and R & D institutions in Nigeria, Sierra Leone and Liberia

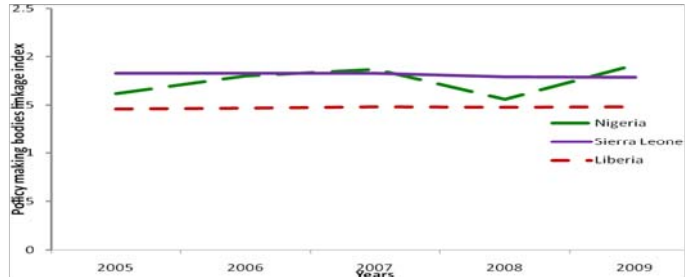


Figure 3: Perceived trend of linkage between farmers and policy making bodies in Nigeria, Sierra Leone and Liberia

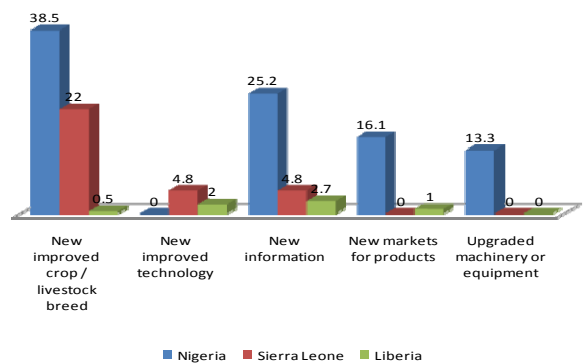


Figure 4: Types of innovations generated by enterprises over the last ten years in Nigeria, Sierra Leone and Liberia

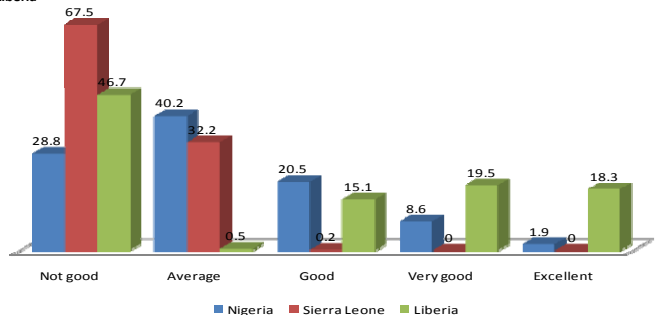


Figure 5: Percentage distribution of respondents by perceived ability of farms to adapt to changing environment

Conclusion and Policy considerations

At the moment, there seems to be no specialized trainings on climate change adaptation and food security issues in the West African sub region.

There is poor intensity of collaborations with foreign partners across the three countries, even though there appeared to have been more collaboration with local institutions, especially in Nigeria.

The performance of system based on innovations generated does not reflect adequate research efforts.

The following are recommended for policy considerations:

Formulation of a comprehensive climate change policy at the a global level and within Africa and especially in the West African sub region will be a necessary first step towards dealing with the challenge of climate change within the West African sub region

There should be increased and improved funding and training on climate change and food security issues to boost manpower skill which will subsequently lead to increase in productivity.

The various systems / Ministries / Parastatals involved in innovations generation should work closely with research institutions and foreign partners to enhance the generations of innovations and also, to blend locally available adaptive measures with those generated over time.

There is need to revisit the existing research reward system, which favours the publication of research endeavours in peer reviewed western journals and link rewards to impact on the productive sector in order to achieve functional coordination of research efforts.

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