CLIMATE-SMART AGRICULTURE

Learning Series Synthesis Report

Canada

PPSA
Philippines Partnership for Sustainable Agriculture

OVERVIEW

The Philippines is one of the countries most affected by extreme weather events. With this, the country poses an open call for collective action to combat the complex realities of climate change, especially to the agricultural sector where food and water security is crucial.

The Trade Commissioner Service (TCS) at the Embassy of Canada in Manila is working with the Philippines Partnership for Sustainable Agriculture (PPSA) and their network of partners to respond to the call for a more sustainable and climate-resilient agriculture sector and initiate a community of practice towards deepening conversations around sustainability and collaborative actions.

The two phases of the Learning Series focused on addressing climate change and making agriculture more sustainable by sharing innovative solutions and practices that can mitigate climate change, protect biodiversity, and improve water and soil quality while strengthening farmers' resilience.

Agriculture is a major part of the climate problem.

Addressing both climate change and agricultural sustainability is critical to reduce stress on the environment and ensure sustainable growth of the agriculture sector.

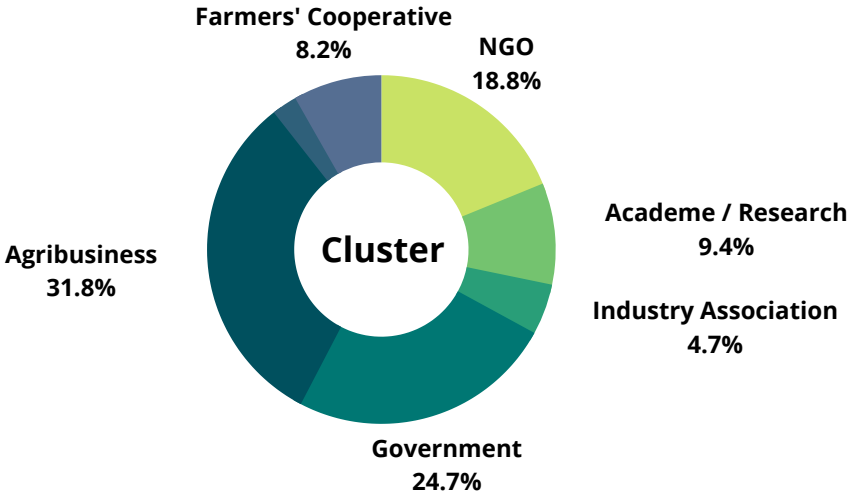
PHASE 1:

CLIMATE-POSITIVE FOOD SYSTEMS TRANSFORMATION

This session focused on promoting a climate-positive mindset among agriculture practitioners towards a possible shift to climate-smart agricultural practices. It supports the efforts of the Philippine government and global food systems coalitions in increasing awareness on the value of adopting sustainable adaptation and mitigation strategies to increase farm productivity, ensure food safety and quality, reduce carbon emissions, and build resilience.

Attendees

The session was attended by more than 80 individuals from various sectors. The charts below show the attendees' cluster representation.



websites

ostromclimate.com
viridisterra.com
planet.com
peerledger.com

Highlights

- Ostrom Climate shared innovative carbon management innovations that provide real and effective solutions that enable individuals and organizations to implement sustainable practices and reduce GHG emissions.

- Viridis Terra International discussed how activities can disrupt and destroy large areas of productive ecosystems and explained various solutions around the fields of ecosystem restoration and sustainable management to help mitigate these disruptions, specifically on land degradation.

- Planet demonstrated how satellite data can support better decision making, especially in agriculture, forestry, mapping, and the government interventions.

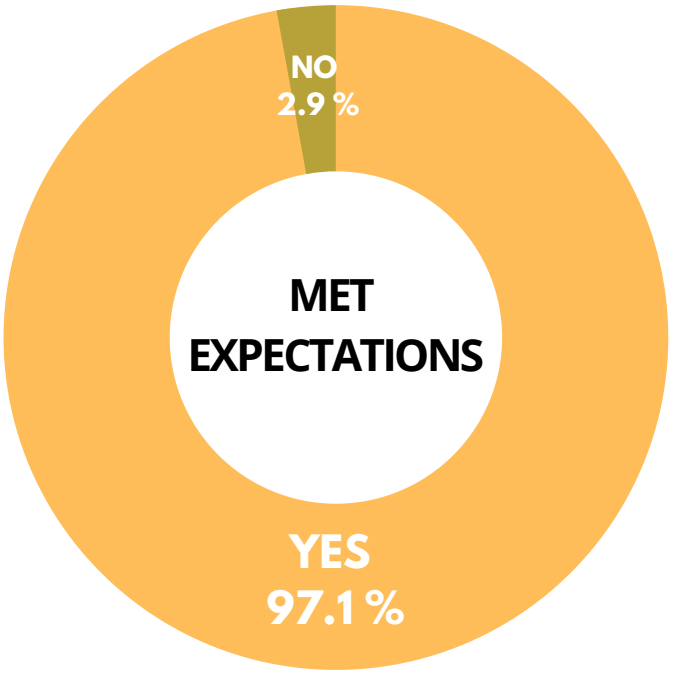
- Peer Ledger presented how various companies and organizations can use blockchain technology to solve environmental, social, and governance problems in global supply chains.

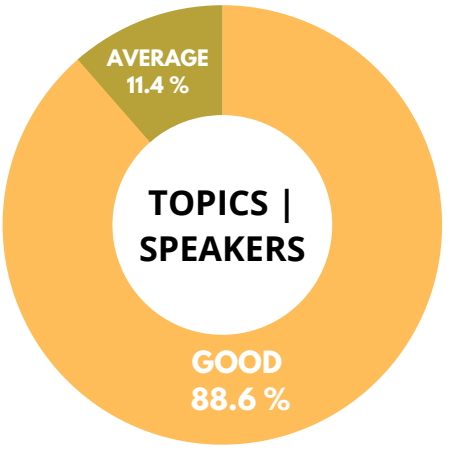
Watch the Learning Session

bit.ly/CSAPhase1

Participant Feedback

Polls conducted during the Phase 1 of the Learning Series reflected the positive impression of the participants with 97.1% of respondents stating that the event met their expectations and 2.9 % stating no. Impressions on the topic and speakers were rated as good by 88.6 % and as average by 11.4 %. Overall satisfaction for the event was rated 62.9 % very satisfied, and 37.1 .3 % somewhat satisfied. Expressions of interest to connect with the speakers one on one were subsequently arranged post-event.





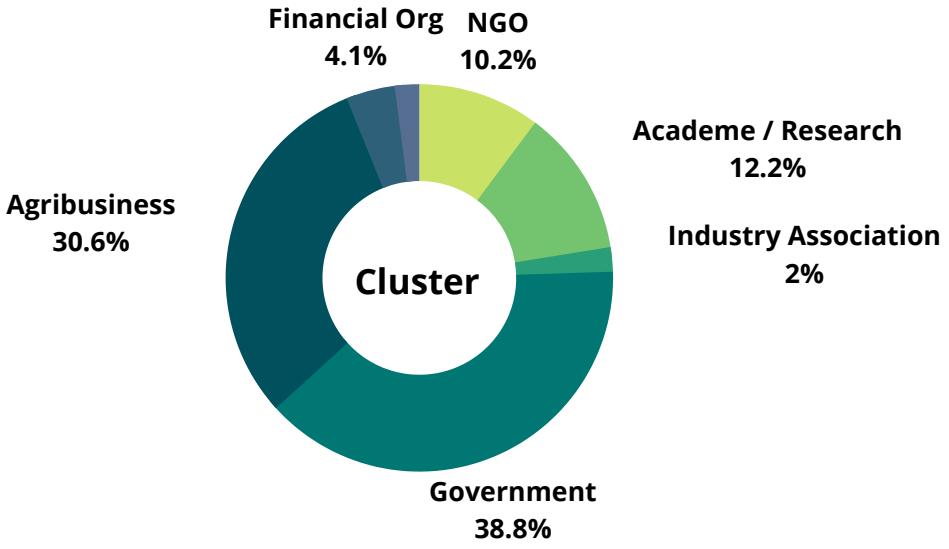
PHASE 2:

TAKING THE SHIFT, GOING CLIMATE-SMART

The second phase of the learning series features a pitch and networking session which highlights the innovative Climate-Smart adaptation and mitigation solutions of Canadian companies and Filipino startups. With the belief that healthy economies require a healthy environment, it aims to foster a community of practice engaged in the sharing of knowledge and concrete measures while contributing towards environmental sustainability and economic stability.

Attendees

The session was attended by more than 129 individuals from various sectors. The charts below show the attendees' cluster representation.



websites

www.gifs.ca
purelifecarbon.com
lucentbiosciences.com
komunidad.co
8layertech.com
transportgenie.ca
rhstindustries.com

Highlights

- The [Global Institute for Food Security] shared their latest partnerships for their multi-disciplinary research and training and development to promote sustainable food security and precision agriculture.

- [Pure Life Carbon, Inc.] shared the Decarbonization Pathway, which aims to contribute to solving global food security while reducing greenhouse gas emissions, waste, agricultural pollution, and global warming.

- [Lucent Bio] shared their micronutrient delivery solution for deficient soils that increases crop yield and improves soil health while increasing the nutritional content of fruits and vegetables.

- [Komunidad] shared their climate change adaptation and weather forecasting systems that provide decision support tools for communities, businesses, and governments.

- [8Layer Technologies] shared the expansion of their competencies in big data, opensource, cybersecurity, and blockchain towards agri-food systems development.

- [Transport Genie] discussed their real-time monitoring, digitization, and traceability solutions for transport systems in food production.

- [RHST Industries] shared the Water Pearls water management system towards reducing wasteful practices and enhancing the quality of life for future generations.

Watch the Learning Session

bit.ly/CSAPhase2

Breakout Session Highlights

Breakout Session 1: Bioscience and Carbon-based Agricultural Products and Solutions

This session highlighted how economics drive uptake for environmentally-responsible products. With profit being one of the main drivers of the decision-making of communities, governments, and businesses, the efficacy of solutions to feed a growing population while pursuing environmental sustainability go hand in hand.

Breakout Session 2: Revolutionary Climate-Smart and Water Management Technologies

This session expanded on the applications of RHST Industries and Transport Genie for the particular weather and climate variations from Southeast Asia and Philippines contexts. The applications and compatibility of their innovations to storm surges and waves, fisheries and prawn farming, and rice paddy plantations were discussed in thorough detail.

Penalties vis-a-vis incentives, along with reduction of costs were discussed as key factors for adoptation of responsible agricultural practices.

Breakout Session 3: Climate-Smart Agriculture and Research Advancements

This session illustrated the comparison between climate change strategies between Canada and the Philippines, focusing on the importance of concrete policies and government interventions supportive of research towards reducing greenhouse gas emissions of the agricultural sector.

Conversations keyed in on:

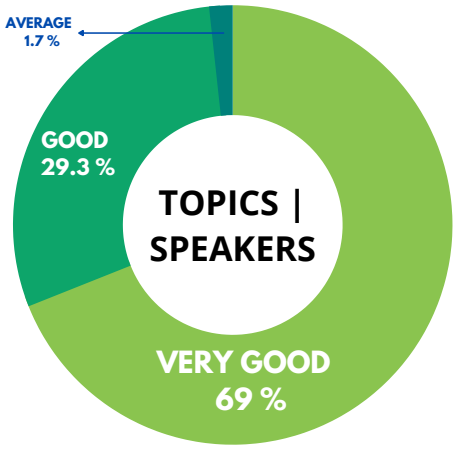
- Establishing systems for recognition and incentivization for businesses that promote environmental sustainability
- The critical need to laymanize expert level processes and research activities to actionable guides for greater participation in the climate action

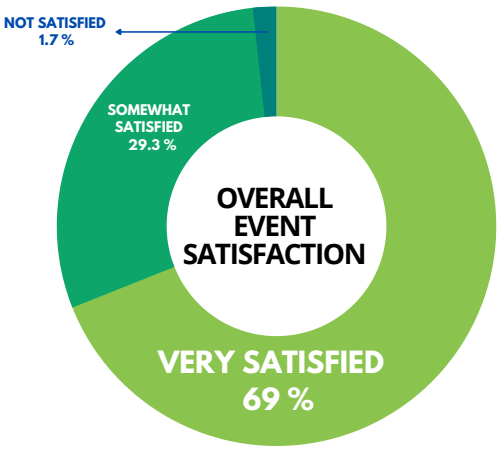
Participant Feedback

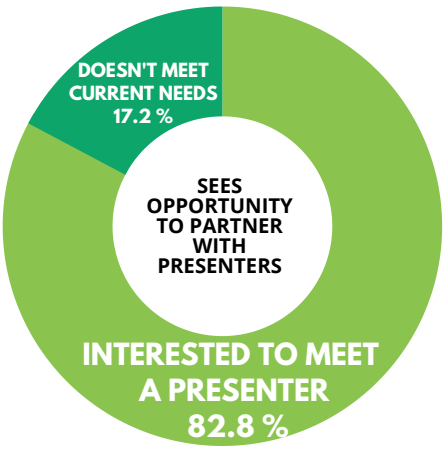
Polls conducted during the Phase 2 of the Learning Series reflected the positive impression of the participants with 100% of respondents stating that the event met their expectations.

Impressions on the topic and speakers were rated by 69% as very good, 29.3% as good and 1.7 % as average. Overall satisfaction for the event was 69% very satisfied, 29.3 % as somewhat satisfied and 1.7% as not satisfied. 60.5% of respondents believe that there are opportunities for partnerships between their companies and organizations and the pitch presenters.

We received expressions of interests for partnerships for all 7 pitch presenters while 39.5% responded that the propositions doesn't meet their current needs.







Reflections

The Climate-Smart Agriculture Learning Series Phases I and II drew a parallel between the current innovations and strategies towards the mitigation and adaptation of Climate Change. With the Philippines bearing the brunt of the severity of extreme weather events, adaptation of these translates to improving economic stability and resilience especially for the agricultural sector.

However, with the realities of poverty especially for smallholder farmers, adaptation of these interventions and innovations presented by Canadian and Filipino enterprises requires a multi-stakeholder approach. Uptake of new agricultural technologies means making the decision between today's meal and the future's harvests. And this is not a decision that can be easily made by those eking out their living from their lands.

We believe that those who are not burdened with the survival are the ones that hold responsibility to initiate and foster solutions that will benefit all, collectively. The underserved and marginalized sectors, women, indigenous peoples, peasant and farmer groups need multi-sectoral backing to advance their needs and concerns.

The partnership of the PPSA and the Trade Commissioner Service - Embassy of Canada in the Philippines upholds the commitment to forge relationships with the private sector, government agencies, academe and research institutions, and cooperatives and farmers groups to collectively build stepping stones of concrete action towards climate-smart agriculture. This commitment to fostering gender-equity and social inclusion is concomitant with our efforts for environmental sustainability.

Each sector stands to benefit from the economic stability that will be gained from systemizing Climate-Smart Agriculture within their institutions and collectively as a national practice.

The partnership of PPSA and TCS brings an increased awareness of the urgent strides needed to keep abreast with the urgency of climate change and which is why we are focused both on adaptation and mitigation efforts, focusing on what can be done now with an eye on long-term sustainability goals. While it can be disheartening to look at how behind the Philippines is in terms of climate-smart strategies, we know that change can occur both gradually and steadily, and also through radical shifts.

Through concerted and collaborative efforts, we can hope for the more of latter or both. As our pitch presenters demonstrated, many problems deemed unsolvable now have multiple options for resolution. We can rely on that.

Next Steps

Canada's trailblazing and innovative initiatives on carbon reduction targets including the recent launch of emission reduction plans across various sectors, and its generous budget framework for clean technologies are affirmative actions.

With the realization of the partnership opportunities towards continuously promoting the shift to climate-smart agriculture and increasing awareness on the Canadian sustainable innovations, the following are recommended as next steps:

- With the support from the Grow Asia Network and coordination with PPSA, the Embassy of Canada in Manila - Trade Commissioner Service could explore scaling up the reach of the activations of this Climate-Smart Agriculture Learning Series. Thus far, current activities generated post-event are increasing follow-ups of concrete collaborations between the Filipino and Canadian agribusiness and agri-tech community who shared their nature-based solutions and innovation in the last two sessions.

- With the inspiring outcomes, the Climate-Smart Agriculture Learning Series could look into launching an Indonesia-leg in cooperation with Grow Asia and its country partnership, Partnership for Indonesia's Sustainable Agriculture (PISAgro).

- In the long-run, the series could expand in Southeast Asia including Cambodia, Vietnam and Myanmar where Grow Asia Network maintains presence. This initiative not only benefits Canada's reach in maximizing the Grow Asia partnerships including the larger network of private sector community, but also creates a web of reinforcing influences towards nurturing the growth of climate-smart agricultural practices in Southeast Asia.

Ultimately, we envision that nurturing climate-smart farmers will generate more food through sustainable production that translates to greater social, economic and environmental gains for all with prosperous farmers as the backbone.

Simply put, we envision a future where farmers enjoy stability, and where health of communities, the environment and economies go hand in hand.

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