Using CRiSTAL to Support Climate-Resilient Agro-Value Chains

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IISD has adapted the CRiSTAL framework to help small agribusiness cooperatives in Eastern Rwanda develop a more integrated approach to managing climate risk impacts on their businesses.

Over two and a half days in May 2013, IISD’s CRiSTAL team trained about 30 local government officials and staff of the Adventist Development Relief Agency (ADRA), a global faith-based humanitarian organization, on climate risk management for local agricultural cooperatives in the rural districts of Gatsibo and Kayonza—where farmers face increasingly unpredictable weather patterns.

During the training, the CRiSTAL framework was adapted and tested through a field application with a Gatsibo district agricultural cooperative, the Maisha Bora (Life Goes On) Cooperative, using the maize value chain.

Climate change risks are particularly worrisome for members of cooperatives such as the Maisha Bora Cooperative, which is composed of 122 HIV-positive members whose aim is to become self-sufficient by growing, transforming and selling maize, among other activities.

Since its launch in 2006, CRiSTAL has been typically used to analyze the links between climate risks, livelihoods and development projects in selected communities. By adapting the CRiSTAL framework to agriculture value chains, IISD aims to analyze the links between climate risks and the supply and demand for agricultural products from production to marketing.

This approach can support a more integrated and business-oriented approach to climate risk management. In particular, it can contribute attention to post-harvest agriculture.

IISD will be issuing a guidance booklet on climate risk management for local agricultural cooperatives in Rwanda based on the experiences of and feedback from trainees. The guide is being produced in collaboration with ADRA-Rwanda and will be available in English and Kinyarwanda.

IISD is also developing and testing this approach in Uganda, this time focusing on the coffee value chain.