

EVALUATION OF CCAA INCEPTION WORKSHOP ADDIS ABABA, APRIL 16-18, 2007

1. Introduction: This analysis reports on results from a one-page questionnaire survey administered to participants in the inception workshop on April 18, in their choice of English or French language (see Appendix 1 for questionnaire forms). The intent of the evaluation was to determine whether the workshop had reached the intended target groups, whether the content and format had been appropriate, and whether the participants had obtained relevant and directly applicable new information. The evaluation form also provided an opportunity for participants to provide unstructured feedback to CCAA about the workshop itself, and about potential future programming.

2. Response rate: The response rate was 100% of workshop participants who remained in the session at the end of the day April 18 (excluding CCAA staff and advisor). The three questions seeking respondent feedback were scored on a 4-point scale, where 0 represented the lowest ranking and 3 the highest. Not all respondents answered all questions.

3. Overall participant response to the workshop: The overall response of participants was very positive. The program generally met their expectations, provided effective opportunities for participation and knowledge sharing, and generated useful new information for the participants. A minority of respondents was less positive about the experience. Crosstabs suggest that the less favorable responses came disproportionately from the regional and international organizations group (although it is important to emphasize that on none of the questions was there even a single highly negative response). This group has considerable experience with meetings and presentations, and probably ought to have been the best informed group among the participants. Their high level of knowledge about CC adaptation already and their preoccupation with mandates for delivering the own programming combine to suggest reasons why they might have benefited somewhat less from the workshop than the researchers and national government agency groups.

4. Who participated in the workshop: The workshop had a regional policy focus. It was designed to provide an opportunity for researchers and regional organizations to interact with each other and with CCAA staff, and for national policy officials to participate with their related research teams. Because the workshop was by invitation only, CCAA had a high degree of control. Table 1 (below) shows that the eventual participants strongly reflected the original intention¹. The participants included a balanced representation from different regions of the continent. One noteworthy gap in participation was the very limited representation of civil society organizations. There were also no representatives of the private sector in attendance. Neither of these groups was targeted by this workshop.

¹ N.B. respondents self-identified their affiliation, so some “researchers” may also be on the staff of NGOs or government research institutes.

Affiliation		Main region of work	
Researchers	18	North Africa	6
Regional / international organizations	17	West / Central Africa	15
National gov't agencies	7	East Africa	9
NGO	1	Southern Africa	7
Other	4	East & Southern Africa	3
		Madagascar	1
		All Africa	5
Total	47		46

Table 1: Number of respondents by affiliation and region of work

5. Did the workshop meet **participant expectations**? 80.8% of respondents agreed that the workshop met or exceeded their expectations in terms of content and learning. None of the respondents rated the workshop at the lowest level in terms of meeting expectations (see chart in Figure 1). When expectations were cross-tabulated by affiliation of participants, it can be seen that regional and international organizations were the least satisfied with the workshop, relative to their expectations, and that national government officials were the most satisfied (see Figure 2). Overall, this would suggest that the participants' expectations were well aligned with the actual content of the workshop (e.g. through advance information or program descriptions), and that many of them actually found it better than they expected. There were, however, a number of suggestions for improvement in the workshop content (see written comments below).

Variable attende	Nb. cit.	Fréq.
Non réponse	1	2.1%
0	0	0.0%
1	8	17.0%
2	26	55.3%
3	12	25.5%
TOTAL OBS.	47	100%

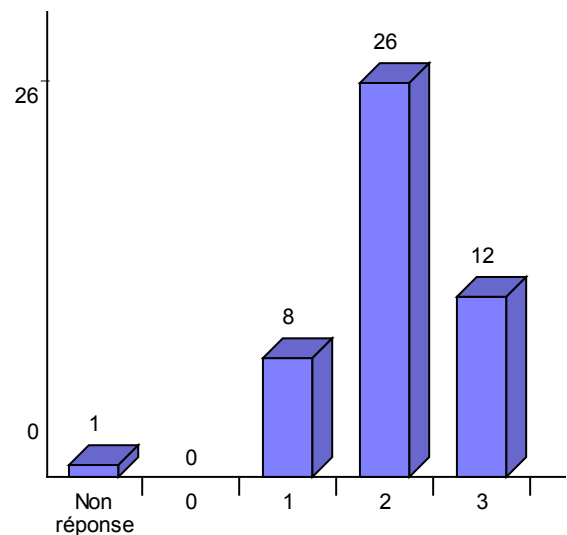


Fig 1. Workshop met expectations in terms of content and learning

Variable attente	Non réponse	0	1	2	3	TOTAL
Variable Groupe						
Chercheur	0.0%	0.0%	11.1%	66.7%	22.2%	100%
Organisation régionale ou internationale	5.9%	0.0%	35.3%	41.2%	17.6%	100%
Agence gouvernementale/Nationale	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	42.9%	57.1%	100%
ONG	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	100%	0.0%	100%
Autre	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	75.0%	25.0%	100%
TOTAL	2.1%	0.0%	17.0%	55.3%	25.5%	100%

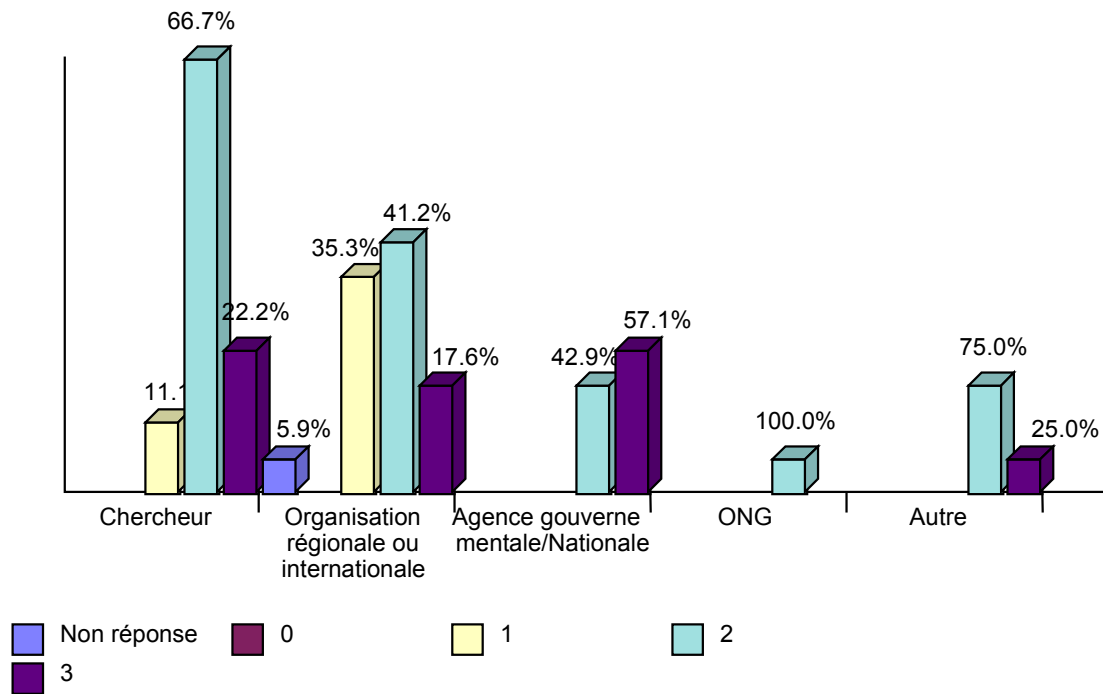


Figure 2: Cross tabulation expectations by participant affiliation category

6. Did the **format of the workshop permit effective participation and knowledge sharing**? Over 85% of the respondents found the format of the workshop sessions to have been effective in facilitating participation and encouraging all to share their knowledge. Once again, none of the respondents gave a zero rating to the workshop format, although there were suggestions for areas needing improvement (see Figure 3 and written comments below). Cross-tabulation suggests that regional and international organizations were again somewhat less satisfied than other groups, although their responses to format were more favorable than for expectations (Figure 4).

Variable format	Nb. cit.	Fréq.
Non réponse	1	2.1%
0	0	0.0%
1	6	12.8%
2	28	59.6%
3	12	25.5%
TOTAL OBS.	47	100%

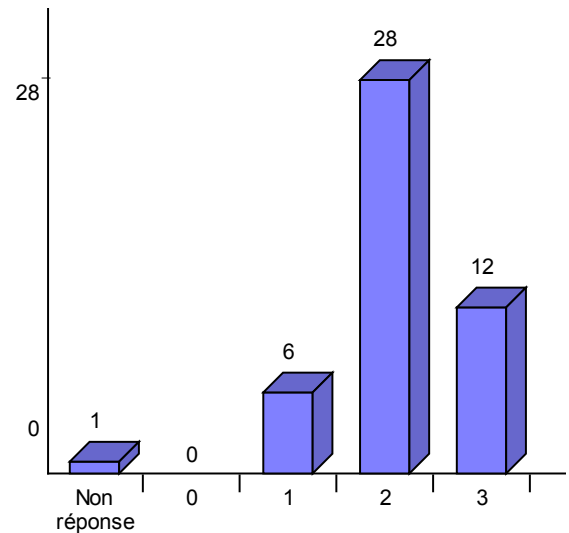


Fig. 3. Format of workshop allowed effective participation

Variable Groupe	Variable format	Non réponse	0	1	2	3	TOTAL
Chercheur		0.0%	0.0%	11.1%	66.7%	22.2%	100%
Organisation régionale ou internationale		5.9%	0.0%	17.6%	47.1%	29.4%	100%
Agence gouvernementale/Nationale		0.0%	0.0%	14.3%	71.4%	14.3%	100%
ONG		0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	100%	100%
Autre		0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	75.0%	25.0%	100%
TOTAL		2.1%	0.0%	12.8%	59.6%	25.5%	100%

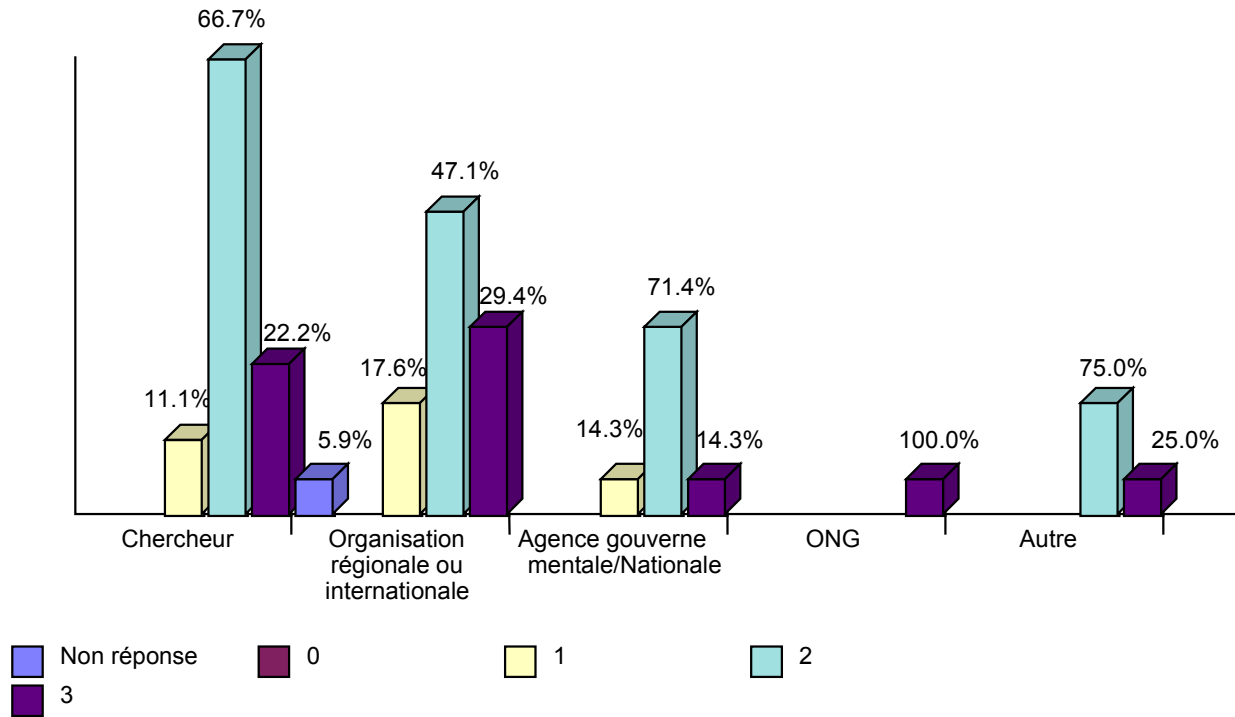


Fig. 4. Cross-tabulation: Format by participant affiliation category

7. Were participants able to **take away specific new ideas to share with their own organizations?** Fully 83% of participants agreed or strongly agreed that they were learning useful information at the workshop to take back to their own organizations. None of the participants gave a strongly negative response to this question (see Figure 5). It is particularly noteworthy that over 60% of the researchers rated the “take-away ideas” from the workshop very highly (Figure 6). Written comments provided further helpful feedback (see below).

Variable Idée	Nb. cit.	Fréq.
Non réponse	2	4.3%
0	0	0.0%
1	6	12.8%
2	17	36.2%
3	22	46.8%
TOTAL OBS.	47	100%

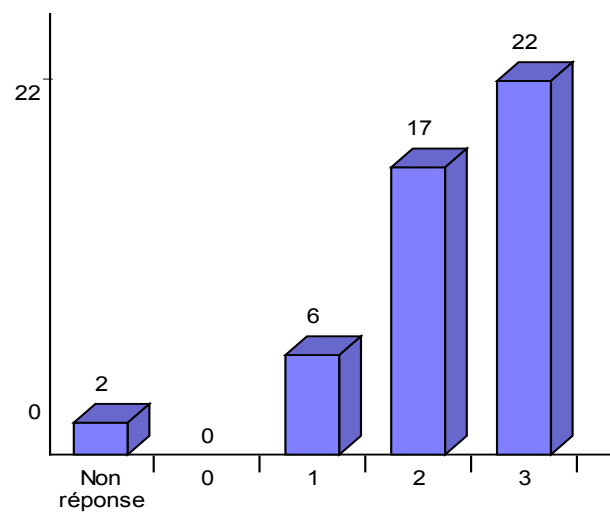


Fig. 5. Will take away new ideas to share with my organization

Variable Groupe	Variable Idée	Non réponse	0	1	2	3	TOTAL
Chercheur		0.0%	0.0%	11.1%	27.8%	61.1%	100%
Organisation régionale ou internationale		11.8%	0.0%	17.6%	41.2%	29.4%	100%
Agence gouvernementale/Nationale		0.0%	0.0%	14.3%	57.1%	28.6%	100%
ONG		0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	100%	100%
Autre		0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	25.0%	75.0%	100%
TOTAL		4.3%	0.0%	12.8%	36.2%	46.8%	100%

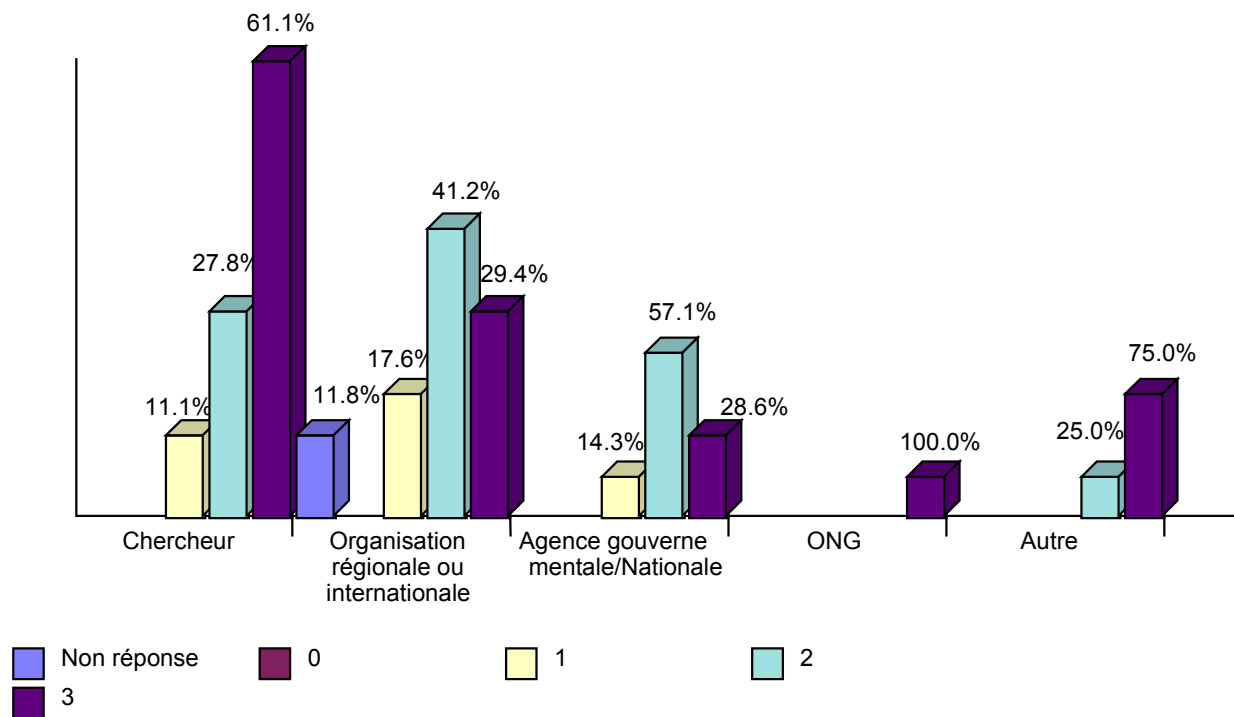


Fig. 6. Cross-tabulation: new ideas by participant affiliation category

8. Suggestions for improvement in the workshop itself: There were a large number of written suggestions from participants (only one respondent failed to make a comment). Responses to this open-ended question can be distinguished into two categories: recommendations for the organization and processes of the workshop, and recommendations for the content of the themes discussed. In terms of organizational suggestions, respondents made two general points frequently:

- Better advance notice of the specific questions to be discussed at the workshop so they could have reflected and prepared better for these.
- Better formulated (and fewer) discussion questions for breakout groups, to reduce misinterpretation.

In relation to suggestions regarding content, the most frequent comment was the absence of case studies of adaptation, which could have been complemented by field visit during the course of the workshop to help illustrate key points.

Other individual suggestions for improvement to the workshop:

- Shorter time period preferred
- A pre-workshop brief to explain its general objectives and the program of CCAA
- Better representation of farmers' organizations
- Distribution of appropriate scientific papers or technical literature
- Involvement of the private sector
- Thematic sub-group discussions
- More participatory plenary sessions
- Timely per diem payments

Most participants also asked for copies of materials presented at the workshop, as well as a full participant list, to be sent to them.

9. Suggestions for CCAA programming: Of the many suggestions offered by participants, three recurred frequently. These were:

- CCAA could play a larger role in coordinating existing initiatives, as a platform for conceptual orientation and implementation of complementary and non-competitive activities in Africa. Towards this end, a better collaboration between CCAA and sub-regional organizations would be desirable.
- Higher visibility for CCAA and its activities among different stakeholders interested in the adaptation problematic in Africa.
- Building capacity of national organizations.

Other individual suggestions included:

- CCAA synthesis of experiences and lessons learned in Knowledge Sharing
- Distinguishing between users (farmers' organizations) and advisory groups (NGOs); supporting initiatives of farmers' organizations with information and capacity-building
- Support for young researchers
- Capacity-building to access existing sources of finance (AfDB, GEF)
- Financial support to regional projects developed by NEPAD at the level of IGAD or SADC
- Support to focal points for capacity-building in countries where CCAA is already active
- Reduce disparities between West and Central Africa
- Support interdisciplinary among groups financed by CCAA
- Support exchange mechanisms between projects

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1. This workshop met my expectations in terms of content and learning
 0 1 2 3

2. The format of the workshop allowed me to share my knowledge and experience effectively
 0 1 2 3

3. I will be able to take away some specific ideas or suggestions for my organization to consider from this workshop
 0 1 2 3

4. What would have improved this workshop for you?

5. Do you have any specific suggestions for the CCAA program, in regards to its activities funding research, building capacity and sharing knowledge?

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6. To which group do you belong?
 Researcher Regional or international organization national government agency other

7. Which region of Africa do you work most in?
 North West/Central East South

Questionnaire d'évaluation de l'atelier de ACCA tenu à Addis Abeba du 16 au 20 Avril 2007

L'atelier a répondu à mes attentes en terme de contenu et d'apprentissage

0 1 2 3

Le format de l'atelier m'a permis d'échanger mes connaissances et mes expériences de manière efficace avec mes pairs

0 1 2 3

Je pars de cet atelier avec des idées ou suggestions spécifiques à proposer à mon organisation

0 1 2 3

D'après vous qu'est ce qui aurait pu améliorer cet atelier

Questionnaire d'évaluation de l'atelier de ACCA tenu à Addis Abeba du 16 au 20 Avril 2007

Avez-vous des suggestions spécifiques pour le programme ACCA quant à ses activités de financements de la recherche, de renforcement des capacités et de partage des connaissances

A quel groupe appartenez vous?

Chercheur Agence gouvernementale/Nationale Autre
 Organisation régionale ou internationale ONG

Dans quelle région de l'Afrique travaillez vous le plus?

Nord est Est et Sud Toute l'Afrique
 Ouest/Centrale Sud Madagascar