

FP23 Climate Resilient Agriculture in three of the Vulnerable Extreme Northern Crop-growing Regions (CRAVE) (EIF), Namibia

CSO comments on the project given as intervention during the 14th GCF Board Meeting, October 2016

We welcome the fact that this project aims to support communities most vulnerable to climate change. But we have the following concerns:

- We note the project's rather small scale. As pointed out in the ITAP assessment, the proposed project covers only 1 % of affected farmers in the target region.
- We share the ITAP's concern about the project's replicability with regard to limits to total water withdrawal from rivers and groundwater aquifers.
- We are concerned about the adequacy of the project's gender provisions. The proposal acknowledges women's unequal access to and control over resources. However, only weak measures are put in place to address that. The project emphasises that it will benefit men and women equally, as per legal requirements in Namibia. The question is how this can be ensured considering that women often do not have the necessary command of resources.

The project proposal lacks specificity in elaborating its on-the-ground approach. The proposal mentions training, mentoring schemes, and demo sites, but it is doubtful whether this will be sufficient to encourage farmers to adopt a more entrepreneurial lifestyle.