

IN DEPTH



Climate-smart agriculture supports resilience of Latin American farmers

[Back to Contents](#)

Climate-smart agriculture supports resilience of Latin American farmers

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Who feeds Latin America during times of crisis? The answer is easy, but producing the food needed requires joint and coordinated work between different actors at different levels.

According to BID, smallholders are responsible for 60% of the food produced in Latin America, but climate change and variability are making their work more difficult. Adding poverty and inequality realities into the equation does not make it any easier. In sum, the pathway to improve livelihoods is highly complex.

In the development of solutions together with rural communities to address these challenges, the CGIAR Research Program on Climate Change, Agriculture and Food Security (CCAFS) has focused its work on generating robust evidence on climate-smart agriculture ([CSA](#)) in order to inform programs and investments from a diversity range of stakeholders. This has been done through the Climate-Smart Villages ([CSV](#)).

CSA aims to support decision-making processes that lead to the implementation of practices and technologies that help to improve productivity and food security, increase adaptation and reduce greenhouse gas emissions. CCAFS jointly with partners and farmers have co-developed, tested and evaluated different agricultural practices and technologies, as well as access to climate services, so that they assess its contribution to CSA goals. This joint co-generation of knowledge has allowed farmers and rural families to improve their adaptive capacity, they are able to plan their crops, decided what varieties to plan and when by using local agroclimatic forecasts.

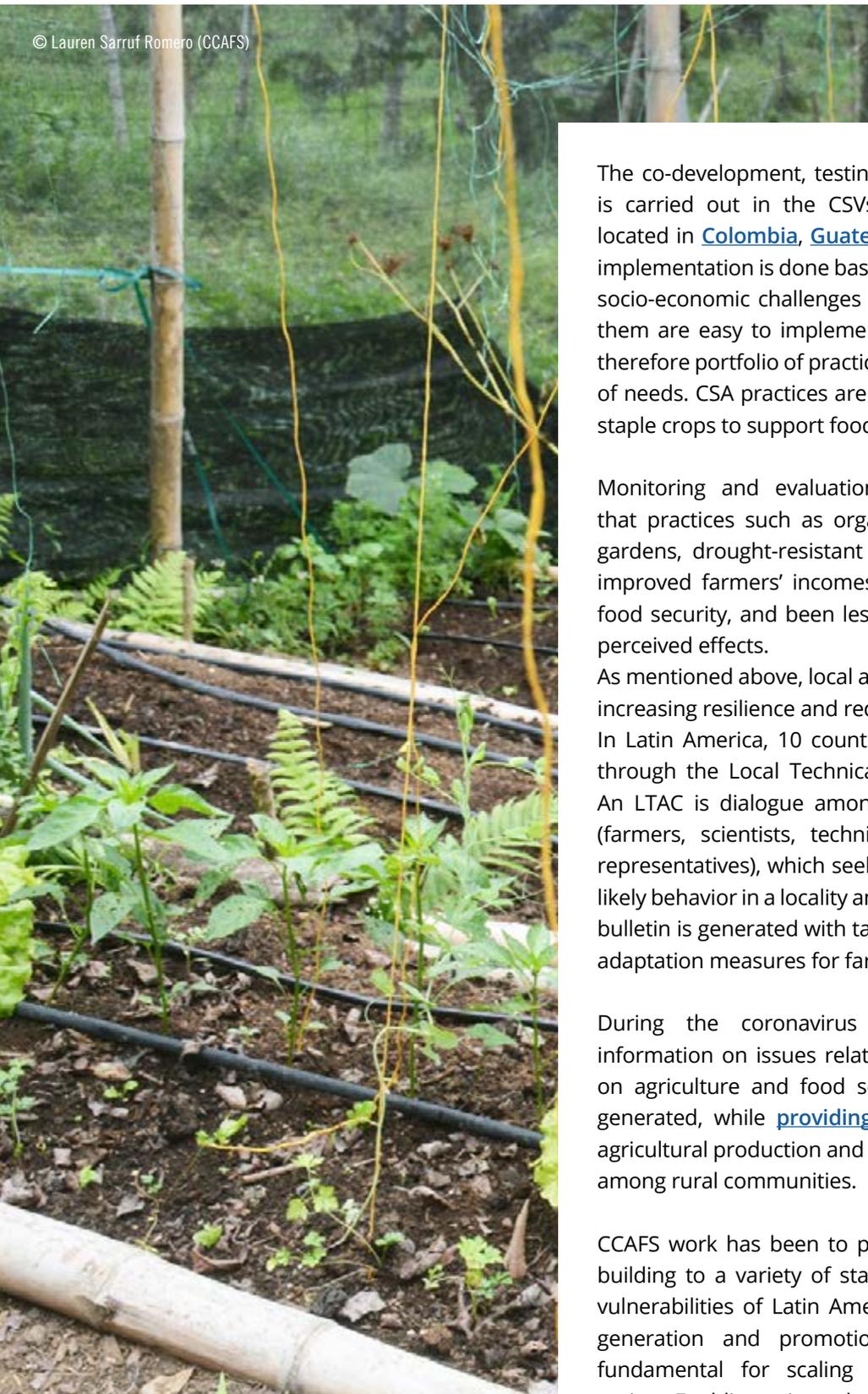


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The co-development, testing and assessment of CSA practices is carried out in the CSVs. The ones in Latin America are located in [Colombia](#), [Guatemala](#) and [Honduras](#). CSA practices implementation is done based on the climate vulnerabilities and socio-economic challenges of rural families, therefore most of them are easy to implement. There is no one-fits-all solution, therefore portfolio of practices are designed to address a variety of needs. CSA practices are developed for both cash crops and staple crops to support food security and income generation.

Monitoring and evaluation results from CSV have shown that practices such as organic compost, climate-smart home gardens, drought-resistant seeds, and water harvesting have improved farmers' incomes, increased productivity, improved food security, and been less affected by climate, among other perceived effects.

As mentioned above, local agroclimatic information is crucial for increasing resilience and reducing climate risks of rural families. In Latin America, 10 countries are providing that information through the Local Technical Agroclimatic Committees ([LTAC](#)). An LTAC is dialogue among a diversity of local stakeholders (farmers, scientists, technicians, public and private sectors representatives), which seeks to understand the climate's most likely behavior in a locality and based on that, a local agroclimatic bulletin is generated with tailored-made recommendations and adaptation measures for farmers.

During the coronavirus pandemic, through the LTACs information on issues related to the [effects of the pandemic](#) on agriculture and food security in Latin America has been generated, while [providing recommendations](#) for increasing agricultural production and addressing the impacts of COVID-19 among rural communities.

CCAFS work has been to provide robust science and capacity building to a variety of stakeholders for reducing the climate vulnerabilities of Latin America's food systems. Joint evidence generation and promotion of CSA practices have been fundamental for scaling their implementation across the region. Enabling science-based and informed decision-making processes for all food systems actors is a way to start the transformation of our food systems and a step forward for achieving the sustainable development goals.