

Performance Audit about the effectiveness of the actions executed by the agricultural sector to mitigate, adapt and manage the risk of the climate change

What did we audit?

The audit had the objective of determine the effectiveness of the actions executed by the public agricultural sector to mitigate, adapt and manage the risk of the climate change, to improve the life quality of the population, the food security, the agroenvironmental and economic sustainability of the productive process and the rise of the agricultural production. The analysis period was from January, 2010 to december, 2014.

Why is it important?

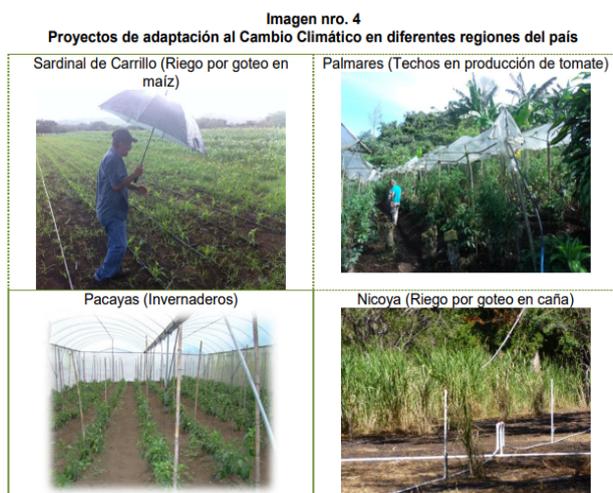
The theme of the audit was important because the effectiveness of the public agricultural sector execute the policies, activities and actions related with the mitigation, adaptation and risk management of the climate change influence in the compliance of the goals accepted by the Government of Costa Rica on the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change.

Also, the effectiveness of the actions executed by the agricultural sector have effects on the population wellness, the resilience of the agricultural production and productivity due to climate variability, food security and the development of productive activities with economic and environmental sustainability.

Besides, from the period 1988-2012, using data from the Executive Secretary of Agricultural Sectorial Planning, the effects of the hydrometeorological events were estimated in US\$255,7 millions -without the El Niño flood and drought effects in 2013,2014 and 2015, that don't have an official estimations-.

What do we find?

SAI Costa Rica determined weaknesses of the coordination and vinculation made by the National Agricultural Council of the actions established for tackle the climate change with the sectorial policies as the State Policy for the agricultural sector and the rural development 2010-2021 and national policies of development as the National Development Plan.



Fuente: CGR en visitas realizadas a Sardinal de Carrillo y Palmares e información suministrada por Agencias de Extensión de Pacayas y Nicoya

Also, weakness on the coordination and articulation of the Working Group established in the State Policy for the agricultural sector and the rural development 2010-2021 to elaborate and implement the effective actions against climate change through Public-Private Alliances. Besides, lack of articulation on the information systems related with the actions on climate change and its utility for the producers and other stakeholders.

As an example of the weaknesses above described, some institutions of the agricultural sector as the Ministry of Agriculture, the National Institute of Innovation and Technology Transference in Agriculture, the Coffee Institute of Costa Rica, the Banana Corporation of Costa Rica, the animal breeding Corporation, the League of Industrialization of the Sugar Cane, the Rice Corporation of Costa Rica, implemented several actions in order to mitigate and adapt to climate change, but without direction, coordination and evaluation of the National Agricultural Council, who is the superior authority in this sector in Costa Rica.

Despite the existence of indicators that show the reduction of the greenhouse gas emissions on several agricultural activities, other activities such as coffee, animal breeding and pig farming raised the emissions of the greenhouse gasses. Also, even though the existence of investigations related with the NAMA Coffee and NAMA Animal Breeding, the results of these weren't evaluated by the authorities of the sector, as a consequence the country doesn't have knowledge about the contribution of the NAMA program on the combat of climate change.

As a result of all the findings, the grade obtained by the Agricultural Sector on the Index of Effectiveness on mitigation, adaptation and risk management of climate change was 48,6 points, that means the need for urgent actions with the goal to improve the performance of the sector in the topic.

What 's next?

SAI Costa Rica recommended to the National Agricultural Council the implementation of a mechanism for the effective management, integration and evaluation of the Policies, Plans and Strategies of the Sector in Climate Change and the actions made in this topic. Also, recommended to the National Agricultural Council the implementation of metrics to estimate the impact of the actions related with mitigation, adaptation and risk management of climate change and a integrated information system about the climate variability, climate change and risk management that facilitate the recopilation, storage and generation of useful information for the decisions making of the sector in climate change.

Besides, SAI Costa Rica recommended the elaboration and implementation of regional sectoral plans for the risk management of climate change, with information about the geographic characteristics, meteorological data and other related with the effects of climate change.