

WG 3: Giving Farmers a Voice

Produce:

- A concise statement of the issue or challenge associated with giving farmers a voice in climate service production
 - How do we involve farmers in learning networks to generate actionable science
 - Using learning networks (including farmers, intermediaries, NGOs, extension, met services, researchers) to support sustainable livelihoods in the context of broader environmental changes
 - We should not assume that *we* have the knowledge the farmers want/need.
 - Need intermediaries between met services and farmers/users
 - Who can serve that role? And how?
 - Giving farmers voice in the policy process and resource allocation process
 - What is the right language/terminology for this communication?
 - Challenge in communicating with extension as well as with farmers
- A few good practices for addressing the challenge that are replicable or **scalable**
- Challenges to implementing good practice
- 1-2 concrete follow up actions that will address the challenge of giving farmers a voice

Problem Statement

- How do we create learning networks of multiple users and producers of info to generate actionable science in support of sustainable livelihoods while recognizing, empowering and honoring their experiences, traditions, and social networks
 - Participatory production and communication of agro meteorological information and knowledge
 - Involving farmers in policy development and planning at all scales (farm to national)
 - Create enabling environment for farmer to use information in support of their preferences and practices

Challenges to scaling up

- Organizational capacity, administrative and programmatic mandates
- Staff requirements and cost : showing value of met info for agriculture and development
- Capacity of farmers, extension services, communicators to access and use information and technology currently available

Recommendations for Scaling-up

Co-production of climate services

- Create/involve multi-disciplinary information development communities/platforms
 - Including NGOs, intermediaries/farmer orgs, local govt., met services (at local, district, national levels)
 - Capacity building for scientists and farmers to provide/ receive and use information/climate services (scaled from national to local via champions, training of trainers)
 - Effectively use existing social networks and existing channels of communication; create new channels as needed to reach the hard-to-reach

Needed capacities

- Enabling factors allowing farmers to use information

 - For Met services

 - understanding farmer and intermediary needs, uses of information

 - For Intermediaries:

 - Capacity of intermediaries to translate innovations and tech for local users
 - Capacities to bring diverse, vulnerable groups into process

 - For Farmers:

 - Capacity needed by farmers to understand climate impacts on local environment/ land use interactions
 - Data collection, tool/equipment use
 - Resources and institutional supports to support actions and responses

- Need intermediaries between met services and farmers/users
 - Who can serve that role?
- Giving farmers voice in the policy process and resource allocation process
- Farmers stress preservation of biodiversity for diversification, resilience, for
- Need to maximize food production – tension between expanding farmland and preserving natural areas
- Roles and responsibilities of farmers: Certain practices have been disturbed by changing climate and environment. Researchers could help them restore these practices or alternative practices.
- Accept and their farming methods, document, recognize successful methods. Practices like pesticide free, crop rotation,
- Help them preserve these methods. E.g., help them find improved seeds/ varieties that can thrive in changing conditions
- Build on existing social, communication networks and practices. Preserve these networks and systems.

- How do we involve farmers in learning networks to generate actionable science in support of sustainable livelihoods while recognizing, empowering and honoring their experiences, traditions, and social networks

Good practices that are scalable

- Involving farmers in policy development and planning
 - Community discussion > village development community > district level planning. To ensure that grassroots interest does not get filtered at successive levels, community representative attends all meetings
- Create Enabling environment for farmer preferences and practices:
 - Assisted natural regeneration
 - Local conventions where decisions are made
 - Farming methods for natural protection
 - Women's initiatives such as Nieta baskets
 - Methods for protecting biodiversity and wetlands
 - Use seasonal crops that are adapted to changing climate
 - Energy efficient technology e.g., solar dryers, clay ovens,
- Participatory production and communication of agro meteorological knowledge information
 - Roving seminars
 - Participatory scenario planning
 - Creation of champions/translators
 - Engage farmers in producing the data (monitoring weather stations; 'community monitors')