

South and East Africa Regional Working Group

Charge to Regional Working Groups

- Each Regional Group identifies: Strengths – Gaps – Opportunities, towards regional roadmaps for strengthening and scaling-up climate information and advisory services for agriculture/rural communities.

Are there similar demands in your country/region?

- Similar livelihoods across region: aquaculture, agriculture, pastoralists

Good practices that resonate across the region?

- Hybrid approaches: enabling technologies should be built upon traditional knowledge systems and existing social groups and networks
- Two-way communication
- Major local languages are even more important in East Africa (but note that English literacy is increasing across Africa)
- Innovation in the **use** of technology at local levels (e.g. intermediary networks)
- Participatory development of solutions
- Capacity building in the extension system
- Co-generation of information
 - Enabling farmers to collect weather & climate information
- Embedding climate information in broader context of building resilience
 - Adding value to climate information (e.g. link to input markets; example of Ethiopian met service info available on the web)
 - Index insurance
 - Agromet advisory services

Key Practices for Scaling Up

- Timely provision of location-specific forecasts, early warnings, & advisories
 - Prioritize sustainability of services over time
 - Integrating advisories with the extension system
- Enhancing capacities of met services, extension agents, farmers, agricultural researchers
 - Enable ongoing evaluation and learning in scaling up
 - Prioritize sustainability over time
 - Local to regional collaboration

Timely provision of location-specific forecasts, early warnings, & advisories

- Strengths
 - Existence of regional & national met agencies & agricultural research organizations
 - Existence of baseline climate information
 - Existing national, regional, and international mechanisms for collaboration
 - Existing human resources
 - Availability of technologies and networks for generating climate & agricultural information
 - Available agricultural technologies
 - Increasing availability of ICT

Timely provision of location-specific forecasts, early warnings, & advisories

Gaps:

- Lack of information at appropriate scales
- Lack of analyzed historical data
- Low density of observational networks
- Geographical discrepancy in strengths
- Low level of capacity and resources in extension services
- Poor institutional collaboration between met services, extension

Timely provision of location-specific forecasts, early warnings, & advisories

Opportunities:

- Take advantage of available technologies for quick dissemination of information
- Growing demand for agromet information
- Availability of skilled forecasts
- Availability of appropriate frameworks, methodologies, and partnerships
- Benefits of agromet information use have been demonstrated
- Growing interest among regional and international agencies in investing in climate services
- Capitalize on goodwill among collaborators

Enhancing capacities of met services, extension agents, farmers, agricultural researchers

Strengths

- Lessons available from pilot studies to build upon
- Availability of trainers and networks of extension agencies, NGOs that can be put to use to enhance farmer capacities
- Strong existing network of regional and national institutions (research, educational, vocational, extension)
- Presence of regional climate centers

Enhancing capacities of met services, extension agents, farmers, agricultural researchers

Gaps

- Lack of linkages between existing technologies and needed coping mechanisms
- Low capacities in agricultural extension for providing both climate & agricultural services to farmers
 - Lack of education about agricultural impacts of climate variability and change
- Low capacities in translating climate information for agricultural impacts
- End user interface
- Imbalance in donor support across countries

Enhancing capacities of met services, extension agents, farmers, agricultural researchers

Opportunities

- Growing donor interest in formal and informal climate services education & capacity building
- Existence of current ICT tools for application in climate services
- Growing discourse on climate services & global climate finance
- Build on existing successful pilot projects & scale up; continual learning and evaluation
- Strengthen existing programs with climate services

Roadmap

- What needs to be done?
 - Develop specific ideas to move forward with
 - Identify existing successful pilot projects for scaling up
- Who will be served?
 - Rural populations (farmers, pastoralists)
 - Extension agencies, researchers, met agencies
 - Participants in input and output markets
 - Agricultural service providers
- How?
 - Set up representative, experienced working groups to identify actionable ideas
 - Building partnerships
 - Organizational self-assessments can identify gaps and opportunities to work with other institutions in addressing full scope of issues
- When?
 - Identify opportunities and interested partners for developing and scaling up new projects by end of February