

Experiences from the Mainstreaming Climate Change Adaptation in Zimbabwe's Agricultural Extension System Project

Presented at the Southern Africa Regional Climate Services Workshop
Elephant Hills Resort, Victoria Falls -Zimbabwe

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Outline



- Project objectives
- Project approach
- Project achievements
- Conclusion

Project objectives



- To integrate climate change adaptation in the Department of AGRITEX
- To enable smallholder farmers to make better decisions and plans utilising climate information.

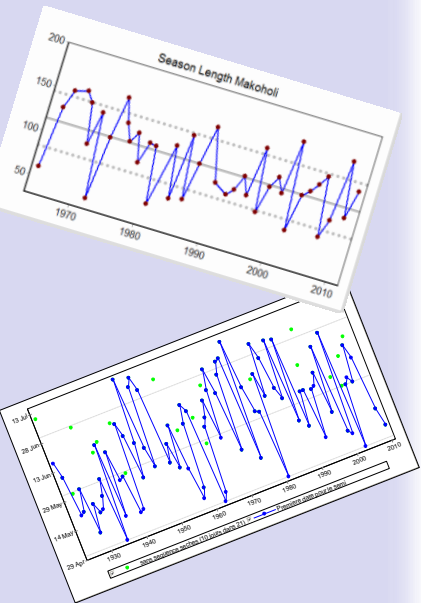
The strategy was to:

- *Build the capacity of AGRITEX staff on vulnerability and capacity assessment and use of climate information - (historical records and forecasts)*
- *Train SHF to utilize climate information, monitor rain gauges & trends, keep records to feed into farm planning and budgeting*

Our approach with farmers

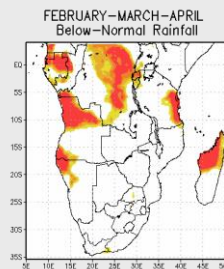
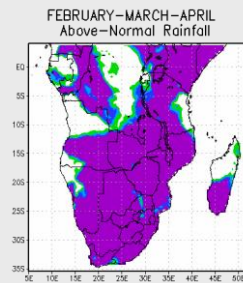
*Long Before
the Season*

Historical
Climate
Data

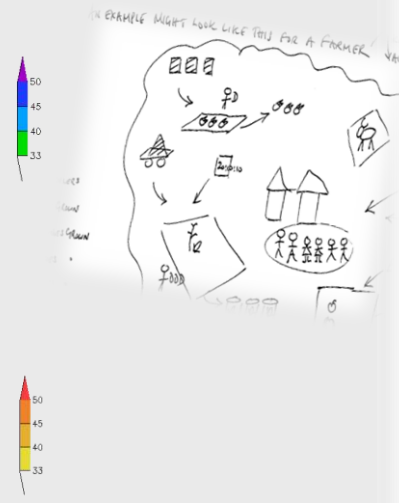


Just before the season

Seasonal
Forecast



Participatory
Planning &
Budgeting



*At start & during
the Season*

10 -day
Forecast & early
warnings



1. Before season
Analyse historical climate data

2. Before season
Train extension staff

3. Before season
Participatory exercises with farmers,
Discuss PSF with farmers

4. During season
MSD/NEWU send 10/5 day forecasts by SMS to farmers.
Provide updated SCF

5. After season
Review experience + National learning Workshop. Identify improvements in process for the following season



Project Achievements (1)



- Significant impact on AGRITEX staff- a core group of practitioners trained - 224 prov & dist officers vs. a target of 170, 1,023 AEWs vs. 1560 AEWs in 3 pilot provinces
- Engaging farmers to understand the presence and effects of CC appears to be a successful entry point to influencing farmer practices. Over 6,000 smallholder farmers trained by trained AEWs and some farmer groups developed plans to reduce exposure to risks and vulnerability to CC
- Generalized recognition of the utility of the approach- uptake of approach by other development actors & mainstreaming in new projects

Conclusion



- Appropriate technologies for coping with drought for livestock keepers required-In most cases what farmers need is the knowledge about existing technologies for adaptation.
- Need for area specific meteorological data – **do we have enough evidence to convince government to invest in Met infrastructure?**
- Explore mechanisms for effective & rapid dissemination of seasonal and 10 day weather forecasts
- Develop simple materials for farmers and AEWs in local language
- A potential sustainable approach - low cost and fits as part of extension activities & AGRITEX keen to see the approach scaled up to cover more Provinces

Thank you



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