

# Reflections

## Providing monitoring and evaluation support for CCAA projects

*In February 2010, when CCAA's program leader visited a Malawi-based project team focusing on agricultural innovations, researchers explained how helpful they had found the program's training and mentoring in outcome mapping (OM). This support, organized in 2007 and 2008 by CCAA, helped them and their partners to plan their activities more effectively and to document accomplishments and changes in practice.*

The Malawi group was one of a number of teams that have expressed satisfaction with the change in paradigm that the OM approach offered.



**Monitoring and Evaluation workshop in Gorée, Senegal, December 2009.**  
Photo: IDRC/N. Beaulieu

Some of those trained in outcome mapping have since gone on to share their new expertise with others. For example, Ayub Macharia Ndaruga of Kenya's National Environment Management Authority, a principal researcher on a team exploring climate vulnerability among pastoralists, is now helping other Kenyan officials apply the approach to a curriculum on sustainable development practices.

Most teams initially experienced some challenges in applying the approach in their participatory action research and in project reporting. The mid-term review of CCAA conducted in 2008 also revealed that some teams interpreted the training in OM as an imposition and an appeal to change their monitoring and evaluation (M&E) approach. Our intention had been to offer OM as a complement to practices already used by project teams in their project management and research. On its own, it is not sufficient for monitoring adaptive capacity. In particular, OM does not include tools to define and monitor biophysical or socio-economic indicators, and these tools are essential to identify the factors that influence vulnerability and coping capacity.



### Lessons learned

- Outcome mapping helps researchers focus on meaningful changes in behaviour and complements other approaches in monitoring adaptive capacity.
- A diverse range of approaches and tools are needed for M&E and planning of adaptation research. A number of existing approaches can be creatively combined and applied.
- The analysis of factors contributing to risk can help participatory action research groups to better identify options to test and policies to seek to influence.



CCAA research partners share their experiences with M&E.  
Photo: IDRC/N. Beaulieu

To address this gap and these perceptions, two capacity development workshops, held in May and December 2009, presented additional planning and M&E methods. These included results-based management, the visions, actions, partnerships approach, participatory analysis of the components of risk, and story-based approaches such as the 'most significant change'. A participants' guide for the December workshop has been developed in French and English.

***The community of Nasso identified silting in the Kou River as an obstacle to coping with drought. Now local authorities are considering new watershed management activities to help.***

Feedback on the first of these workshops indicated project teams gained knowledge of a range of tools, but felt somewhat overwhelmed. CCAA improved the delivery of training by consultants between the May and December workshops by focusing on a smaller number of tools, presenting concrete

examples of how they are used in some projects and linking all of the tools discussed to a participatory action research framework.

Some participants from the May workshop have started applying these approaches and have taught them to the rest of their team. For example, a researcher with Environment and Development Action in the Third World (ENDA) based in Dakar has worked with national teams from Cape Verde, Guinea and Senegal who have, in turn, applied them with community-level groups searching for ways to adapt fisheries policy to climate change.

Researchers and collaborators from the *Institut de l'Environnement et de Recherches Agricoles* (INERA) in Burkina Faso have applied the participatory analysis of components of risk with some of the community level M&E committees involved in their CCAA-supported project. In the community of Nasso, for example, this approach helped them identify the silting of the Kou River as a major obstacle to their coping with drought. They were then able to convey this information to authorities of the municipality of Bobo Dioulasso who are also concerned with the problem and are considering undertaking the watershed management activities needed through the communal development plan.

## Looking ahead

Developing concrete application examples and case studies may be the best contribution that our program can make to assuring that monitoring and evaluation become an integral part of adaptation to climate change. We will be working with project teams to develop case studies and we plan a learning forum on evaluating adaptation next year. This will allow our project teams to discuss lessons learned and produce a synthesis document from their experiences.

A project coordinated by the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa in collaboration with the sub-regional climate monitoring and training centre AGRHYMET and the Sahara and Sahel Observatory (OSS) will be developing and testing a toolkit for M&E of adaptation with other sub-regional organizations and their national partners.