

Adapting Agriculture to Climate Change in Ethiopia

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Climate change is not a distant worry in Ethiopia any more – it is real, it is happening and will continue. The question now is how can we assist the agrarian community to adapt to these changes and produce enough on sustainable basis and reduce poverty and achieve the desired food and feed security? The critical answer to this lies in implementing action steps and adopting principles aimed at: developing capacity for adapting agriculture to climate variability and change. These should include *increasing public awareness about climate change impacts, and encouraging them to implement available adaptation options, enhancing rain water productivity, financing localized climate variability and change adaptation, developing and promoting agricultural rainfall risk insurance schemes, improving institutional capacity to generate and apply climate*

information at local level, developing and improving human capacity in climate change science, and harmonizing policies and institutional frameworks affecting climate change adaptation.

Public Awareness

① Raise awareness of the public about climate change and its impacts

- Mainstream climate change issues into formal and informal education curricula
- Invest in communication and knowledge raising products
- Take advantage of advances in Information and Communication Technologies

Rain Water Productivity

② Exploit fully the potential of rainfed agriculture

- Learn lessons from past experiences to guide full utilization of existing knowledge and technologies
- Ensure use of climate forecast products to reduce climate induced risks

- Take advantage of advances in Information and Communication Technologies
- Integrate efficient agricultural water management practices with productivity enhancing interventions
- Manage water to prevent flooding, water logging, erosion and nutrient leaching under increased rainfall
- Adopt response farming technology

Financing

③ Invest into smallholder Climate variability and change adaptation efforts

- Pay serious attention to use IK for adaptation to climate variability and change
- Encourage financial institutions to provide credit on timely and at low interest rate
- Promote local savings and credit
- Finance local initiatives for natural resource conservation and use
- Allocate sufficient budgets for communication, sharing, and scaling up of available climate change adaptation options

Promote Agricultural Rainfall Risk Insurance

④ Develop and promote rainfall risk insurance schemes

- ➔ Invest in agricultural risk insurance
- ➔ Encourage risk financing institutions to insure rainfall risks

Institutional Capacity

⑤ Develop capacity to generate and apply climate information at local level

- ➔ Make climate information products available timely in a format that can easily be understood and utilized by target communities
- ➔ Enhance the operational and technical capacity of national institutions to develop and disseminate regularly updated climate knowledge, products and adaptation plans

Human Capacity Development

⑥ Develop and Improve Human capacity in the science and practice of Climate Change and adaptation

- ➔ Train researchers in the science of climate change
- ➔ Target research to fill technological adaptation deficits
- ➔ Improve extension, lesson learning and partnership among stakeholders to effectively address adaptation deficits
- ➔ Establish village based platforms and operationalize participatory forecast production and dissemination mechanisms on sustainable basis
- ➔ Develop extension workers and researchers capacity in response farming techniques

Policy

⑦ Harmonize policies and Institutional frameworks affecting climate change adaptation

- ➔ Mainstream climate change adaptation into poverty reduction and food security improvement efforts
- ➔ Formulate umbrella policies/strategies to reduce sectoral disconnect for climate change adaptation
- ➔ Adopt cross - sectoral wide programs that have strong ownership by stakeholders to effectively address climate change adaptation at different levels
- ➔ Invest in technologies,
- ➔ Create additional opportunities for off-farm employment,
- ➔ Invest in research on the use of new crop varieties and livestock species that are more suited to drought conditions,
- ➔ Encourage informal social networks
- ➔ Invest in irrigation.
- ➔ Exploit IK for adaptation to climate variability and change
- ➔ Institutionalize climate change adaptation research

