

Agriculture, Drought and Food Security

Technical Session 1B

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Outline

- Presentation
- Challenges
- Focus
- Strategies
- recommendations

1. Adapting to drought in Kenya

Ms Rachel Berger, Practical Action

Challenges

- In semi- arid Kenya droughts are becoming longer and more frequent
- With population growth, increasing pressure on scarce water, land and grazing land
- Lack of access to animal health services
- Lack of access to government agric extension services

Focus

- Livestock production – strengthened two cross-breeding , and community based animal health
- Crop-production: recovering local knowledge of drought – adapted crops can be done through valuing local knowledge and open channels for sharing it.
- Community capacity must be build to control and manage the technologies that will help them to adapt, but on going mentoring and support for new local organizations needed because of power imbalances

Recommendations

- CBA must begin by collecting and valuing local knowledge and linking it with relevant scientific knowledge
- Scaling up: local institutions (govt, private sector, community) must be involved from early on, and engaged to understand and support successful adaptation strategies
- CBA must be seen as a process not as a project type of activity: a way of resourcing ongoing support for newly-formed local organizations must be found

2. Linking climate and
adaptation
ENDA Senegal

Ms Salimata Wade
ENDA, Senegal

Challenges

- Prevention of deforestation
- Increasing agric. Production (food security)
- Secure wood fuel needs
- Integrate research programme and field action
- Organize communities and provide them with sustainable income

Focus

- A mitigation initiative (one aspect)
- An adaptation project to CC for a poor community
- Reducing climate change vulnerability and poverty vulnerability

Strategies

- Combination of research and action in the field
- Community mobilization
- Shifting from self subsistence project to market/consumer oriented activities to earn income and to break away from the cycle of poverty.
- Linking local based activities to the level of political decision making to make the impact sustainable and replicable elsewhere, at a large scale

3. Community based floodplan resource management in South Central Region of Bangladesh

Ms Olena Reza and Mr Belayet
Hossain

BCAS, Bangladesh

Challenges

- Problem with waterlogging
- Degraded water resource
- Need for income generating activities for the local people

Focus

- Various activities implemented e.g. Tree nursery, floating gardens, tree plantation on river banks leading to strengthened livelihoods
- Excavation of the beel and creation of a of a migration channel for fish
- Fish conservation activities – numbers increasing in the beel
- Development of a community based institution to directly manage most of the activities after the end of the project

Recommendations

- Undertake participatory vulnerability and needs assessments
- Undertake awareness raising activities using a range of approaches including training, workshops, media campaigns, folk song and drama events and advocacy
- Follow up activities to ensure long term impact at the community level
- Monitor lessons learnt at different levels
- Share learning with interested groups

4. Community-based adaptation in the coastal zone in Sri Lanka

Sri Mevan Vajira Lenaduwa Hettige

Practical Action, Sri Lanka

Challenge

- Decline in yields because of salinity
- Salinity issues increasing with climate change
- Getting institutional support
- Scaling up of approaches
- Changing the mindset of bureaucrats

Focus

- Community participatory approach
- Linking with local rice institutions

Strategies and Recommendations

Strategies

- Participatory farmer-field research
- Testing traditional rice varieties for saline tolerance

Recommendations

- Linking local and scientific knowledge on adaptation

5. Enhancement of crop
security in Southern Dry Zone of
Sri Lanka through climate change

Champa Madhumathi Navarathe

University of Ruhuna, Sri Lanka

Challenges

- Main effect of climate change is rainfall variation causing delayed onset of rainy season and prolonged dry periods within the rainy season
- Change on the timing of the onset of rain affecting how farmers time planting their crops
- Dry periods in the wet season affecting crop growth
- Can farmers adapt their calendars to cope with this?

Focus

- Looked at changes in climate over the last 50 years
- Looked at changes in farmers cropping calendar over the last 50 years
- Asked ‘what is the optimal cropping calendar that would incorporate changes in climate?’

Recommendation

- To change the cropping calendar to accommodate changes in rainfall
- Build understanding of these changes with the farmers so they see the benefit of changing their traditional planting patterns

Questions for discussion

- How do we ensure that activities at the community level are sustainable?
- How can we know if a project is successful?
- How do we know if we are building adaptive capacity?
- Some constraints on effective adaptation are beyond the scope of NGOs e.g. securing safe land for people suffering from river erosion. What role do NGOs have in this situation?
- There are clear examples of good practice going on at the local level but how can these experiences be funded longer term, be replicated in other areas and scaled up to the national level?
- How do you explain the changes people are seeing at an appropriate level?
- How do you link more effectively with policy makers to make experiences on the ground more widely applicable?
- How do you reach the most marginalized people (often not actually the target of projects)? Projects often look good on paper but don't actually reach the poorest people

Concluding comments

- Farmers' ownership and control over seeds should be the key adaptation policy
- Building negotiation capacity of the farmers to choose various options should be a key task -- *thanks to Khurshid Alam*
- Adaptation is the most feasible option
- Studies silent on the cost of doing things and on economic implications.