FOOD SECURITY AND ADAPTATION TO CLIMATE CHANGE IN THE AFRAM PLAINS OF GHANA

APDO
Friendship & interdependence

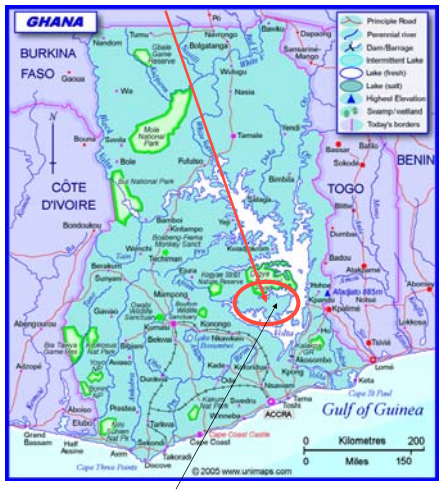
Introduction

The lives of rural farmers and herders in Ghana depend largely on climate-sensitive natural resources. Both crop yields and animal stocks affect the availability and quality of food, and hence household well-being. Alterations in the extension in agro-ecological zones due to climate variability and change imply shifting growing conditions for crops and rising tension between farmers and herders as they struggle over scarce resources. Yet, climate change is usually 'hidden' and, thus, often remains too elusive for action, unless it is experienced in the form of extreme events.

There is a clear need to investigate and learn from local climate change understandings, to fill knowledge gaps, and to improve information exchange to facilitate decision-making and successful climate change adaptation strategies.

The overall objective is to create a **platform for a collective learning process between farmers, Fulani herders, fishermen, researchers, and policy makers** to better understand the linkages between climate variability and change on the one hand and household food security and well-being on the other hand.

Pilot Action Area: The Afram Plains District of Ghana



FOUR communities
- Mim Kyemfre (farming, charcoal, bushfires, Fulani)
- Boakyekrom (farming, charcoal production, Fulani)
- Xerdzozokope (fishing and Fulani presence)
- Kwaekese (farming and charcoal production)

Objectives

1) **Understand local perceptions on climate change and stakeholders' adaptive capacity**
2) **Establish empirical linkages between changing climate patterns and household food (in) security and adaptive responses**
3) **Facilitate social learning and risk communication**
4) **Identify most feasible and appropriate adaptation options**
5) **Create channels for feedback and monitoring for the scaling up of learning experiences**
6) **Inform policies to better integrate climate change, food security, and sustainable development.**

Proposed Methods

- Participatory risk mapping
  Mental models on CC/variability
  Cognitive assessment of risks and adaptation
- Community focus groups
  Historical matrices
  Household livelihood analysis
- Discussion & focus groups
  Workshops
  Vision mapping
  Scenario building
  Community theatre
  Collaboration with local artists
- Focus groups
  Semi-structured interviews
  Pairwise ranking & scoring
  Illustrated catalogue
- Note-taking
  Photo documentation
- Workshops





Expected Outcomes

- Enhanced capacity to understand linkages between climate change, food security, and well-being;
- Increased food and livelihood security and resilience through a better understanding of possible adaptation strategies to climatic and other stressors;
- A stronger voice for local people to make their hazards more visible;
- Integration of 'expert' and 'non-expert' concerns in climate risk communication efforts;
- Validation of local knowledge, including that of women, in monitoring climate and the choice of appropriate adaptation options;
- Sustainable community management and economic district development plans that integrate adaptation to hazards and resilient livelihoods;
- Science-community-policy partnerships that promote integrative climate change adaptation;
- More effective integration of climate change and adaptation into Ghana's policy responses to the Millennium Development Goals.

Proposed Activities

1. Research on perception of CC and impacts on household food security and adaptive capacity

2. Social learning on CC risk assessments and communication
- village recording & monitoring of CC indicators
- discussions of CC risks with "experts"
- scenario building for future CC and impacts
- design & dissemination of information material (brochures, radio program, environmental theatre)
- workshops with CC experts & policy makers

3. Design of catalogue for resource management & income-generating activities to support CC adaptation & enhance food security

4. Monitoring & documentation of learning process
- note taking
- village cameras
- art competition

5. Exchange & collaboration with policymakers

Outreach & Communication

- Researchers reaching out to community members (understand decision-making processes under CC/variability)
- Community members reaching out to researchers, extension agents & policy makers (share knowledge & articulate livelihood stressors)
- Extension agents & policy makers reaching out to researchers, community & NGO members (design and implement resource management & development plans)

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