

Mainstreaming Agrometeorological Advisory Services into the National Agricultural Policy

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OVERVIEW

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Introduction

- Agriculture plays a major role in Kenya's economy and livelihoods of its people.
- Agricultural activities dependent largely on soil and climatic/weather conditions prevailing in an area
- Climate influences agricultural production through inter-and-intra season variabilities
- Mitigation could be through integration of meteorological forecasting information with agronomic knowledge in advising farmers on timely and best practices.



Introduction cont.

- There is lack of emphasis on policy issues especially the policy formulation processes and pathways followed.
- The study is based on one of the key messages from the study by PARs that;
 - Current advances in meteorology;
 - increased understanding of global climatic patterns,
 - the power of information and communications technologies can be harnessed to aid resource poor farmers to adapt to climate variability and gain the skills needed to cope with long-term climate change



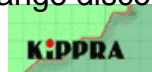
Objectives

- Ascertain factors that constrain development of agromet advisory services;
- who are the main actors that can be involved in the policy formulation and implementation process,
- What are the level of their interests and influence
- Any policy spaces for use to enhance the integration of agromet services into the national agricultural policy



Findings - Narratives and Evidence

- climate change is affecting agriculture
- Policy-making must be understood as a political process as much as an analytical or problem solving one
- Most climate change debates, policy advocacy and review work and programs are being funded by the donors and this gives them much authority in shaping the agenda and direction of these debates and also the outcome
- In current climate change policy scenario, its not clear how the power relations between the donors (funding) and the government, mandated to make and implement policy, will shape the climate change discourse in Kenya



Narratives and Evidence cont

- The current policy and institutional framework does not support provision of agro-met services for climate information
- Kenyan Meteorological Department (KMD) has a mandate for providing climate information but with a bias toward aviation.
- In Kenya agrometeorological services have lagged behind due to Policy and institutional issues governing research, weather forecasting and dissemination
- Agriculture and associated sectors have been inadequately served



Narratives and Evidence cont

- Main focus of agrometeorology is to provide information through advisory services to farmers to ensure timely and appropriate implementation of agricultural activities
- Main actor has primarily been the government
- The process is increasingly becoming consultative
- There is relevance of agrometeorological services in agricultural production especially in the context of changing climate.
- All these have implications for KMD operations in mainstreaming agromet services in Kenya.



Constraints to Agromet Services Development in Kenya

- bias towards aviation over agriculture
- lengthy procedures involved in policy formulation,
- Weak collaboration between main actors limited capacity to handle agromet advisories
- inadequate data gathering and information dissemination mechanisms;
- lack of awareness of the relevance of agromet services for climate change adaptation.
- Inadequate dissemination channels
- lack of effective follow-up mechanisms and



Constraints to Agromet Services Development in Kenya Cont.

- Lack of feedback Mechanism
- Non-Demand Driven Research- farmers have their particular needs based on resource endowment, environmental conditions, and affordability of technologies
- Ineffective interpretation of weather forecasts
Most of the information from KMD is passed to the divisional extension personnel with minimal or no interpretation



Main Actors, Interests and Influence

- There are many institutions/organisations dealing directly or indirectly with climate change at national and district levels.
- These have interventions in areas of water conservation and management, soil fertility, community development, crop and livestock production etc
- Their interests vary across the board.



Main Actors

- The main actors are the
 - Ministry of Agriculture (for extension services),
 - KARI (agricultural research), and
 - KMD (for meteorology aspects).
- Other relevant actors include
 - Universities for capacity building and research,
 - The Catholic Church
 - DRSRS for remotely sensed data acquisition
 - Media for disseminating information
 - NGOs for advocacy, funding and mobilisation



Local Level Actors

- The actors have varying degree of influence, interest and power
 - Community Based Organizations CBOs,
 - Government departments at district and divisional levels
 - Local leadership and provincial administration
 - farmers groups.



Power/influence

- **High influence – high power**
 - Ministry of Agriculture (MoA), KARI and KMD
 - WB and EU,
 - Political Leadership (The OPM and OP)
 - Provincial Administration,
 - Ministry of Water and Irrigation,
- **Low influence – high power**
 - WFP, Red Cross, CDF,



Power/influence

- **High Influence – low power**
 - Churches (e.g. Catholic Church)
 - Development Associations, Universities,
 - NGOs such as the World Vision, OXFAM etc
- **Low influence - low power**
 - Local leadership (councillors & chiefs)
 - CBOs and Farmers groups
 - women groups and Local NGOs



Champions for Agromet Services

- Very few champions – individuals/institutions probably due to the fact that agrometeorology has been inactive in Kenya for many years.
 - Ministry of Agriculture, KMD and KARI,
 - European Union, World Bank
 - Office of the Prime Minister
 - Office of the President
 - Members of Parliament (MPs)
 - The Catholic Church, KENFAP



Champions for Agromet Services

- Ministry of Agriculture (MoA), KARI and KMD
- The **EU** - major donor to development initiatives in the country and is therefore likely to influence what it feels will benefit small-scale farmers.
- The **WB** has relationship with the parliament through financial support and could therefore influence it to act on certain issues deemed of need to public.
- The **OP** and **OPM** can champion agromet services through the executive authority by influencing policy formulation



Pathways for influencing Policy

- **Seeking for presidential decree or executive authority** - president declares the need for having a certain policy in place.
- **Introducing private member's bill/motion in parliament**- requires high support and political goodwill that can enable it pass in record time.
- **Through National umbrella bodies** - Kenya National Federation of Agricultural Producers (KENFAP) - a federation of agricultural producers through lobbying, advocating for agricultural concerns, information and communication.



Pathways for influencing Policy

- **Central Agricultural Board** - national level forum chaired by the Minister in charge of agriculture - provides a favourable atmosphere for agricultural policy development
- **District Steering Group (DSG)**, which brings together stakeholders at the district level - draws Membership from agricultural stakeholders including government ministries, NGOs, faith based organisation, politicians
- **District Development Committee (DDC)**-attended by heads of government departments can be used to pass recommendations to the provincial level



Pathways for influencing Policy cont

- **Extension service channel:** the ministry of Agriculture extension service stretches from the divisional to national level.
- **Media** - (radio and published articles) can channel relevant information to influence policy
- **District Environmental Committee (DEC)** - deals with environmental and related issues. The MoA could pick the issue of agromet services and recommend it as a strategy for coping with climate change
- Political Leadership



Conclusion

- There are currently no clear and concrete positions that have been developed as actors are still in the process of analyzing the effects of climate change in their sectors and how policy can address them
- What needs to be considered as the debates on climate change policy are unfolding?
 - **Public Awareness of Climate Change Issues**
 - Most farmers are aware of the changes taking place in the environment, however they are not aware of the bigger picture of global warming hence CC and food insecurity
 - This knowledge will help them to fully participate in policy debate and contribute their experiences
 - **Strengthen the Role of Non-state Actors**



Thank you

