

Bridging Research and Policy on Climate Change and Agriculture

Case studies in Africa

The increasing focus on climate change presents challenges as well as opportunities for the agricultural sector. A key challenge is to ensure that evidence from field level research is brought to bear in government policies.

- The project **Research to Policy for Adaptation (RPA)** has since 2009 worked with CCAA project partners in Malawi, Kenya and Tanzania to analyse the policy context in which they are operating, in order to better understand how their research projects can have an impact.
- **Policy processes** are analysed from three overlapping angles: *narratives and evidence, actors and networks, and politics and interests.*
- **Case studies** on policy processes related to crop diversification (Malawi), agro-meteorology (Kenya), pastoralist livelihoods (Kenya), indigenous weather forecasting (Kenya), Malaria (Kenya and Tanzania), and risk management in agriculture (Tanzania),
- These form the basis for **identifying policy spaces**, areas where researchers may influence policy formation and implementation, and **engagement strategies** for how researchers may better make use of such policy spaces.
- In 2010, the **Future Agricultures Consortium Climate Change Theme** has commissioned country case studies in Ethiopia and Kenya. The aims are to map the national level narratives and actors around climate change and agriculture at the national level, and their manifestations at sub-national levels.



Key Research Questions:

- What are the narratives, actors, and their interests, and how do they shape policy in the projects' areas of work?
- What is the fit between these processes and the project's policy recommendations?
- What policy spaces exist and which potential ones can be explored?
- How do international policy developments play out at national and sub-national levels?

The Projects

RPA (Research to Policy for Adaptation)

- funded through the DFID/IDRC CCAA programme
- aims to improve the ability of CCAA programme partners in East Africa to understand climate change adaptation policy processes at local and national levels
- focus countries: Kenya, Tanzania, Malawi

The Future Agricultures Consortium (FAC) Climate Change Theme

- research on how the new and emerging international policy developments are playing out in the agricultural sector
- building on findings from RPA project as well as the Future Agricultures Consortium (FAC) since 2005
- focus countries (2010/11): Ethiopia and Kenya

The challenges from climate change in the agricultural sector are attracting an increasing number of actors, with different views on problems and solutions. A better understanding of how policy processes work are needed in order to support evidence-based policies; promote policy coherence, and avoid potential policy conflicts within the agricultural sector and across sectors.