Climate Services - Food Security and drought - Becoming more proactive

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OUTLINE

1. Background
2. Hits – What Worked?
3. Misses- What flopped?
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5. Next Steps
6. Conclusions
1. Background - The Jamaican Agriculture Context

- Jamaican Agriculture is very reliant on rain-fed production (less than 6% Irrigation)
- Excepting for root and tuber crops: Production is vulnerable to severe weather events.
- Climate variability and change will exacerbate the vulnerability; affect food and nutrition security.
- Food security: Accessibility, Availability, Stability and Utilisation (FAO, 2007)
- Climate Services has potential to address all of the above
1. Background- Climate Services Interventions (The Jamaican Case Study)

- Through CAMI: Training, development of Farmers bulletin, Forecasts. Continued support from and contribution to Regional CAMI follow-on.
- Working group co chaired by the Meteorological Service and Rural Agricultural Development Authority (RADA): Interfaces directly with Sector stakeholders, reviews products, charts the way forward.
- Collaboration brought about additional products directly targeting the ag sector.
- Main product is the drought prediction which was done for the first time in Jamaica.
1. Background- Climate Services Interventions (The Jamaican Case Study)

Specific Interventions:

• Press briefing and launch held January 2014 – highlight the products developed.

• Stakeholder workshop –April 2014: feedback on current products and development of new work plan for working group.

• Farmers’ fora held in 4 parishes (Especially St. Elizabeth): High interest/participation, request for continuation and expansion

• Technical support for the proposed installation of agromet stations across the island targeting major production areas
2. Hits- What Worked?

- Development of key products to enhance decision making at the policy and farm level.
- Inter-agency collaboration
- Capacity Building.
- Leverage of resources to accomplish tasks- ACDI VOCA.
- Regional (CIMH-CariCOF) and International support(USAID/IRI).
3. Misses - What flopped?

- Some level of buy in from decision makers - MWLECC
- No buy in from MoAF (policy level) - sustainability is impossible without it.
- Data issues has hampered meeting some of the objectives.
- Looking at other possibilities to determine soil moisture. eg. Installing soil moisture probes in addition to determining evapotranspiration for key farming areas.
- Dissemination methods to be better structured and targeted.
- Merging indigenous knowledge with scientific data is still a challenge.
4. Towards Integrating Climate Services- Needs Assessment

- Intervention required at the policy level
- Institutional arrangement
- Training
- More and varied data collection
- Communication strategy in dissemination of information
- Integration of science with indigenous knowledge
5. Next Steps- Potential Schematic?

- **MDA** - Ministries, Dept, Agencies need strategies to respond to CC issues
- **Research** - Impact modelling and assessment tools for CC impacts on various sectors as well as technological needs for adaptation and mitigation strategies
- **IP** - Funding, capacity building and technology transfer mechanisms to support CC activities.
- **Public** - Needs to be informed and equipped with necessary information to become fully engaged in taking action at the community level.

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**Climate Change Division**

- Coordinate national actions on climate change
- Provide technical support in the development of adaptation and mitigation strategies.
- Climate change Policy Framework and Action plan (draft paper)
6. Conclusion

The Incorporation of Climate services has:

2. Increased potential for improved crop production in a changing climate.
3. Created new partnerships and highlighted some other possibilities.
4. Marked improvement in awareness (even of Parliament) of CC, CC-Agriculture impacts and innovative remedial measures (policy implications).
5. More interactions between all pertinent stakeholders; closes the Knowledge Attitude and Practice (KAP) feedback cycle.
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MWLECC

MOAF

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USAID/ACDI VOCA

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