



Concept Note Webinar Climate Change, Agriculture and Food Security in Eastern Africa

23rd September 2020

Climate variability and change are causing devastating socio-economic impacts in all parts of the world including eastern parts of Africa, especially through the impacts of severe droughts, floods, and other weather and climate extremes. These climate extremes are often associated with loss of life and property, migrations of people and wild life, increasing loss of biodiversity, water scarcity, deforestation, soil and environmental degradation, increased disease burdens, among many other miseries. Other impacts of climate change and variability have been associated with declining productivity across sectors particularly agriculture and food security, health, water resources and energy among others. Many parts of the region currently experiencing erratic climate extremes including rainfall characteristics that make the climate sensitive sectors highly vulnerable forcing the region's population to continue grappling with losses in livelihoods, food and nutrition insecurity, unemployment, limited access to education, gender inequality and a host of other social problems.

It has been noted that no sustainable development can be achieved without integration of climate smart policies in all development strategies as has been highlighted by the UN 17 sustainable development goals, the UN Sendai Disaster risk reduction framework, the Paris Climate agreement, the 2063 AU Agenda, and the development strategies of the Regional Economic Communities (RECs) and national development strategies. IGAD Climate Prediction and Applications Centre's (ICPAC) has been established within the framework of the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) to help the region address all challenges associated with climate variability and change. ICPAC, a specialized institution of IGAD, with a clear mandate and responsibility focusing mainly on climate information, prediction and early warning and applications in support of environmental management, disaster risk reduction, among other for sustainable development. ICPAC has three non IGAD member countries Tanzania, Rwanda and Burundi. ICPAC also supports the implementation of IGAD Regional Climate Change Strategy (IRCCS).

Some of the key challenges associated with attempts to integrate climate variability and change in regional development strategies include limited knowledge and multidisciplinary capacity, observation and data systems, in adequate prediction and early warning systems, inability to effectively use available products and services, lack of advocacy and climate smart policies, etc. ICPAC has launched a multidisciplinary webinar forum to promote strategic regional dialogue on the regional climate variability and change challenges. This forum will provide opportunity to exchange of new knowledge, as well as relevant ICPAC climate products and services in support of regional climate smart initiatives and actions for sustainable development. The first webinar was devoted to the general Climate Change Challenges and Opportunities in Eastern Africa with six speakers focusing on ICPAC's Regional Interventions on Climate Change; Key Roles of NMHSs in Addressing Climate Change; State of Climate regional Chang; Addressing Multidisciplinary Capacity Needs for Climate Change and Knowledge Frontiers: Emerging Issues from the Ongoing IPCC Assessment Relevant to the Region.

The region is currently in food security deficit and many people in the region are facing severe hunger and malnutrition with a projected number of acute food insecurity of over 50 million people in the Greater Horn of Africa. The IGAD Heads of State in July 2020, alarmed by the unprecedented impact of compounded threats on the food security situation in the IGAD Region, called for an international response in the 36th Extraordinary Assembly. Consequently, IGAD Developed a Food Security and Nutrition Response Strategy in response to the triple threat of COVID-19, Desert Locust and Floods (July 2020). According to the strategy, it is projected that agriculture and food

security is one of the major sectors that will be impacted severely by climate change. This webinar focuses on the increasing knowledge and raises awareness on regional agriculture and food security challenges in the face of Climate Change. The webinar programme is attached.

	Wednesday	Moderator
2.00	Introduction to the Webinar - Dr Guleid Artan IGAD Climate Prediction and Applications Centre	Jasper Mwesigwa
2.10	Past and Present Impacts of Climate Change/ Variability on Agriculture and Food Security - Dr Everline Komutunga The National Agricultural Research Organisation (NARO)	
2.25	Projected Future regional Climate Change Scenarios: Potential impacts on Regional Agriculture and Food Security - Dr Kindie Tesfaye Fantaye The International Maize and Wheat Improvement Center (CIMMYT)	
2.40	Implementation of the Sendai Framework in Achieving UN Sustainable Development Goal 2 on Hunger - Mr Julius Kabubi United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR)	
2.55	The Public Private Sector Partnerships in Building Resilience to Climate Change - Mr Godwin Nana Bayer	
	Discussants	
3.10	Reactions to Presentation with Reference to Agriculture and Food Security - Dr Abdi Jama ICAC	
3.15	Reactions to Presentation with Reference to Building Resilience for Vulnerable Communities - Dr John Kabayo IGAD-IDDRISI	
3.20	Questions and Discussions from Plenary	
	Close of day	