

Institutional Linkages, South-South Partnerships and Capacity Building Hands-on Workshops on Objective Climate Forecasts for Agriculture and Food Security Sector in Eastern and Southern Africa

Date: 31 August to 04 September 2021

Venue: Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe

Background

Climate research in Africa is fragmented and not demand-driven. As such, it is not responsive to the user needs, and needs to be firmly situated within the contexts of Agenda 2063, Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the Paris Agreement. The intensity and frequency of disruptions in natural and socioeconomic systems caused by climate change require African-led demand-driven researches in the areas of mitigation, adaptation, resilience building, as well as capitalizing on emerging opportunities. The Climate Research for Development (CR4D) initiative represents a paradigmatic shift to address these gaps and situate climate research into the broader development context.

The CR4D is an African-led initiative supported by partnership between the African Climate Policy Centre (ACPC) of the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA), the African Ministerial Conference on Meteorology (AMCOMET), the World Meteorological Organization (WMO), and the Global Framework for Climate Services (GFCS) to strengthen links between climate science research and climate information needs in support of development planning in Africa. The initiative is governed through the Oversight Board, the Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC), and the Institutional Collaboration Platform (ICP) where the African Climate Policy Center is the CR4D Secretariat.

The CR4D ICP is intended to serve as the marketplace for users and producers of climate information services (CIS), provide a space for coordination and continued dialogue for co-exploring, co-designing, co-producing and co-communicating CI and CIS in Africa. It is composed of about 50 institutions participating and collaborating in climate science, research, academia, and user sectors. Given their long-standing record of work on climate change in Africa, both Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) Climate Prediction and Applications Centre (ICPAC) and CCAFS are members of the ICP and collaborated with the CR4D Secretariat in various research and capacity building thematic areas. In this context, the CR4D initiative is working with ICPAC and the CGIAR Research Program on Climate Change, Agriculture and Food Security East Africa (CCAFS- EA) Accelerating Impacts of CGIAR Climate Research for Africa in Eastern and Southern Africa (AICCRA ESA) program to enhance institutional linkages, South-South partnerships and awareness raising on objective seasonal forecasting in agriculture and food security sector. Such partnership will ultimately facilitate multi-institutional and multi-stakeholder

sharing of climate research resources and expertise and thereby enhance co-production of reliable climate information and services for development planning in agricultural sector. Moreover, the planned workshop will strengthen capacities of institutions and stakeholders at national and regional levels.

The establishment of objective seasonal forecasting approaches in Regional Climate Outlook Forums through adoption of suitable practices and capacity development efforts is one of the key recommendations of the WMO. Hence, ICPAC under its UK-FCDO Weather and climate Information Service (WISER) programme developed and implemented the Objective Consolidated Seasonal Forecasts since May 2019. This objective seasonal forecasting now replacing a consensus based subjective forecasting technique employed by the Greater Horn of Africa Climate Outlook Forums at ICPAC for the past 20 years. The change improves the quality and usefulness of the forecasts and is a significant milestone to build resilience of communities in the region. As the first WMO Regional Climate Centre (RCC) to implement the objective forecasting approach in Africa, ICPAC acquired substantial experiences in operationalizing processes and methods of objective monthly and seasonal forecasting and their applications.

Scope of the workshop

In this workshop, the UNECA's CR4D initiative and CCAFS-EA's AICCRA-ESA program are working with ICPAC Intra-ACP Climate Services and Related Applications (ClimSA) and GCRF African Science for Weather Information and Forecasting Techniques (African SWIFT) projects, with the aim of supporting the implementation of objective seasonal forecasting and provision of reliable climate information and services at regional and national levels. The proposed institutional linkages, South-South partnerships and awareness raising hands-on workshops will, therefore, be used as one of the avenues to streamline climate forecasts for agriculture and food security sector in Eastern and Southern Africa by engaging (1) the NMHS experts from ESA countries and enhancing their capacities in the use of objective climate forecasts in agriculture and food security sector, and (2) agricultural and food security experts from the two region in the application of objective seasonal forecast to build resilience to climate variability and change in the regions. Overall, the scopes of this workshop are provision of hands-on training to NMHS and user sector experts to enhance their capacities in the use of objective climate forecasts in agriculture and food security sector and foster the South-South collaboration and knowledge exchange to enhance capacity of producers and stakeholders in objective seasonal forecast applications in the agriculture and food security sector in ESA.

Workshop Objectives

The overall objective of the training of trainers workshop is to introduce the current state of arts in objective sub-seasonal and seasonal forecasting and enhance experts capacities in using ICPAC's

objective monthly and seasonal climate forecasting tools for agricultural sector. The specific objectives are to:

- 1) Introduce the concept of objective monthly and seasonal climate forecasting for NMHS and agriculture and food security experts and practitioners from ESA;
- 2) Provide hands-on training on ICPAC's objective forecasting tools;
- 3) Enhance capacity of experts in the interpretation of new seasonal forecast products for better resilience and adaptive capacity in agricultural sector;
- 4) Strengthen south-south collaboration and climate knowledge sharing between Eastern and Southern African countries and regional organizations.

Expected Outputs

The main results include:

- Capacity of trainers/experts in understanding and implementation of ICPAC's objective seasonal forecasting system/tool built;
- Utilization of objective seasonal forecast products in agricultural sector will be increased;
- Strong south-south collaboration between various national and regional organizations in ESA established;
- Workshop report.

Organizers

- UNECA-ACPC, ICPAC, CCAFS-EA

Target Institutions (Partners)

- NMHS of IGAD countries (Ethiopia, Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania, Rwanda, Djibouti, Burundi)
- NMHS of selected SADC countries (Zambia, Zimbabwe, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, Botswana)
- MoA and NARES of Ethiopia, Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania, Rwanda, Djibouti, Burundi
- MoA and NARES of Zambia, Zimbabwe, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, Botswana
- Regional institutions (CCARDESA, ASARECA, RUFORUM, ICPAC, SADC-CSC)

Donor Institutions



Tentative Agenda

The draft agenda will have two major components where the first three days are devoted to trainings on the objective forecasting system and tools while the last two days will be allocated for hands-on training on the Utilization of objective seasonal forecast products in agricultural sector. Based on these two components, detailed agenda will be developed by the expert to be recruited.