

*Local level coping strategies  
to reduce impacts of droughts  
in southern Africa*

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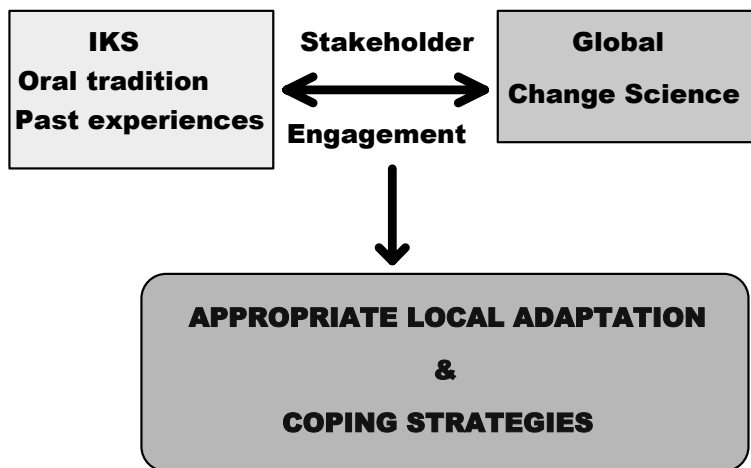
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### DROUGHT-RELATED DISASTERS IN SOUTHERN AFRICA

(Source: OFDA-CRED International Disaster Database)

COUNTRY	DROUGHT EVENTS (1967/2002)	NO. KILLED	TOT. NO. AFFECTED (Millions)
MALAWI	7	500	23.6
MOZA-MBIQUE	16	100,060	22.1
SOUTH AFRICA	9	0	5.1
ZAMBIA	8	27	5.1
ZIMBABWE	9	0	27.1

### ROLE OF INDIGENOUS KNOWLEDGE SYSTEMS



## **Examples of strategies**

- **Growing of early maturing drought-resistant crop varieties**
- **Community-based small-scale irrigation schemes**
- **Diversification into off-farm income-generating activities**
- **Sustainable food (grown & wild) processing & storage technologies**

## **Conclusions**

- **Rainfall records and oral tradition show that the average return period of droughts has decreased significantly during the past two decades**
- **In seasonal rain-fed agriculture the timing of in-season peaks coinciding with certain critical growth stages of the crops is very important**
- **Small-scale farmers in the rural areas and low-income groups in urban areas, both with little or no capital, are the most adversely affected during drought years**