

Early Warning and Contingency Plans in Africa

Fred Kossam
Malawi

On Behalf of AFRICAN Group
SBSTA AGENDA ITEM 5
Issues Related to Agriculture
2 June 2015

Background

- Africa is highly vulnerable to the negative impacts of climate variability and climate change owing to the high frequency and intensity of extreme climate events and the increasing risk of slow onset processes that is affecting agricultural production.
- Many EWSs have been developed including the Continental Early Warning System of the AU, FewNet, Nile Flooding Early Warning System, Regional Climate Outlook Forums for Southern Africa, East Africa and West Africa.
- Contingency preparedness by governments and institutions to respond to various hazards is far from the desired level

Country Experiences

- Lack of determined systematic triggers and indicators for early warning systems and contingency planning for food security
- Lack of investment in quality data collection, data access ,data analysis and data monitoring for early warning systems
- Lack of capacity by regional and sub regional and national systems/institutions to downscale early warning systems for local level action
- Lack of integration of early warning systems into development plans due to inadequate human and financial resource capacities .
- Lack of integration and validation of indigenous early warning systems into planning

Processes under convention

Research and Development

- Support implementation of regional systems for inventory and documentation of early warning for food security in Africa.
- Assist to bridge knowledge gaps in the understanding of inter-annual and intra-seasonal characteristics of rainfall and how to link indigenous knowledge based and scientific early warning systems in Africa
- Enhancing institutions involved in climatic and hazard data collection, analysis and management.

Processes under convention

Technology Transfer

- Support for data acquisition, tools and approaches to downscale climate applications for extreme weather events

Capacity building

- Strengthening capacity of regional forums/networks for seasonal climate forecasts
- Support capacity for early warning responses that integrate feedback for food security contingency planning and guide evaluation for improvement over time.

Processes under convention

Finance

- Facilitate provision of financial support for extreme weather related hazard, risk detection and emergency response amongst vulnerable and marginalized populations in Africa.

Areas for Synergies

Collaborations in research and development

- Expand the work of the IPCC to enhance understanding of impact of extreme weather events on agriculture at national level.

Partnerships in technology transfer

- Strengthen linkages with the Climate Technology Center and Network (CTCN) to create a platform for exchange of technologies for early warning systems and contingency planning in agriculture

Areas for Synergies

Finance

Clarify current financing mechanisms that address early warning systems and disaster risk management in agriculture.

Support and enhance countries to develop programs that could attract funding from GCF and other funding sources for the implementation of early warning systems programs in their countries.

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