

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?

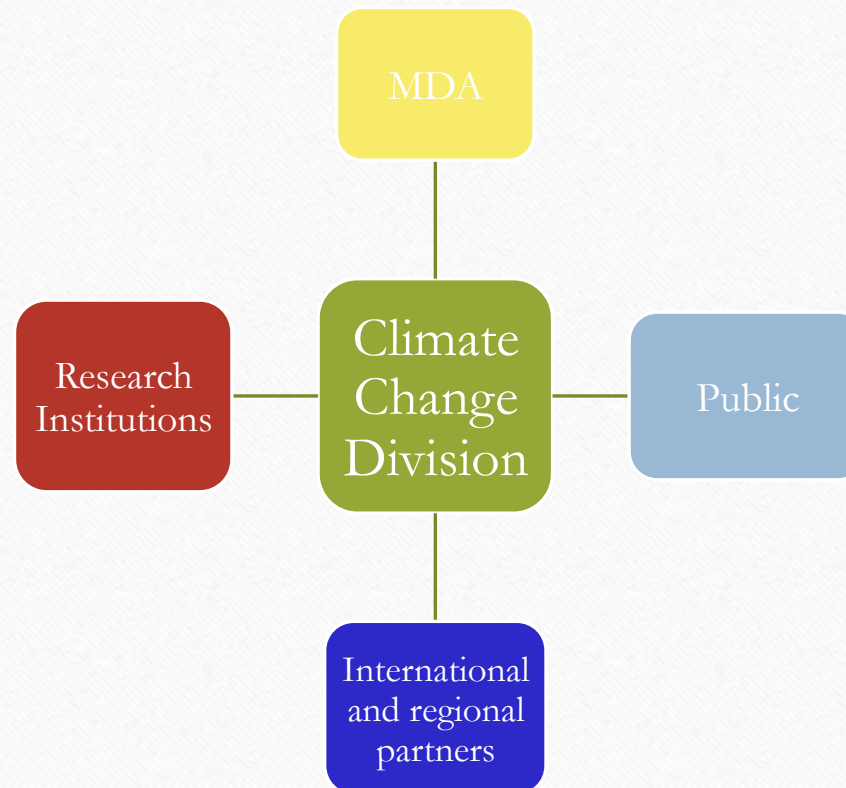
- Some level of buy in from decision makers- MWLECC
- No buy in from MoAF (policy level)-sustainability is impossible without it.
- Data issues has hampered meeting some of the objectives.
- Looking at other possibilities to determine soil moisture.eg. Installing soil moisture probes in addition to determining 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.



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:

1. Enhanced Applied Meteorological offerings of the Service.
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.

Acknowledgements

MWLECC



MOAF

Meteorological Service, Jamaica



USAID/ACDI VOCA



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