

A National Stakeholder Workshop on
An Assessment of Agricultural Sector Policies and Climate Change in Kenya:
Nexus between Climate Change Related Policies, Research and Practice
Held in Nairobi at the Kenya Institute of Public Policy Research and Analysis
(KIPPRA) on November 4, 2013

Background

The stakeholder dissemination workshop was convened to deliberate on the findings of a study jointly undertaken by KIPPRA and ECA. The study title was “An assessment of agricultural sector policies and climate change in Kenya: nexus between climate change related policies, research and practice” About 60 stakeholders attended the workshop and below is a summary of their observations that were used to improve the final report submitted to ECA. A policy brief was also prepared based on the results of the study and the recommendations of the participants.

Summary of observations

The participants concurred that the work presented covered most of the issues as experienced in the field with regards to implementation of climate change policies in the agriculture sector in Kenya. Among the observations made by the participants were:

- a. Multiplicity of actors whose activities overlap. Coordination was thus deemed necessary to ensure that duplication of effort is avoided.
- b. There is lack of clarity on indicators used to measure climate change impacts. Impacts would vary by regions/counties. While some regions would lose, others would gain. Thus, analysis of impacts should be region and even crop specific. It is also important for the analysis to specify the regions that are likely to get drier and those that are likely to get wetter, and recommend how these changes could be taken advantage of or mitigated.
- c. With the new governance structure, county governments need to be sensitized on climate change and urged to take action.
- d. In some instances, activities that fall under climate change adaptation/mitigation are not intended to be so. For instance, farmers could change crop mix without knowing they could be responding to climate change
- e. The report fails to capture what the 2nd MTP says on agriculture and climate change

- f. Role of private sector, especially the financial institutions, should be included in the report. For instance, are they willing to lend to agriculture? How will climate change alter their reaction?
- g. Provide a section that marries scientific prediction and indigenous knowledge, and how they are influencing practice. MET in western Kenya, for instance, compares their findings with the predictions of traditional specialists (among the Nganyi community) before organizing a forum where the two groups jointly advise the farming communities. The MET also translates their forecasts in local languages for wide dissemination
- h. It is important to indicate that climate change coordination unit still exists. It has now been moved to the Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources.
- i. Climate change funding is available through so many NGOs. As a result, many players are attracted, not to implement meaningful projects but to capitalize on the funds. Indeed some projects are counter-productive
- j. Climate change may have greater impact on women and children. The report should bring out this perspective.
- k. Activities of the ministry of agriculture have not changed over the years. Could this imply that we are simply re-branding the activities? Are we really responding to climate change?
- l. Climate change is being treated as a cross-cutting issue in government. Policy implementers have no guide on priority of projects, and many of them are not even aware of NCCAP.
- m. It may be interesting to group the issues by interviewee categories e.g. farmers, policy implementers, researchers, etc
- n. Indicate the number of policy documents reviewed (under methodology)
- o. It is indicated that drought-tolerant varieties are being developed. It is important to note that they may only be tolerant under the current conditions and not necessarily under the anticipated changes.
- p. While diversification is important as an adaptation strategy, it is restricted by the importance of maize in the Kenyan diet.
- q. Capacity building is needed for the ministry staff. Very few of them are aware of climate change issues. But capacity building or sensitization alone may not be enough. Proper funding of climate change projects is essential