



ClimDev-Africa



Solutions-oriented research for climate-resilient African development

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How does this fit into this session?

- Research underpins all three tracks of the means of implementation of the Paris Agreement: finance, capacity building, technology transfer
- Action-oriented research is critical at the local level where adaptation takes place
- Research/science community are key non-state actors, working together with community and policy actors

Research for what purpose? (1)

- Increasing impacts being felt in the African region, with many hotspots of vulnerability
- Developmental and adaptation deficits
- We need a transformational research agenda
- Paris Agreement and SDGs coming together to emphasise a solutions-oriented approach
- This is not new for people working on e.g. adaptation in Africa

Research for what purpose? (2)

- What kind of research and assessment would be most useful for Africa, given our need for urgent solutions and resilience building?
- For global assessments: the transition from IPCC 5th Assessment to IPCC 6th Assessment, in the context of the Paris agreement and the urgent need for solutions, also demands a new approach

Future Earth/IPCC/Provia meeting in Stockholm, August 2016

- Solutions-oriented, while not straying into policy prescription
- Greater investment could be made in the co-design and co-production of the AR6 in recognition of the diversity of assessment stakeholders and scales of solution implementation
- Important to find ways to integrate expert practitioner and IKS knowledge
- Need to learn lessons from experience on the ground e.g. meta-analysis of adaptation experiences in Africa to identify enabling conditions

What do we mean by solutions oriented research?

- Solutions-oriented research is collaborative, transdisciplinary and action-oriented
- Policy makers and community stakeholders are partners in the problem diagnosis and research design
- Knowledge co-production
- Attention is paid to implementation from the outset
- Iterative research process – part of collective lifelong learning (Prof. Matowanyika)

Some African examples:

- ILRI: Supporting the vulnerable: Increasing the adaptive capacity of agro-pastoralists to climatic change in West and Southern Africa using a transdisciplinary research approach
- FRACTAL – Future Resilience For African Cities and Lands - providing accessible, timely, applicable and defensible climate information needed by decision-makers
- CARE’s participatory scenario planning – co-production of seasonal forecasts

Some African approaches for developing research capacity

- SARUA (Southern African Regional Universities' Association) Masters' curriculum in climate change and sustainable development – grounded in policy and development realities, transdisciplinary, policy and research streams study together
- WASCAL Graduate Programme – Doctoral and Masters'
- Many learning networks across the continent, but need to be brought together

Conclusion

- We have an enormous amount of work to do
- Enhancing African scientists role in processes like the IPCC is an immediate step
- Promising African approaches to developing targeted capacity that cuts across the research-policy-practice continuum
- Additional intra-African and South-South collaboration required
- Needs to be underpinned by serious financing
- *Can this be related to the Paris Agreement and what needs to be fleshed out in Marrakech?*