

DELIVERING CLIMATE INFORMATION TO THE POOR AND VULNERABLE AGRO-PASTORAL COMMUNITY

Syembeni Village
Kibwezi West Sub-County
Makueni County
KENYA

By

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Introduction

Urafiki Kenya is an NGO whose mission is to transform the livelihoods of the grassroot ASAL communities of Makueni County through a holistic platform of disseminating Climate Information in order to build their knowledge, skills and competencies of coping with, adapting and mitigating climate variability and climate change.

Rationale

Because of the back-to-back droughts in Kenya between 2014-2017, Urafiki Kenya re-focused their vision of helping the vulnerable in Makueni who had suffered wide-reaching negative effects that raised food insecurity and malnutrition to significant levels.

Navigating this highly changeable landscape required a fully-fledged climate information system where use of information and ability to learn new and existing knowledge used overtime to adapt to ongoing uncertainty was paramount.

Karasha

- This is the name give to the CI initiative that uses the mobile phone to disseminate the CI through SMS.
- It is hinged on four (4) C's – COLLECT, COLLATE, CORRECT & CONNECT.
- The SMS text messages are encrypted in Kikamba or Kiswahili.
- We chose the SMS medium since it is accessible, popular, gender-sensitive, inclusive, supportive of local economies and has potential to lead to transformative change.



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Products

Karasha offers weather advisories of days, weeks and months on rainfall and temperature, alerts on pests and diseases, advice on land preparation, planting window/varieties selection, post-harvest, harvest, timing of input application, market information and financial arrangements.

Process

Urafiki Kenya collaborates with the Kenya Meteorological Department and FEWSNET then prepares downscaled community level forecasts. Climate risks are cross-checked with several data sources and loaded with probability of occurrence as forecasted. Proprietary algorithms to organize the data following specific crop models are used to come with risk predictions which are framed with the advisory messages.

Effects of Karasha

There has been high-level satisfaction among the farmers with over 60% reporting that they could understand what to look for in Karasha forecasts since they had a basic understanding of the CI process. Information received during field visits showed that some farmers chose to plant drought-resistant crops ahead of the drought. Through karasha, farmers adopted a range of tools to minimize production risks and build resilience to an increasingly variable climate.

THANK YOU!!!!