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Implementation of climate policy in West-Africa: insights from Ghana, Mali and Senegal

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Context

- Climate change is recognised as major challenge to smallholder farming in SSA
 - ... growing body of work projects that changes will intensify in the coming decades
 - Many farmers use their experience to limit the impacts of CC, but often fragmented efforts are not sufficient
 - Extensive support provided to develop CC adaptation measures



Context ...

- In many places, although adaptation measures are put in place, communities are still struggling with hard climate conditions
- Study explores the **barriers** to the effective implementation of adaptation measures
 - If climate change adaptation policy has been approved at the national level as a commitment, to what extent is it effectively implemented?

Research design

Research focuses on 03 case-studies: Ghana, Mali and Senegal

- harmonized framework was developed at a two-day workshop with partners to enable comparison across case-studies
- comprehensive literature review was conducted to source existing climate change initiatives/policy
- FGD and individual interviews with key informants to explore *climate change initiatives*, the *motivation* and the *capacity* of the staffs to implement existing policy

Key findings

In the three countries, there are National CC Policy; National CC adaptation strategy in place

- Although the policy process was designed to engage stakeholders in formulation, inclusion in the process did not reach the local level.
- ... Thus there were weaknesses in harnessing societal grassroots' inputs for the policy formulation process.
- There is a disconnect between climate policy development at the national level and the information available at the district level.

"I watched on the TV that the national climate change policy document was launched, but so far, as a member of an NGO working on climate change issues, I was not associated to be part of the policy process." (Interview with NGO Officer in Mali, October 2014)

Key findings

Lack of operational capacity & funding

- *Insufficient human resources*, mainly at the local level: positions are not filled because implementing officers are not willing to serve outside the main cities
- With decentralization process on-going, local governments become increasingly responsible for address major local challenges, but capacity for leading such processes are often not available (*financial resources*).
- There is a discrepancy between national policy in addressing underlying vulnerabilities of communities and their priorities and concerns (non-climatic factors)

Key lessons

- Climate policy implementation is lagging behind due to:
 - lack of policy awareness & information sharing from national to local levels,
 - little capacity building of local -level policy officers,
 - funding flows halting with incomplete decentralization processes
- Channelling policy documents into existing education curriculum could be a way forward to improve policy literacy and access by the younger generation