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Empowering Rural Farmers Through Rural Development Responsive Social Protection within Changing Climatic Conditions

Social Protection and Climate Change in the SADC 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development
1. INTRODUCTION
2. SITUATIONAL ANALYSIS
3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION
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INTRODUCTION

Climate change and social protection in agriculture are both public policy responses that governments use to address poverty and climate vulnerability.

Some countries have made efforts to align the two but in practice, the two remain misaligned.

To discuss the role of social protection in promoting rural development with changing climatic conditions the implementation of:

- Agriculture input support programs
- Weather based crop insurance schemes

can be interrogated and discussed.
Climate change has a significant impact on agricultural systems as it affects both plant and animal health.

1. **Temperature impacts**: Over the last century, temperatures across Africa have increased by 0.5 degrees or more, with minimum temperatures rising faster than maximum temperatures.

2. **Rainfall**: rainfall has decreased over most parts of Africa, Zambia inclusive.

3. **Pests and Diseases**: Under climate change, pressure from pests, weeds and diseases are also expected to increase with detrimental effects on crops and livestock. Increase in temperatures tend to increase in crop pests and animal parasites.
Many countries have adopted policies and programmes to mitigate climate change and reduce vulnerabilities through empowerment in agriculture for rural farmers. Some well coordinated agriculture and social protection interventions worth looking at are in Lesotho and Kenya. Some of these include but are not limited to;

- **Agriculture input support programs** - providing subsidize farming inputs that are preferred by farmers based on (climatic conditions, profitability etc)

- **Weather based crop insurance schemes** - provide farmers with insurance payments to cover climate-related crop losses based on locally measured
AGRICULTURE INPUT SUPPORT PROGRAMMES

These programmes are direct input distribution, universal input subsidies and targeted market smart subsidies to help cash constrained farmers to resolve challenges related to risk and uncertainty. (FAO, 2019)

EXAMPLE: FARMERS INPUT SUPPORT PROGRAMME (FISP)

- Government funded Programme established in 2002 by the Ministry of Agriculture which currently has about 900,000 beneficiary farmers
- Allows small scale farmers to access inputs, which include climate resilient crops at a subsidized cost of an average of 72% of the total cost.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CROP</th>
<th>PRICE ZMW</th>
<th>% OF TOTAL PRICE</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Maize</td>
<td>K400</td>
<td>29.33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sorghum</td>
<td>K280</td>
<td>27.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Beans</td>
<td>K400</td>
<td>29.33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sunflower</td>
<td>K280</td>
<td>27.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Soya beans</td>
<td>K330</td>
<td>31.5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
COMMON SUCCESSES AND CHALLENGES

SUCCESSES

- Increase in crop productivity, food security and nutrition.
- Improved crop diversification in some cases leading to good nutrition and improved livelihoods

CHALLENGES

- Administrative challenges in programme implementation leading to delayed distribution of inputs
- Limited transparency in cases where the programme is not electronically implemented
WEATHER BASED CROP INSURANCE SCHEMES

Weather based crop insurance schemes are based on weather indices which provide for the payment of farmers with insurance payments to cover climate related crop losses. They are widely used in Africa and India and are usually characterized by;

- Financial incentives to ensure both the private sector insurers and farmers are willing to anticipate
- Mandatory insurance for farmers who take bank loans or received subsidized farming inputs from governments.

These insurance schemes are either paid instantly on proven crop losses or paid in the event that the weather index is breached.
COMMON SUCCESSES AND CHALLENGES

SUCCESES

• Results in decreased climate change related vulnerabilities and risks for farmers
• Is fairly reasonable to implement and afford (financially). This has resulted in the inclusion of rural farmers.

CHALLENGES

• Occasional mismatches between insured weather based indices and agricultural losses. This can lead either to unfair pay-outs, or to uncompensated losses
• In some cases, there is need for disaggregated date and information for agriculture programming.
LESSONS LEARNT (FINDINGS)

- Most countries have **parallel policies and programmes** in agriculture and climate change. The missalignment makes it difficult to measure rural development and general improved livelihoods towards the agenda 2030.

- In many cases, the effects of climate change on agriculture productivity are widely discussed, but there is also a need to jointly discuss the effects of various agriculture practices and inputs on climate change in light of agenda 2030.

- Many African countries are managing and customizing their interventions to fit their specific cases, but generally, improvements need to be made to weather-based crop insurance and electronic agriculture input support programmes.
1. **Policy makers should adopt a better way of integrating of climate change policies in the agriculture and food sector**

   - National strategies for agriculture and food should be put in place compatible with long-term decarbonisation strategies.
   - Action should be taken seriously by the whole food industry.
   - Reframing the food security narrative in a sustainability perspective and include environmental and climate objectives in official messages.
   - Communicate the benefits and co-benefits of adaptation to climate change to farmers, such as soil health and economic benefits of climate friendly farming practices.
RECOMMENDATIONS

2. Adopt a system-wide and multi-objective approach

- Adopt a multi-objective approach to reduce GHG emissions from food production ad to transition towards sustainable food systems
- Establish a national inventory of emissions to take into account indirect emissions and emissions linked to consumptions
- Develop methods of optimal assessment of multi-functional farming systems
- Taking into account the socio-economic benefits of transforming the agro-food system.
3. **Trigger a transformation of livestock production**
   - Establish sustainable levels of livestock production
   - Reduce feed imports from unsustainable production systems
   - Support sustainable grazing on well-managed grasslands

4. **Transitioning the food system towards agro ecology**
   - Increase funding towards research program on agro-ecology
   - Promote agricultural practices based on agro-ecology principles
CONCLUSION

- Policy makers may want to pay special attention to several successful adaptation practices. One that has moved very slowly especially in Africa is technology adoption.

- Some technologies may help farmers increase their ability to adapt to climate change eg introducing more seed varieties that for sustainable rural development. Technology can also be used for effective early warning systems.

- Through research and outreach, governments could encourage the development and use of climate smart crop varieties and farming methods.
THANK YOU!

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