



S2S Real Time Pilot Workshop

15th – 17th November 2022. Virtual Workshop

Presentation Title: Pilot sub-seasonal climate information for the Agriculture sector in selected sites over East Africa

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Session Title: Experiences within the S2S RTP - Theme 1: Translating S2S forecasts into information relevant to user decisions

Abstract:

Rain-fed agriculture is a major source of livelihood to many households in Eastern African and contributes significantly to economies of many countries. Intra-seasonal climate information is thus a crucial input for strategic and tactical agricultural planning at farm level. Through the ACREI project, W2SIP supported downscaling of sub-seasonal and seasonal forecasts for selected sites in Ethiopia; East and West Hararge, Kenya; Taita-Taveta and Uganda; Sembabule and Isingiro. Working together with national and subnational actors, region specific Climate Outlook Forums (COFs) anchored upon Participatory Scenario Planning (PSP) and communities' Indigenous Climate Knowledge (ICK) were conducted. It is through these platforms that context specific climate information were interpreted and seasonal planning calendars developed for the target communities. In addition to the once-a-season platforms, users expressed preference for community radio as the most efficient means of communicating climate information to the grassroots in the sub-seasonal timescales. The initiative has been engaging local media stations through an approach called Season Media Action Plan (SMAP), whereby the media stations incorporate climate reporting as part of their programming. Forecast updates were provided on weekly basis based on S2S RTP datasets and immediately shared with the focal points at community levels. Further, agro-advisories generated were translated to local languages to improve uptake and use. This work noted the need to further strengthen user-producer interactions on all timescales farmer level as that's where the actual impact is felt, and adoption of suitable context-based communication channels.