

**Management response to the external impact assessment on
'Communicating seasonal climate forecasts in Kaffrine, Diourbel, Louga, Thies
and Fatick (Niakhar) regions in Senegal'**

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CCAFS Program Management Committee

Background

An assessment was made for the West Africa Regional Program of the CGIAR Research Program on Climate Change, Agriculture and Food Security (CCAFS) of the initiatives to communicate seasonal climate forecasts in Kaffrine, Diourbel, Louga, Thies and Fatick (Niakhar) regions in Senegal. The impact study was led by independent consultants Dr. Henri Mathieu Lo and Dr. Mbaye Dieng.

Management response statement:

This is a study that used survey results from various dissemination channels to assess (1) the proportion of farmers in Senegal that received access to Climate Information Services (CIS) as well as (2) an attempt to assess the impact of using these CIS by farmers.

This was done through:

- Telephone interviews with each of the 30 managers of rural community radios who benefited from the ANACIM training on CIS.
- Followed by a physical face-to-face interview to selected broadcasters, farmers and farmers' org. and rural development technical services.
- Mapping out of all community radios that broadcasted the CIS
- Analysis of the role of dissemination channels other than rural radios (Multi-disciplinary Working Groups, SMS and phone calls from ANACIM to ground agents and farmers' leaders).

Based on facts and observations in the field and through the SWOT (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats) analysis, the study tested three main assumptions of importance for this impact study:

1. The radio broadcasters who were trained to disseminate the information fulfilled the mission for which they were engaged by the project: to receive information from ANACIM (the National Civil Aviation and Meteorology Agency)), and broadcast it regularly and effectively.
2. In addition to community radio, there are other key channels for disseminating climate information;
3. Consideration of other dissemination channels, in addition to community radio, increases the potential of the rural population with access to CIS.

The study also assessed how climate information influences agricultural

decision-making.

Overall, this study followed standard survey methods to analyze and provide a likely accurate information on who got access to CIS, who used it and for what purposes, as well as the behavioral changes brought about by the CIS. However, the study missed to (1) doing a cost-benefit analysis, (2) doing a better gender & equity analysis.

Observations:

- The study was relatively good in trying to assess the number of people reached by CIS and in evaluating how is farmers used CIS and its impact.
- The study identified and analyzed the types of CIS produced, clear dissemination channels and their mechanisms; roles of involved stakeholders
- The study used an acceptable approach to estimating the number of people that got access to CIS
- The study provided ground evidence at site level of various manners of using CIS, behavioral changes brought about by CIS and impact on agricultural production and family livelihoods and welfare.

Interesting findings:

- The types of CIS products developed by ANACIM are tailored to the need of farmers
- CIS is in fact made available through several dissemination channels (not only radios) and the use of SMS is becoming prominent
- An estimated 3, 900,000 people that have access to CIS
- CIS has induced behavioural change and even now seen as a primary agricultural input by farmers.
- The study highlights lessons learned and offers specific recommendations for a better scaling up of CIS across the country.