



## Country Update

# Implementing adaptation strategies to climate change: Views from farmers & agro-processors

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## Overview of the current climate change and adaptation status

Tanzania like other countries in the EAC has scanty contributions to global warming, albeit the impact of climate change is evident across all sectors in the economy. Many businesses, organizations, industries as well as individuals revealed to be affected by the escalating change in average temperatures, rainfall, and climate extremes (such as flood, drought and heat waves). Tanzania being heavily agriculture dependent economy, the increasingly changes in average weather patterns in the globe translate unevenly distributed effect in the sector. In the light of the noted weather events by stakeholders, agriculture is the most affected among other sectors in Tanzania, that resulting to poor food production as well as water scarcity caused by frequent flooding and severe recurring drought

(2000). At large, most of the stakeholders, particularly agro-processors/agro-producers pointed out that for the recent past climate change has been affecting them in different dimensions including food production and other businesses.

Although, the country has a role to play in combating the climate change effects, the capability at country level focuses on adaptation measures since it is not possible to mitigate climate change impact completely. What stakeholders and the Tanzanian government should focus on is assisting in maintaining production levels of their products and protecting their citizens from the worst effects of climate change. The government together with the private sector (such as stakeholders, particularly agro-processors; agro-industry business; and the chamber of commerce) perceive the impact of climate change in both negatively and positively although the stakeholders view, concentrates on negative effects. Stakeholders highlight that, the effects of climate change realized to

distress the earth's climate system that include atmosphere, hydrosphere, cryosphere, lithosphere and biosphere of which compromise agricultural production. Despite this the sector is facing, in Tanzania, still agriculture is the single largest employer which currently employs about 65% of the population with 29.1 % GDP contribution as of 2016 (Tanzania Economic Outlook, 2017). Thus, adaptation to climate change particularly in the agriculture sector is vital in Tanzania, since it is one of the sectors, which offer raw materials for industrialization and other investment opportunities to both local and foreign investors in either agro-processing, agro-production, agro-industry businesses among others. Like was stated in the Rwanda CUN, the longer governments and stakeholders wait to adapt, the more dangerous and expensive climate change will be.

To date, there are a number of initiatives, policy options, strategies, legislations and plans complementing the international policies established to address the climate adaptation challenges in Tanzania. Such include, the National Adaptation Programme of Action (2007); the Zanzibar Environmental Policy (2014); the Renewable Energy Strategy (2014); the Natural Gas Act (2015); the National Forestry Policy 2 (1998); National Communications (2003 and 2015); the National Environmental Policy (1997); the Zanzibar Environmental Policy (2013); the National Environmental Action Plan (2012 – 2017); Natural Gas Policy (2013); the National REDD+ Strategy and Action Plan (2013); and the National Environment Management Act (2004). In the same vein, local communities and the private sector are not left behind in the struggle towards adaptation to climate change. They opt to use the existing government policies and their local coping strategies with the aim to reduce the effects of weather changes. This is an area where local governments could get involved and take charge on initiatives, as they are more familiar with their region than the national government.

Stakeholders point out the local coping strategies used by the local communities in particular; include changing farming model or crop rotation. In spite of all these efforts, Tanzania is not amply adapted to the current weather changes patterns, it has unclear adaptation strategies of which concerted measures between stakeholders and the government are necessary.

With the view that climate change effects are currently evident in Tanzanian economy, this note provides clues on how stakeholders perceive and address the impact of and the challenges of adaptation to climate change. It also deciphers the stakeholders' needs to better adapt to climate change adverse effects, involvement in the NAP and NDC as well as their recommendations

## **Stakeholders' views on climate change issues in Tanzania**

Stakeholders argue that "there is no doubt that impacts of climate change in Tanzania are obvious and rampant". Climate change affects different fields including land, employments, capital, entrepreneurs, infrastructure, and natural resources, among others. Severe drought in some parts is negatively affecting water sources such as Ruaha river basin, Lake Manyara and Victoria. This affects the surrounding communities in undertaking their economic activities such as irrigation farming that enable them to sustain their living. Water levels of Lake Manyara as well as Lake Victoria have declined. So far, however, agricultural production has gone down because of presence of global warming.

In order to adjust to climate change, stakeholders have been using a set of arrangements to curtail the problems such as:

Advocacy to environmental friendly agriculture

by encouraging use of organic farming as well as less use pesticides;

Coordination within the ministry and between ministries is very important however currently policy that coordinating all ministries is missing and this is one of the challenge towards adaptation to climate change

Changing farming model;

Advocating the CSOs and the local communities to counter pollution by employing carbon-trading initiatives and other adaptation measures;

Urging the local government authorities to continue using their districts officials to establish tree-planting (afforestation) campaign by imposing by-laws and rules that prohibit cutting trees. Such approach have been successful in some districts in Kilimanjaro region;

Using alternative technology to adapt to climate change such as smart climate fishing/agriculture;

Coordinate and advise agro-producers to use environmental friendly technology that promote production such as organic farming instead of using pesticides;

Electrification programme is another action taken positively by stakeholders. The programme established by the government recognized to contribute to a reduction of deforestation. The programme has reached about 50% of Tanzanian rural communities;

Advocating communities to stop using firewood, as source of energy.

Thus, use of both local coping strategies and the modern ones will easily facilitate to conserve the environment as well as natural resources. Combining local and modern coping strategies can mix sweeping environmental reforms and more specified movements that

can be better applied to specific problems facing local communities. While national governments can focus on reforms intended to curb contributions to climate change, stakeholders and local officials should focus on the short term and mitigating climate change's effects on local businesses

## **Needs to better adapt to climate adverse effects**

As URT (2007) explains that adverse impact of climate change are evident and will continue, be happening in the least developing countries, Tanzania in particular. This calls for immediate adaptation measures to rescue farmers and agro-processors as well as livelihood of individuals. Private stakeholders' views on the needs to better adapt to climate change, are lucrative and sensible. They corroborate the NAPAs vision of 2007 which emphasis is to identify *"immediate and urgent climate change adaptation actions that are robust enough to lead to long-term sustainable development in a changing climate"*. However, stakeholders view to some extent may appear as for short-term action, they can sustain depending on how implemented. For instance, some of the stakeholders pointed out that more awareness raising on understanding the adverse effects of climate change is vital among individuals, agro-producers/agro-processors, as well as associations. Raising awareness of climate change's impact would help agro-processors and farmers that don't already know the negative effects their actions may have on the environment. They further elucidate that this action is very important because many people only consider the effect of climate change in terms of agricultural production ignoring other features such as marketing, constructions, health, business, and nature conservation. In view of this, need relating to the NAPAs vision of 2007, sensibly displays a long-term sustainability since awareness is the key to every action or intervention, however, a NAPA

needs review that should consider, the current pace of economic transformation as well as large involvement of stakeholders and transparency. Long-term sustainability should be the goal, but short-term solutions for farmers and producers losing products at such a rapid pace also must be present.

Additionally, capital need is another feature that stakeholders raised as one of the concerns that if facilitated can enable them adapt to new knowledge and technology (such as drip irrigation, improved quality seeds) that make them adapt to climate adverse effects. Stakeholders argue that, coping to adaptation to climate adverse effects of this nature, needs financial resources and skills of which many resource poor farmers or agro-producers are constrained. Therefore, they request support to facilitate them to adapt to the climate adverse effects.

Furthermore, stakeholders request all climate change practitioners both government, regional and international organization to be actions oriented instead of being vocal. This is because there have been many announcements without any follow-up. Besides, a need to increase and promote the use of organic farming to curtail environmental pollution is paramount. They explain that increasing use of organic fertilizers will contribute to increased productivity

## **Government's support towards adaptation to climate change**

Based on the stakeholders' views, it is clear that the government offers good and friendly environmental support to stakeholders in undertaking actions towards adaptation to climate change. Such actions include awareness raising among community members on how to adapt to climate change. However, it is important to note that to "some extent policy support and collaboration are the only types of support that stakeholders receive from the

government. For example, the government offers facilitating policies that allow private stakeholders to freely work smoothly and be able to access government assistance as well as access to the target communities for interventions towards adaptation to climate change impacts", said stakeholders.

Apart from the above, stakeholders also appreciate the role of the Tanzania government's NDC, which appears to be supportive to them. Agro-processors and farmers, argue that since the NDC addresses the need for adaptation in agriculture, any actions towards adaptation to climate change in agriculture and food security are positively facilitated by the government. They further point out that through the NDC, Tanzania government will foster agro-industrialization strategy hence be able to achieve its development vision. Indeed, Tanzania's NDC cannot be detached from the Second Tanzania Five Year Development Plan (FYDP II, 2011/12 -2015/16); the National Climate Change Strategy (2014) as well as the Tanzania Development Vision (2020). Thus, with this support, "it will be tactless for stakeholders not to recognize the type of support receiving from the government since such NDC program and other supportive policies offer good environment for us extending our investment" said one of the agro-processors.

## **Support from other organizations to adapt to climate change**

There is no doubt that a fight against climate change impact is global. It involves both government and non-government organizations that can either be at national, regional or multilateral level. In this view, in Tanzania, stakeholders revealed to receive not only support from government but also other organizations including NGOs and international organizations. For instance, some private sector and associations exposed that they get

support from NGOs like ESRF, VUNA and international organizations like FAO, UNEP, DFID and IUCN.

Others get supports on adaptation to climate change through multilateral networks support from embassies of China, Canada, Nigeria, Zambia and Malawi. *“Networking with these embassies and international organization, some agribusiness private stakeholders have been able to gain supports and extend their skills and knowledge to others on how to adjust to the challenges of climate change adaptation”* said Makoba, one of the agribusiness representatives.

Apart from multilateral networking, international organizations such as FAO, UNEP and DFID, have been recognized in support through capacity building of private stakeholders by offering trainings and facilitating conferences, and assisting them to attend local and international fora dealing with climate change issues. Not only that, but also facilitate private sector/organizations preparing fora, trainings or conferences to discussing climate change issues, investment in agro-industries, as well as preparation of environmental profiles and other related aspects.

In addition, private sector/associations such as gets support from the Tanzania civil foundation society. The foundation offers funds for implementing projects related to adaptation to climate change. At the same time to ensure accountability, the foundation using its staff capacity, pay site visits as a follow-up for the project

## **Conclusion and recommendations**

In this note, the aim was to present stakeholders' views towards adaptation to climate change and suggests the needs what should be considered as a government set revising to address such adaptation challenges. However, to have good plans, strategies, or

actions to address such defies towards adaptation to climate change in Tanzania, the inclusive consultation with national stakeholders revealed that all stakeholders do participate in climate change adaptation at different levels as according to their capability as well as focus.

Stakeholders argue that apart from calling for a thorough review of the current NAPs and the NDC with high degree of involvement of stakeholders and transparency, the note recommends the following to policy makers as from stakeholders' perspectives:

- a) To have plans that consider mutual support to both private sector and the local communities; long and short-term solutions and strategies to implement them must both be present.
- b) To have continuous close collaboration between private sector and the ministries in the Tanzania economy. Such ministries include ministry of agriculture, water and irrigation, construction and roads, environment, natural resources and tourism, and the ministry of industries, trade and investment (MITI); this is a good mode to cater for climate change effects instead of waiting adverse weather events to happen then taking ad hoc measures; As dealing with climate change is an intersectional endeavor, having these ministries on the same page regarding solutions would give a clearer picture as to what the goals are regarding mitigating climate change's effects and the steps that will be taken to get there.
- c) When needs be, to encourage and promote floriculture as an alternative source of income to farmers to sustain their living irrespective of the weather changes;
- d) To raise awareness of local communities and other stakeholders on understanding the existing policies and

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government strategies towards adaptation to climate change, to understand on how climate change impact their economic activities and the associated economic costs;

- e) Private sector is called upon to be aggressive enough in finding ways to adapt to climate change instead of waiting for the government to pursue everything;
- f) Collaboration between local investors and foreign investors is highly needed in conserving the environment;
- g) Use of improved technology such as quality improved seeds for agriculture production is necessary;
- h) Education/Training and skills are obligatory to all stakeholders on the adaptations to climate change;
- i) Collaboration among stakeholders (NGOs, CSOs and the government) dealing with environmental issues and climate change towards adaptation to climate change; NGOs and CSOs, especially larger/more endowed, should take initiative to pay for lofty projects, especially ones that contribute to long-

term sustainable development.

- j) Setting up a special unit that will be responsible for monitoring climate change issues, this can be either a selected university or any unit but not having small projects as it is of now

Government should work closely hand in hand with researchers to understand what revealed from the researches and be able to translate as well as communicate the findings in a simple language to stakeholders such as farmers. Public-private partnerships should also come from stakeholders communicating their most pressing needs and the Tanzanian government could put forth resources to solving or mitigating these issues.



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