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Agriculture and
Food Security**



Workshop Report: Launch of Enhancing National Climate Services (ENACTS) and Rwanda Climate Services for Agriculture Project

March 2016

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Workshop Report

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Abstract

This report presents the outputs of the joint launch of the Enhancing National Climate Services (ENACTS) program of Meteo Rwanda and the CGIAR Research Program on Climate Change, Agriculture and Food Security (CCAFS) Rwanda Climate Services for Agriculture (RCSA) project. This launch brought together key government agencies in Rwanda, research organizations, farmers' representatives, development partners, non-governmental organizations and media. The aim of the one day workshop was to launch the ENACTS products provided by Meteo Rwanda and to introduce the RCSA project to the government and public. This was a transition from the design phase of the project to the implementation phase. The report includes the process of the launch event, presentations made and the main comments by participants.

Keywords

Climate Services, Climate Data, Agriculture, Rwanda, ENACTS, PICSA

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Contents

Introduction	8
Launch Meeting Overview	9
Introductory session	9
Official launch session	10
ENACTS merged climate time series and maprooms.....	11
Presentations	11
Delivering climate services to farmers.....	12
Conclusion.....	14
Appendix 1. Workshop Program	15
Appendix 2. Participant List.....	16

Acronyms

CCAFS CGIAR Research Program on Climate Change, Agriculture and Food Security

CIAT International Center for Tropical Agriculture

RCSA Rwanda Climate Services for Agriculture

ENACTS Enhancing National Climate Services

PICSA Participatory Integrated Climate Services for Agriculture

RAB Rwanda Agriculture Board

Introduction

This report describes a one-day workshop that launched the Enhancing National Climate Services (ENACTS) program of Meteo Rwanda and the Rwanda Climate Services for Agriculture (RCSA) project. ENACTS was initiated to focus on the creation of reliable climate information suitable for national and local decision-making. Under this initiative, Rwanda's National Meteorological Agency (Meteo-Rwanda) has merged satellite data with its station observations to fill gaps in both space and time and can now provide a range of high-resolution climate information products tailored to agricultural user needs through web-based "maprooms". Building on the innovative data sets developed by ENACTS, the newly launched RCSA project will improve agricultural planning and food security management at both local and government levels. The launch event brought together 113 participants representing organizations that included government ministries and technical agencies, universities, private sector, farmer representatives, local and international NGOs and national and international media (Appendix 2).

The overall aim of the Rwanda Climate Services for Agriculture initiative is to develop a fully functional and sustainable climate service that provides a range of information products and services, which will inform and support the various technical offices, policy and decision-makers within the Government of Rwanda (GOR), farmers, and others working in the agricultural sector in Rwanda to make informed decisions and improve climate risk management in the face of a variable and changing climate. Instrumental to achieving this goal will be the development of a coherent institutional framework that includes clear roles and responsibilities and a mechanism for coordination among the relevant agencies of the GOR and other key stakeholders, which will sustain delivery and improvement of these services.

The launch meeting agenda (Appendix 1) introduced participants to the information products and services provided by Meteo Rwanda, the new RCSA project, the new merged gridded climate time series data and maprooms, the *Twigire Muhinzi* proximity agricultural extension model, and Participatory Integrated Climate Services for Agriculture (PICSA).

Launch Meeting Overview

Introductory session

Opening and welcome remarks

The first session of meeting was chaired by Joseph Mulambu, Rwanda International Center for Tropical Agriculture (CIAT) Country Coordinator who invited CIAT Africa Regional Director Dr. Robin Buruchara to make the welcome remarks. Dr. Robin Buruchara appreciated all participants who attended the launch of the ENACTs program of Meteo Rwanda and the new U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID)/CCAFS Rwanda Climate Services for Agriculture project. Dr. Robin furthermore appreciated the strong partnership with all the participating institutions seeing it as a great success of the project. He assured participants of CIAT's commitment towards the success of the project.

Climate data and information provided by Meteo Rwanda

Musoni Didace, division manager at Meteo Rwanda emphasized that even though climatic data collected by Meteo Rwanda is a public good, it is a value resource that ought to be used responsibly. This means that data can be obtained from Meteo Rwanda but the institution has the responsibility to follow up if data are being used in a proper way. In other words there are data delivery and use policies. Musoni outlined the services and products provided by Meteo Rwanda, social benefits, challenges and future plans for improved data storage.

Climate Services for Agriculture project

This presentation was done by Dr. James Hansen, Project Leader for the CCAFS flagship 2 on climate information services and climate-informed safety nets. James said that climate services are more than provision of climate information. It also requires developing target specific packages to fit different users. He mentioned that the project is nation-wide and will be developing sustainable climate information advisory services to increase resilience of many farmers and lead to a more resilient agriculture economy. The Rwanda climate services for agriculture project will ultimately help transform Rwanda's rural farming communities and national economy through climate services and improved climate risk management. The project builds on on-going innovations made by the ENACTs, which filled in a 15-year gap in Rwanda's historical meteorological records.

“Rebuilding the data sets the foundation for developing the kinds of information products we know are useful to farmers and other decision makers,” said James Hansen. “These include timely forecasts by SMS and radio, which now reach millions of rural people in other countries such as Senegal,” James continued.

Discussion

Question: What will the project do to financially sustain SMS delivery system after the project life, since SMS have a given cost? The same question applies to commercial radio. This came with a suggestion to involve private sector in this project. James Hansen addressed the issue of financial sustainability, mentioning that telecom could be involved but the project team is still thinking about how to address that issue.

Question: What is the difference between ENACTS and RCSA and which level (administrative) can we get data? ENACTS started earlier and is ending whereas RCSA is going to build on ENACTS products to disseminate climate services to farmers and decision makers.

A participant requested information on satellite products that will be used within the project to expand the data provided to end-users. Didace Musoni explained that satellite data were used to fill the climatic data gaps due to the genocide period.

A participant suggested that the project should take advantage of ICT solutions and applications that are evolving from the young generation (youth).

One of the participants from the insurance company suggested that if possible, Meteo should downscale to 3km grid data so as to increase the accuracy of the data.

Official launch session

Opening remarks were addressed by Dr. Patrick Karangwa (on behalf of the Director General of RAB), Dr. Malick Haidara (USAID representative), Dr. James Hansen (CCAFS) and John Ntaganda Semafara (Director General of Meteo Rwanda, guest of honour).

In his opening remarks, Dr Patrick Karangwa said that RCSA comes in time to help farmers increase their production, and help institutions make timely decisions. He also mentioned that the partnership between RAB, CIAT and Meteo Rwanda will ensure that the project is a success for all Rwandan farmers. Dr. Patrick thanked everyone who participated in the

development of the project, and expressed appreciation to all the participants for attending this important launch of the RCSA project.

Dr. Malick Haidara said that USAID had been working closely with the agriculture sector, and that he is excited about what the project is going to achieve in the next four years.

“Farmers will be provided accurate tools to increase and sustain agriculture productivity,” said Malick. This RCSA project clearly integrates USAID’s climate change services into the agriculture sector. This will transform Rwandan farmers, improve agriculture planning, and improve the supply of reliable climate information. Dr. Malick appreciated the partnership between MINAGRI, RAB and Meteo Rwanda. He thanked everyone for attending the launch event.

The guest of honour John Semafara said that by building on the innovative data sets and information products developed by ENACTS, the RCSA project will enable Meteo Rwanda to provide climate information to agricultural stakeholders at different levels (from farmers to government ministries). This will empower farmers to manage climate risk and adapt to a changing climate. This will help to improve agricultural planning and food security management at both local and central government levels. Agricultural planners, policy makers, investors, and food security specialists will be able to respond more effectively to droughts, floods and other climate-related risks. “I understand that by the end of the project, a national network of climate services will be operational, with key national agencies able to sustainably deliver climate services to farmers,” said John. He thanked the International Research Institute for Climate and Society (IRI) and the Africa Climate Policy Centre (ACPC) for supporting the implementation of ENACTS in Rwanda. He also thanked USAID Rwanda for funding the new project and sponsoring the launch.

ENACTS merged climate time series and maprooms

Presentations

Floribert Vuguziga, from Meteo Rwanda, gave a presentations on how ENACTS filled the climatic data gaps from 1994. He highlighted how satellite data were merged with station data to generate a new product without gaps also available for 5km grid. Floribert informed participants that data could be accessed through the online maproom tool developed by the project.

This was followed by a presentation by Jean Marie introducing the Meteo Rwanda online maprooms (<http://maproom.meteorwanda.gov.rw>). He explained how to navigate throughout their features: climate analysis, climate monitoring, climate forecasts, and malaria historical analysis.

Discussion

There was a request for higher resolution data, particularly daily instead of 10-day data. Products need to be simplified and accessible to farmers. The issue of data interpretation either by farmers or other stakeholder was raised. A farmer expressed his appreciation of the ENACTS products, and pointed out that it will help farmers plan and manage their agricultural activities. He asked whether the project would bridge the gap between farmers, banks and insurance companies during risk analysis.

A participant emphasized the need to build trust among farmers, since many regard information from Meteo Rwanda to be not accurate. Access to seasonal forecasts (including start of the rain, end of season, amount of the rain, and rainfall distribution) will also be helpful to farmers.

A participant suggested that the project should take a group of farmers to India to learn from Indian farmers about insurance, which has successfully worked there. A representative suggested a review of the contracts between insurance companies and farmers, with the RCSA project as a lens, to make sure that the farmer is covered.

Delivering climate services to farmers

***Twigire Muhinzi* proximity extension service**

“*Twigire Muhinzi*” is a home-grown decentralised, farmer oriented national agricultural extension and advisory services delivery model of the Rwanda government. During this workshop, a representative from RAB made a presentation on how this model can be used to disseminate climate services information/products and reach one million people. Under this model, farmers are organised into farmer groups (between 5 and 10) at village level and in each village a volunteer farmer promoter is identified in a participatory way. Farmer promoters are then trained and given extension materials to be disseminated to their fellow

farmers. Therefore, this model was described as a potential approach for delivering climate services to farmers within the CSA project.

Participatory Integrated Climate Services for Agriculture (PICSA)

The presentation, by Dr. Graham Clarkson, gave an overview of the PICSA approach, and highlighted experiences with PICSA from Zimbabwe, Tanzania, Kenya, Malawi and Ghana. The PICSA approach comprises of climate information, agricultural management options and a participatory decision making tool. The exercise is done through 12 steps. Climate information services intermediaries will be trained on use of PICSA under the RSCA project.

Discussion

The first comment was that RSCA should use the communication channels that MINAGRI already has in place to reach farmers. The RSCA project will seek to mainstream climate services into Twigiri Muhenzi by training agricultural extension staff and Farmer Promoters on the PICSA methodology.

Question: When will PICSA start? The first training will be in June, and will focus on preparing staff from agencies such as RAB and Meteo Rwanda to train others in the methodology. In July, field extension staff and volunteer farmers in the four initial pilot districts will be trained.

Question: How do you provide information during the PICSA process on, for example, the start of the rain, dry spells and end of the season? RSCA will start by calculating these quantities from rain gauge records, and will work with Meteo Rwanda to add products such as these to its maprooms.

Question: How are policy makers integrated in the PICSA process? One component of the RSCA focuses on developing climate services for government planning and decision-making. The PICSA process focuses on farming communities, but also involves district government in the communication and seasonal planning process.

Conclusion

The workshop marked the public launch of the ENACTS products and maprooms of Meteo Rwanda, and the start of the implementation of the USAID-supported Rwanda Climate Services for Agriculture project. The launch brought together partners from different institutions and organizations including private sector and media. The program provided overviews of the new Meteo Rwanda maprooms, Rwanda's *Twigire Muhinzi* proximity extension service, the Participatory Integrated Climate Services for Agriculture (PICSA) process for communicating climate information with rural communities. The presentation on Rwanda Climate Services for Agriculture highlighted how the new project will build on and integrate these innovative initiatives.

Appendix 1. Workshop Program

Time	Event
Session A	The Public Launch
8.00 - 9.00 a.m.	Registration
9.00 - 9.10 a.m.	Welcome and introductions
9.10 - 9.30 a.m.	Climate data and information products provided by Meteo Rwanda (ENACTS launch)
9.30 - 9.40 a.m.	USAID/CCAFS climate services for agriculture project (CCAFS/CIAT)
9.40 - 10.00 a.m.	Opening session (Speeches and remarks by RAB, USAID, CCAFS, DG Meteo Rwanda)
10.00 - 11.00 a.m.	Coffee break, group photo, media event, and exploration of maprooms
11.00 - 12.00 noon	ENACTS and an introduction to the new Maprooms (Meteo Rwanda, IRI)
12.00 - 1.00 p.m.	ENACTS and an introduction to the new merged climate time series data (Meteo Rwanda, IRI)
Session B	Technical Session
1.00 - 2.00 p.m.	Lunch
2.00 - 2.30 p.m.	Proximity extension services (<i>Twigire Muhinzi</i> extension model) a channel for climate services (RAB/One Acre Fund)
2.30 - 3.00 p.m.	Overview on Participatory Integrated Climate Services for Agriculture (PICSA), Graham Clarkson, University of Reading
3.00 - 3.30 p.m.	Open discussion on climate services for the agriculture sector in Rwanda
3.30 - 4.00 p.m.	Closing remarks, coffee break and departure

Appendix 2. Participant List

No	Names	Organization
1	Yvette Umurungi	ACNR
2	Dr. Thomas Bazarusanga	Acre Africa
3	Domon Fraterne Musoni	AIA
4	Brigitte Nikita Kanyamugenge	ARCOS
5	Vivian Atakos	CCAFS
6	Joseph Mulambu	CIAT
7	J d' Amour Nkundimana	CIAT
8	Chantal Ingabire	CIAT
9	Christine Bigler	CIAT
10	Dr. Robin Buruchara	CIAT
11	Dr. Eliud Birachi	CIAT
12	David Kiiza	CIAT/Harvest Plus
13	Petra Niyonsenga	CICA
14	Dr. Kiri Sindi	CIP
15	Innocent Semaringa	EPR
16	Joesph A. Bizima	FAO
17	Didace Niyibizi	FLASH FM
18	Dieudonne Mushabizi	GAI Ltd (Gira Agronome Iwawe)
19	Philippe Ndayizeye	GAIN
20	Assiati Mukobwajana	Goodrich TV
21	Felix Nsengumukiza	Goodrich TV
22	Barewayire Gloriose	Heifer International
23	Gloriose Barewayire	HPI
24	Jean Nsengimana	Huguka Radio
25	Florentine Mukarubayiza	Huguka Radio
26	Athanase Mukuralinda	ICRAF
27	M. Ange Mukaneza	Igihe.com
28	Speciose Kantengwa	IITA
29	Dr. Emmanuel Njukwe	IITA
30	Joesph Gafaranga	Imbaraga
31	Dr. Tufa Dinku	IRI
32	Dr. Jim Hansen	IRI
33	Herve Uwe	Isango Star
34	Fulgence Muhawenimana	KFM (Journalist)
35	Chris Matata	Kigalifiesta.com
36	Napoleon Mugenzi	Kigalifiesta.com
37	Anna Knox	Land Project
38	Louise Keyworth	Mediae Company
39	Clarisse Umutesi Mwitgereze	Mediae Company
40	Didace Musoni	Meteo Rwanda

41	Anthony Twahirwa	Meteo Rwanda
42	John Ntaganda Semafara	Meteo Rwanda
43	Fr. Xavier Habineza	Meteo Rwanda
44	Sophie N.Bakwiye	Meteo Rwanda
45	Maurice Ngabonziza	Meteo Rwanda
46	Paul Bambiri	Meteo Rwanda
47	Angeline Niyitegeka	Meteo Rwanda
48	Fidele Kamanzi	Meteo Rwanda
49	Floribert Vuguziga	Meteo Rwanda
50	Leonard Tukamwibonera	Meteo Rwanda
51	JMV Niyitegeka	Meteo Rwanda
52	Francine Kaligirwa	Meteo Rwanda
53	Augustin Kagabo	Meteo Rwanda
54	Innocent Bisangwa	Minagri
55	Dr. Julius Nkusi	MINEDUC
56	Marshall Banamwana	MINIRENA
57	Alphonse Mutabazi	MOH/RBC
58	Eng. Eric Ruganintwari	NAEB
59	Moussa Senge K.	One Acre Fund
60	Clement Kimenyi	OTP
61	Jean de Dieu Habiyaremye	PSF
62	J. de Dieu Habiyaremye	PSF
63	Christophe Segahwege	PSF
64	Angelique Muhorakeye	PSF
65	Bernard S. Musana	RAB
66	Michel Kabirigi	RAB
67	Dr Hirwa Claire d' Andre	RAB
68	Nicolas Uwitonze	RAB
69	Augustin Ngirakamaro	RAB
70	Marie Dalie Dukuze	RAB
71	Gislain Tenge Ngoga	RAB
72	Jean de Dieu Nizeyimana	RAB
73	Theogene Nsengiyumva	RAB
74	Patrick Karangwa	RAB
75	Gloria Batamuliza	RAB
76	Aimable Gahigi	RAB
77	Felix Nzeyimana	RAB
78	Dr. Louis Butare	RAB
79	Athanase Katana	RAB
80	J de Dieu Nizeyimana	RAB
81	David Ndizeye	RAB
82	Antine Nikure	RAF
83	Boniface Sibomuremyi	RBA
84	Jean Baptiste Mbarushimana Bienvenu	RBA (RTV)
85	Emmanuel Hakizimana	RBC

86	Justin Gakomati	RCAA
87	Jules Kazungu	RCID
88	Diana Mugwaneza	RDO
89	Rachael Tushabe	REMA
90	Herman Hakuzimana	REMA
91	Faustin Munyazikwiye	REMA
92	George Barya	Rwanda Dispatch
93	Ndatsikira Musafiri	SAFE
94	Nadine Ingabire	SAFE
95	Solange Umurerwa	SAFE
96	Valens Kanakuze	Send a cow Rwanda
97	J Pierre Afadhali	The East African
98	Kelvin Opopbo	The Hive Rwanda
99	Elias Hakizimana	The independent magazine
100	Christian Gakombe	TV5 Monde Afrique
101	Graham Clarkson	University of Reading
102	Dr Martin Ongol	UR-CAVM
103	Pheneas Nkundabakura	UR-CE
104	Dr. Donat Nsabimana	UR-Huye
105	Aimee Mpambara	USAID
106	Malick Haidara	USAID
107	Innocent Karangwa	USAID Land Project
108	Kajsn Halleen Nyerere	Vi-Agroforestry
109	Jean Baptiste Ntahompagaze	Vi-Agroforestry
110	Antoine Shyaka	Voice of Africa (Journalist)
111	Madeleine Nyiratuza	WCS
112	Dieudonne K. Safari	World Vision
113	Steven Nsamaza	