



STRUCTURED SUMMARY

HOW CLIMATE INFORMATION SERVICES (CIS) CAN HELP PASTORALISTS IN THE HORN OF AFRICA

Claire Bedelian

Motivation

Despite the growing availability of climate information services (CIS), which could help pastoralists adapt to climate change, their use remains limited among pastoralists in the Horn of Africa.

Purpose

Why do pastoralists not make more use of CIS? How can we make CIS more relevant and accessible to them? We look at the specific needs of pastoralists for climate information, the barriers they face to use such information, and how to develop and deliver CIS tailored for pastoralists.

Approach and methods

We review the context of CIS for pastoralists in the Horn of Africa. We draw on case studies from Ethiopia and Kenya of CIS initiatives in pastoral areas.

Findings

Pastoralists face barriers to access and use CIS, including mobility, remoteness, weak telecommunications infrastructure, low mobile phone ownership, low literacy, and gender disparities.

Pastoralists will use climate information if, and when, it is timely, localised, context-specific, includes traditional knowledge, and is shared through trusted social networks.

Digital services may not always effectively reach pastoralists. Using multiple dissemination channels, combining digital tools with channels pastoralists already use, is beneficial.

Compared to men, women have different needs for climate information, often have less access to mobile phones, use different channels to receive information, and differ in their ability to act on information..

Policy implications

To tailor CIS for pastoralists, understand the local context, social networks, language, infrastructure, technology and literacy levels. This is best done jointly with pastoralists leading.

Use of CIS is but one way pastoralists adapt to climate change. CIS should be integrated into broader adaptation. Pastoralists' access to land, inputs and finance needs to be stronger if pastoralists are to make good use of climate information.

Initiatives should be sensitive to gender: specific measures to help women pastoralists are needed.

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