

Gender and Adaptive capacity of pastoralists to climate change in Kilosa District, Tanzania

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Climate change is a major global threat to human security and the environment. It has been projected that there is going to be an increase in climate changes resulting in increased droughts and floods in Kilosa district. Climate change impacts will be differently distributed among different regions, ages, income groups, occupations and gender. People living in poverty are more vulnerable to environmental changes. Specifically, the study assessed the trend and impact of climate change between men and women in the area, adaptive elements of pastoral communities against climate change and determined contribution of state agencies in enhancing pastoral system's resilience to climate variability in the district. Data were collected using household questionnaire survey, focus group discussions, key informant interviews and field observation. Data analysis was done using Excel and SPSS computer software programs. Results

revealed that in the period 1972-1974, there was a significant shift of rainfall in the study area from bi-modal to unimodal. This trend has been consistent with climate change scenarios in recent decades of lower rainfall and more severe droughts. Most pastoralists were aware of climate change impacts namely water scarcity, increase of livestock diseases and increased distance to grazing lands. The capacity of pastoralists to adapt to climate change stress depends largely on the number of livestock. Pastoralists owning more livestock are more likely to adapt to climate change. This study recommends that the community should diversify to other sustainable economic activities rather than relying on livestock only while climatic conditions are not favourable this economic activity. The Government should put more effort on supporting pastoralists in their adaptive strategies as well as regular review of policies to favour adaptation measures.

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