



# Meeting User Needs and Expectations

A presentation made  
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# OUTLINE

- Introduction
- Educating the Users and providers
- User needs
- Building partnerships
- Communicating Benefits of NMSs' to Decision Makers
- Challenges



# INTRODUCTION

## Importance of Agriculture:

- Tanzania's economy is dominated by agriculture (including livestock ) both at macro and micro economic levels.

## The sector:

- Contributes about 26.5 percent of GDP
- Employs more than 70 percent of the labor force;
- Provides more than 95 percent of food requirement,
- Contributes about 14.5 percent (USD. 290. million) of export earnings
- Supplies raw materials to manufacturing sector



## Introduction (Cont...)

- The agricultural sector over the past decade, grew at an average of 4.4%.
- The rate of growth in agriculture is higher than the average annual population growth rate of 2.9% implying growth in incomes.
- On average, crop production contributes about 19.0% of GDP and grows at 4.1%
- Livestock production contributed about 5.9% of the GDP and grew by 4.3%.



# Introduction (Cont...)

- With Crop and Livestock production contributing significantly to livelihoods and the economy, agriculture is identified as a major growth driver sector since it supports the majority of the rural population and has the potential of lifting the majority population out of poverty.
- Any effect to the agricultural sector due to weather or climate change may be detrimental to the country's production and the economy in general.



# EDUCATING USERS

- In recognition that Agricultural sector is the major user of climate and weather services from the National Meteorological Services, MAFC closely works with the TMA in creating capacity among agricultural users of weather and climate information.
- MAFC uses weather information (particularly rainfall data) collected by the TMA from a network of rainfall station across for analysis and forecasting crop production and issuing Early Warnings for Food Security



## Educating Users (Cont...)

- In addition, the data from TMA complements crop and rainfall collected by observers from about 500 MAFC maintained rainfall stations located in various districts.
- At the national level MAFC has a working arrangement with the TMA whereby a technical expert from TMA has been seconded to MAFC.



## Educating Users (Cont...)

- This placement enables the TMA Expert (Principal Agro-meteorologist Level) to provide technical advice and capacity building to both national level staff at the Crop Monitoring and Early Warning Unit and District level staff.





## Educating Users (Cont...)

- The TMA expert in collaboration with MAFC/EWS staff is responsible for **conducting annual training exercises** to both Regional and district staff on handling of data collection at station level in various districts and dissemination among stakeholders.
- The TMA expert acts as a **liaison** between the TMA and MAFC as far as weather and climate information dissemination and interpretation is concerned.



## Educating Users (Cont...)

- Maintaining record of Crop and rainfall data collected from stations in a District at district Offices (DALDO) is recent introduction to the rainfall monitoring system that enables District level staff to utilize data for planning purposes as well as advisory to farmers in the districts.



## Educating Users (Cont...)

MAFC as a stakeholder in weather and climate information **annually participates in exhibitions/ shows and special occasions** used for educating the stakeholders

- such as the commemoration of the World Meteorological day whereby awareness and technical information is disseminated to the stakeholders.
- National exhibitions such as farmers Day celebrations (Nane nane).



# USER NEEDS

- Need realistic forecasts and other products
- Presentation/dissemination in clear language understood by the users – isolated showers, normal to above normal, average to above average .
- Timeliness
- Accuracy
- relevance



# BUILDING PARTNERSHIPS

- In September, 2007, TMA in collaboration with MAFC carried out a joint situation assessment on the status of **rainfall stations** in the country.
- The exercise led to **jointly designed automation** of the crop and rainfall data retrieval system within MAFC.



## Building Partnerships (Cont...)

- Through support of WMO, TMA in collaboration with MAFC is implementing a **joint project on Quantification of the benefits of meteorological information and products** to national social and economic development focusing on the agricultural sector (Oct 2010 – June 2013).



## Building Partnerships (Cont...)

- TMA is also party to the **Food security Thematic Working Group of the Agricultural Sector Development Programme (ASDP)** at the National level.
- The FSTWG comprises of members from Government (Ministries, Departments and Agencies), UN Agencies, and Academic institutions.
- It acts as an advisory body on the implementation of the food security component of the ASDP and food security issues and actions at both national and district level.



## Building Partnerships (Cont...)

- The MAFC in collaboration with stakeholders is in the process of establishing a **livelihood based food security and Nutrition information system popularly known as MUCHALI** (Mfumo wa Uchambuzi wa taarifa na Takwimu za Hali ya Chakula na Lishe) with a view to strengthening the the food security and Nutrition information system for enhancing strategies for addressing vulnerability in the country.
- MUCHALI is a successor to the Food Security Information Team (FSIT) which is the National Vulnerability Assessment Committee in Tanzania also includes the TMA as member.





# COMMUNICATING BENEFITS

- The TMA like the Ministry of Agriculture Food Security and Cooperatives and other Government ministries which are users of climate and weather information/products is a member of the **Tanzania National Disaster Relief Committee (TANDREC)**.
- TANDREC is a high level body on disaster management in the country involving key Government Ministries, Department and Agencies relevant to addressing disaster management.
- TMA presents seasonal forecasts, advisories and other weather reports to TANDREC for decision making related to disaster preparedness and management including weather impacts on agriculture/crop production.



## Communicating Benefits Cont'd

- The Ministry of Agriculture Food Security and Cooperatives as the Coordinator of the **Agricultural Sector Lead Ministries (ASLMS) within the ASDP is the key link to agricultural development activities primarily at the District level.**
- Through **MAFC, Seasonal Forecasts and advisory reports from the TMA are often relayed to the Regions/Districts** to enable them create awareness among the farmers and provide technical advice related to:
  - timing of planting in relation to the onset, duration and cessation of rainfall,
  - varieties types of crops to be planting in relation to the forecast
  - informed decision of the farmers to contribute to sound economic choices and resource utilization.



## Communicating Benefits Cont'd

- The TMA also uses the **media** including electronic, radio and television, and print to disseminate weather forecast information to stakeholders and the general public.
- Dekadal Weather Reviews, Monthly Bulletins, Seasonal forecasts (October – November – December –OND and March, April May – MAM), periodic Updates and Advisories.



# CHALLENGES

## Some challenges

- Inadequate technical capacity through acquisition and deployment of technical weather/climate information equipments
- Working gear for observers
- Inadequate allocation of financial resources
- Policy issues on commercialization of data hindering access to users