

New Ways of RANET for Increasing Climate Services Delivery in Africa

Milton Michael Waiswa,
Uganda Department of Meteorology
P. O. Box 7025 Kampala Uganda

Millennium Development Goals

- Reducing Household Hunger and Poverty are key Millennium development Goals each of the National African Governments have commitment to achieve.
- Likewise in each National Governments, National Meteorological Services can play their roles to help the Nation achieve the specific MD Goals through increased weather and climate information services delivery to rural poor communities.

National Development Challenge

Increasing irregularity of Seasonal rains

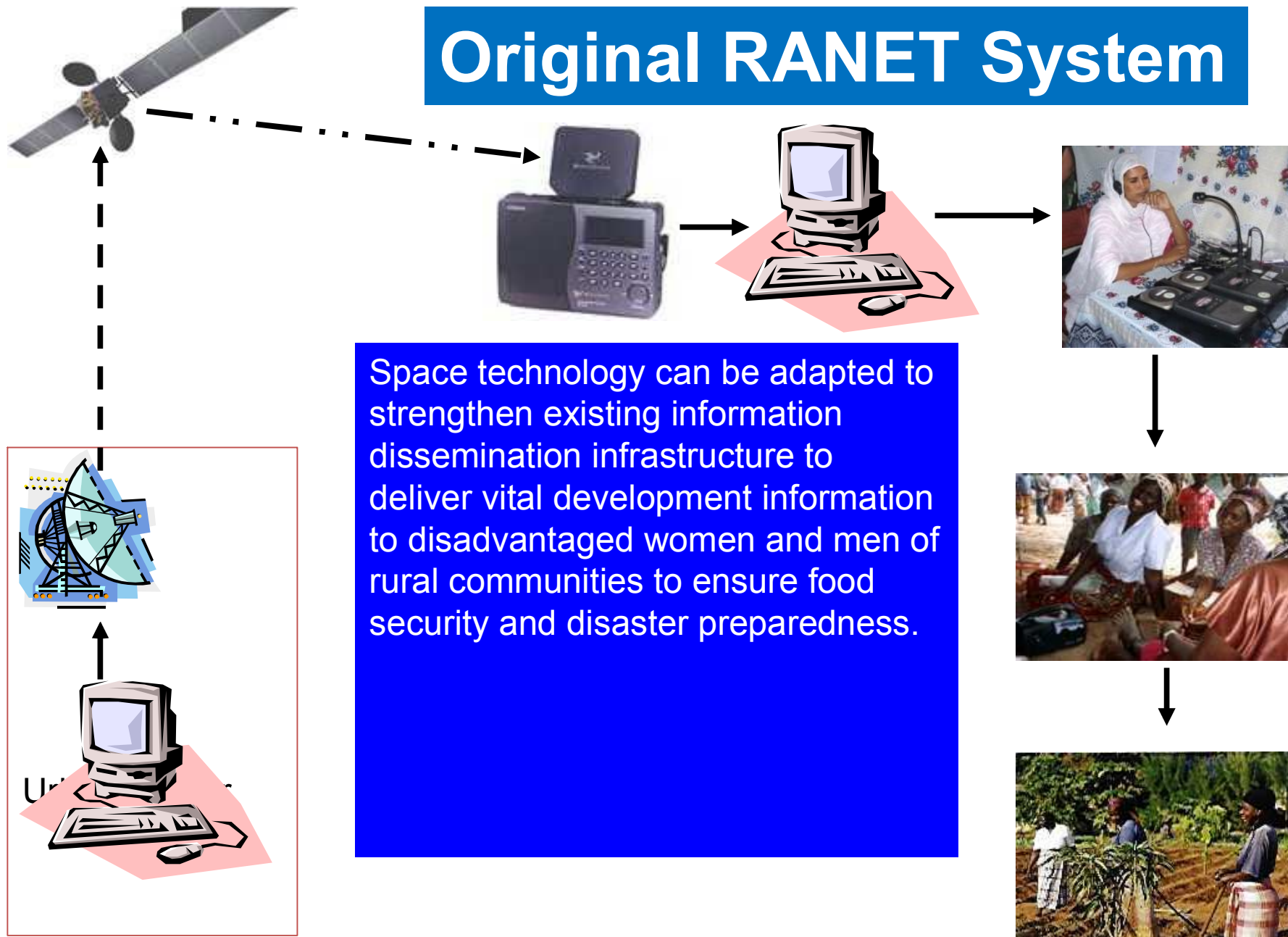
(Onset, rainfall amounts, seasonal length, long dry spells, droughts floods)



Crop failures, food shortages leading to **food insecurity, hunger and poverty**

Solving the above problem requires that Climate information being a perishable good should reach the target end users at the earliest time possible through use of affordable information communication technologies.

Original RANET System



Space technology can be adapted to strengthen existing information dissemination infrastructure to deliver vital development information to disadvantaged women and men of rural communities to ensure food security and disaster preparedness.

Needed Information Technologies

1. Cellular Network Coverage (available in many villages)
2. GPRS Modems (internet t USD 10 per month)
3. Computer
4. Automatic Weather Station (Community based)
5. Website (<http://www.meteo-uganda.net/karamoja.html>)
6. Climate information (ten-day, monthly, seasonal)

Benefit of Partnerships

Sharing resources is key to enable farmers benefit from RANET in rural communities



New Ways of RANET



**Two way flow of
climate information
between farmers and
Meteorological Services**



New Action

Establish a two way flow of information between rural end users and producers of climate information

- AWS installed at RANET Site observes and posts Weather data to Department through Website cellular based internet connection.
- Meteorology analyses weather data and send feed back through the same web site



- Focal person at the RANET site visits the website using the GPRS Modem and gets the feedback.
- <http://www.meteo-uganda.net/karamoja.html>

RANET Opportunities

- The increasing demand for climate information services over Africa as a development tool
- A number of Development Partners striving to achieve the same millennium development goals
- Information communication technologies like Cellular/mobile technologies are spreading all over Africa and costs becoming cheaper.
- Community based Automatic Weather Stations becoming more available and affordable.
- RANET Africa Leadership Team

Challenges

Farmers' Priority Climate information needs

	Climate Information Needs	%
1	Onset of seasonal rains	48
2	Forecasting rains	20
3	Why changes rainfall patterns	12
4	How do rains form	8
5	Rainfall amounts	7
6	None	5
	TOTAL	100

Timely production of priority climate information needed by farmers is key to improvement of climate services delivery.

Human Resource in some National Meteorological Services and Partner organisations

THE END