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

**Organisational Baseline Study:  
Overview Report for Makueni – Wote, Kenya (KE0202)**

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# INTRODUCTION

This is a report of the Organisational Baseline Survey (OBS) carried out in February and March of 2013. The interviews were conducted at 9 organisations that were working or collaborating with farmers and/or the community in Wote block which is in Makueni County, Kenya. The Wote research site lies in the arid and semi-arid zone in Eastern Kenya and has high variability in annual and seasonal rainfall. The main farming systems comprise a blend of crop-livestock systems, with the main crops bring maize, cowpea and pigeon pea.

CCAFS' organisational-level baseline studies supplement the quantitative household baseline surveys and the qualitative village baseline studies at the same locations.

The objectives of the organisational baseline study are to:

* Provide indicators to allow us to monitor changes in behaviours and practices of locally relevant organisations over time
* Understand the provision of information/services at the local level that informs farmers’ decision making about their livelihood strategies in response to climate change

# ORGANISATIONS INTERVIEWED

Prior to this organisational study, CCAFS conducted a participatory village study within the Wote site. Participants of the village study were asked to create an institutional landscape of their community by listing the most important organisations that were active in the area and then providing information on how they were involved in the community. Specifically, the participants were asked which organisations were involved in food security activities, food crisis situations, and natural resource management (NRM) work. CCAFS then took this list of organisations and provided it to the interviewer conducting the Organisational Baseline Survey. The interviewer was given leeway to eliminate an organisation s/he believed was not relevant and to add any organisations that may have been left out of the village study discussions.

The village survey generated a list of 14 organisations for this site. Six were selected for interview after their relevance to the Organisation Baseline Study was established. Three additional organisations were selected for interview based on the interviewer's assessment.

Tabulated below is the list of organisations interviewed, omitted and added with a brief description of their activities.

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| Organisation | Main areas of activity |
| AH (Africa Harvest) | is focused on food security, water harvesting and Agroforestry. However, work is on a small scaleand it was evident that financing is a major bottleneck in their operations. |
| AMREF (African Medical Research Foundation) | Its agriculture related activities have been phased-out and another phase is not certain. Its current activities are health related. |
| KARI (Kenya Agricultural Research Institute) | is dedicated to research and innovation, and has a directorate which develops technologies to improve farming and food security. |
| KRC (Kenya Red Cross) | works primarily in emergency response. It is carrying out vital activities in addressing issues of food security. |
| MoA (Ministry of Agriculture) | is focused on food security. It also provides extension services and the management of natural resources. |
| WVK (World Vision Kenya) | carries out activities of an agricultural nature, with a focus on food security, as well as natural resource management, including environmental conservation. It was evident that most of their emphasis is on individual families. |
| Added Organisations | Activities and/or Why they are included |
| ICRISAT (International Crop Research Institute for Semi-Arid Tropics) | focuses on adaptive research, market research and capacity building for farmers. It is often mistaken for KARI as it carries out its research in their fields. |
| MESPT (Micro-Enterprise Support Programme/Agri-Business Development) | was included because of the role it is playing, particularly in the marketing of agricultural produce/products. It also provides services in Natural Resource management. |
| NDMA (National Drought Management Authority) | was added because it usually implements activities through other organisations and the community. Its areas of focus include: countrywide management of drought systems, drought information and natural resources management, as well as protecting livelihoods and building resilience among farmers. |
| Eliminated organisations | Why they were not included |
| Farm Care | was not known to the interviewer. However there is Farm Chem working in the region. |
| Jasho | is a youth group business which the NDMA (at the time known as the Drought Management Office) supported in building green houses. |
| Provincial Administration | is not directly involved in any agricultural or weather information projects. They may have been mentioned at the village level because they are at the forefront of mobilization, dissemination of information, identification of vulnerable groups/individuals for assistance etc., for all projects and activities being implemented in the village. |

# SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES

Most of the organisations involved in agricultural capacity building display some knowledge of climate change, but it is not listed in the main objectives of any organisation. The following categories contain activities that are indirectly related to climate change adaptation and mitigation activities.

## Natural resource management:

Natural resource management is listed as a main objective by WVK, MESPT, NDMA and MoA. There is mention of training in soil conservation practices such as terracing and gully control by NDMA, WVK, ICRISAT, and MoA. WVK is the only organisation to discuss organic farming or composting, though MESPT talks about training in Integrated Pest Management and Integrated Crop Management.

Agroforestry, including tree planting, nursery establishment and seedling provision, was by far the most commonly mentioned and widespread activity. All organisations make some mention of it. Africa Harvest lists it as a current objective.

KRC promotes the use of solar panels on boreholes; AMREF lists it as a past activity which could be re-funded, while MESPT promotes it alongside the use of energy saving stoves and bio-gas (See reduction of risk due to climate variability section for other water management activities).

## Preparation to withstand extreme events:

NDMA is the only organisation to score high in preparation to withstand extreme events. Though it focuses solely on drought, it does so country wide.

KRC lists emergency response as an objective, including the distribution of relief food and seed. WVK also distributes relief food, while the NDMA identifies target populations for assistance.

Dissemination of weather and seasonal forecasts is also an area which seems to be well covered, with a number of organisations addressing the issue and many using both radio and text messages to reach farmers. ICRISAT mans a weather station and disseminates information to farmers (in collaboration with the Met department). MESPT disseminates weather updates. NDMA produces and disseminates seasonal weather updates. KARI downscales the weather forecast reports by developing weather based Agro-Advisories for different regions. MoA records rainfall data and disseminates seasonal weather forecast information.

## Reduction of risk due to climate variability:

Promotion and/or provision of drought tolerant and early maturing crops are the most common activity in this realm. NDMA, AH and MESPT promote and/or offer training on drought tolerant and early maturing crops; WV, MoA and ICRISAT also provide the seeds and ICRISAT does research.

Water harvesting, sand dams, check dams, water pans, micro catchment, water tanks and roof catchment are part of the activities done by AH, WVK, MESPT, NDMA and MoA.

## Activities' Relationship to Climate Change:

There is a basic understanding of climate change in the area. There is some effort to disseminate information about climate change, enhance adaptation and improve mitigation. Adaptation seems to be the aspect which is best addressed. Mitigation seems largely limited to tree planting, some promotion of solar energy and discouraging the burning of charcoal and garbage.

Due to the use of lists and concise descriptions, there is some ambiguity as to whether the activities in the above three subsections are climate change related activities. They have been listed because they do relate to climate change; however, in most cases they may be being implemented for other reasons, such as to improve agricultural productivity or to overcome natural year to year variability. Thus the organisations' climate change activities are may be activities that date back to before there was a focus on climate change, and their attention to it is a by-product. Natural resource management activities in particular are often mentioned as climate change related activities, though they do not seem to be being implemented for climatic reasons.

The following organisations mention climate change specifically, though none in their key objectives or current activities:

ICRISAT: Advise farmers on climate change and the appropriate crop varieties

MESPT: Very high allocation of resources for capacity building of staff on climate change

NDMA: Capacity building on climate change for farmers

KARI: Undertakes research on the impacts of climate change on agricultural production and mitigation measures, then advises stakeholders accordingly