

NATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

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The Dissemination of Climate Change Adaptation Information by Agricultural Extension Workers: The Case of Tanda Communal Land, Zimbabwe

by

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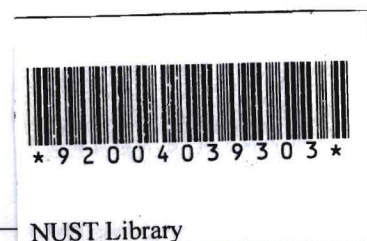
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ABSTRACT

Tanda Communal Land in Makoni District, Zimbabwe, like most farming communities in the country, is reeling under climate change effects such as declining crop yields, water scarcity, declining pastures, declining livestock productivity, and predominant poverty. The Ministry of Agriculture, through Agricultural Technical and Extension Services (AGRITEX), has tried to minimise the negative effects of climate change in this community since 1980 by seconding Agricultural Extension Workers (AEWs) whose role is to provide information meant to help alleviate these challenges. However, the Tanda community still experiences the devastating effects of climate change despite the efforts of AEWs who have been providing Climate Change Adaptation (CCA) information to the community since 1980 and continue to do so. This study sought to find out if the information dissemination channels that are employed, and the quality of the information that is provided by AEWs is effectively addressing the climate change predicament being faced in Tanda Communal Land. The study adopted the case study research design in which judgmental sampling and observation methods were employed. Face to face interviews were conducted to 2 AEWs and 4 opinion leaders, as well as 10 households from the Tanda community. The study showed that the CCA information that is provided by AEWs in Tanda is relevant but is inadequate to fully assist all Tanda farmers so that they may live a sustainable life in the face of climate change effects, that the information dissemination channels that are employed by AEWs in CCA education are appropriate and relevant but more information needs to be disseminated to promote a better livelihood. The researcher also found out that Tanda farmers who reside far from Nyatimba irrigation scheme, which is close to Chikore, are neglected by AEWs, and the AEW who is responsible for Tanda does not reside in that community. AEWs and the Tanda community suffer from a lack of resources that is slowing them down from fully experiencing the benefits of CCA strategies. For example, the installation of only one metal silo and the building of only one dam in the whole of Tanda, as well as the lack of transport facilities for AEWs to visit all Tanda areas with ease. This study is expected to influence more community based adaptation projects that can empower communities to strengthen their adaptive capacity and make adaptation interventions more effective in Zimbabwe.