

Inception Workshop for the Tanzania National Wiser Project



Introduction

The Tanzania Meteorological Agency (TMA) is implementing the project titled “Enhancing Capacity of Tanzania Meteorological Agency (TMA) in Provision of Climate Services in Agriculture, Energy, Marine transport, Disaster and Water Sectors”. The project is facilitation engagement of TMA with stakeholders in the mentioned sectors to enhance provision of CIS. An inception meeting was held in Dar es Salaam on 29th August 2019 which was attended by TMA, TMS and other stakeholders from relevant Government Ministries and NGO’s to discuss implementation of the project.

The Agenda of the workshop was as follows:

- i) Provision of climate services at TMA
- ii) The need of quality climate services from Target sectors
- iii) Highlights of WISER programme in EA
- iv) Planned and implemented activities of the TMA project
- v) The role of NGOs and schools in supporting dissemination and co-production of climate services

This report is a short summary of the inception workshop.

Provision of climate services at TMA

Isac Yonah of TMA explained to the delegates the climate services TMA provides to all sectors particularly Agriculture, Energy, Marine transport, Disaster and Water Sectors. He urged all stakeholders to take advantage of the climate services at TMA for enhanced delivery of their respective mandates. He noted that although uptake and use of CIS has been improving over time, there was still a lot of work to do in order to reach all the users of CIS in Tanzania.

The need of quality climate services from target sectors

Representatives from the ministries responsible for Agriculture, Water and Disaster Preparedness made presentations at the workshop. They highlighted the existing gaps, needs and challenges in their respective sectors and the need for closer cooperation with TMA to develop relevant products. Some of the challenges include weaknesses in dissemination of predictions and interpretation of the same by farmers. They indicated that weather and climate information was crucial in decision-making, and an example of the recent cyclone in Mozambique where TMA ably informed Tanzanians and the Government of the impending danger leading to some evacuations was highlighted. The workshop was also informed that CIS was important for effective water reservoir management. In this regard, it was recommended that TMA in conjunction with Ministry responsible for water explore ways of initiating hydrological modelling / forecasting.

Planned and implemented activities of the TMA project

Philbert took the delegates through the achievements of the project so far and pointed out the outstanding work. He thanked them for their continued cooperation in the various capacity building workshops done so far. However, he pointed out that it was their finding that co-production was only possible through the extension officers in the agricultural sector and that it was preferable to interpret the forecast to farmers in terms of which crops to plant and not attempt to explain the forecast itself.

The role of NGOs and schools in supporting dissemination and co-production of climate services

Representatives of two schools made presentations on how they work with school children as an alternative way of dissemination of CIS and also as a way of exposing children to climate matters which affect their daily lives. They requested TMA to pay more attention to schools and to be including them in their project implementation plans.