

Report

Latest news from ASPIRE

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Integrating Climate Information into Adaptive Social Protection: ASPIRE initiatives in the Sahelian countries of West Africa

Recurrent weather and climate shocks that affect the Sahelian countries of West Africa pose significant challenges to achieving poverty eradication and the sustainable development goals. Droughts, floods and other climate-related events are becoming more frequent and more intense (Schlenker and Lobell 2010) and are affecting the lives of people, in particular poor rural and most vulnerable communities which depend on rainfed crops. Without sustained adaptive social protection measures, these rural communities will continue to be fragilized and will have no alternative but to leave the vulnerable areas. In this context, The ASPIRE (Adaptive Social Protection - Information for Enhanced RESilience) project, funded by DFID under the WISER programme, aims to identify how climate and livelihoods information can inform social protection programmes in the West African Sahel.

Providing sound and reliable climate information in the Sahel to be integrated into social protection planning through training

Strategies for reducing the vulnerability of poor people to the range of shocks and managing disaster risk rely on seasonal to sub-seasonal timescales climate prediction. However, currently used seasonal and sub-seasonal climate outlooks over the Sahelian region are associated with substantial uncertainty. ASPIRE team, led by the UK Met Office is developing strategies to provide reliable forecasts and how to use these forecasts to provide earlier support to at-risk communities in the Sahel before a disaster occurs.

As part of these strategies, the UK Met Office is providing seasonal forecast training to the National Meteorological and Hydrological Services (NMHSs) in Mali, Niger and Senegal. The training intended to further enhance the capacity of NMHSs to provide good quality climate information in the Sahel, that could be integrated into social protection plans.

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Picture #1: Participants in the ASPIRE-Senegal Seasonal Forecast Training Workshop



Picture #2: Participants in the ASPIRE-Mali Seasonal Forecast Training Workshop

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Picture #3: Participants in the ASPIRE-Niger Seasonal Forecast Training Workshop

Soudano-Sahel Regional Climate Outlook Forum - PRESASS - Nouakchott, Mauritania, 22-26 April 2019

The Soudano-Sahel Regional Climate Outlook forum known as the PRESASS took place in Mauritania on 22-26 April 2019, and focused on the production of consensus-based, user-relevant climate outlook products in real time in order to reduce climate-related risks and support sustainable development for the coming season in sectors of critical socioeconomic significance for the region in question. ASPIRE Seasonal Forecast for July-September 2019 over West Africa informed the PRESASS consensus forecast.

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Presentation of ASPIRE forecast at the PRESASS forum

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African Climate Risks Conference, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, 7-9 October 2019

The African Climate Risks Conference (ACRC) took place in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia on 7-9 October 2019, and was designed to be an open platform for sharing the latest African climate research among researchers, policy makers, practitioners and development partners.

Dr Issa Lele, the ASPIRE Embedded consultant participated to the conference. Dr Lele highlighted the challenges and opportunities integrating climate information into the World Bank and other national Adaptive Social Protection programmes in the Sahelian region. He also discussed on the work needed to strengthen the links between climate information providers and social protection organisations, including research into interactions between providers and users of climate information; research on the reliability of seasonal forecasts; examination of the potential of seasonal forecasts to support social protection initiatives; engagement with climate centres in Africa (ACMAD and AGRHYMET) and the PRESASS regional climate outlook forum; and the identification of training needs and key training activities with national meteorological agencies and social protection stakeholders.

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