

Co-production: Finding your role in climate services

“All of us must participate for all of us to benefit”, Jemimah Wakini

As implied by the term, co-production necessitates a variety of stakeholders working together to generate, in this case a climate service. It requires each actor, based on their day-to-day work, to identify and engage to support the co-delivery of the service.

Mr. Fredrick Ochieng', coordinator of the farmer communication program at BioVision Trust Africa (BvAT) was one of the participants of the WISER co-production process. Operating in 10 countries across Africa, BvAT generates knowledge on sustainable farm practices through research, packages the information and communicates it to farmers and other users to help them improve their livelihoods. The WISER co-production process was aimed at strengthening collaborative development of climate services to improve the value, access and usefulness of climate information in the Greater Horn of Africa (GHA) region through increased interaction among users, producers and intermediaries of climate information.

On attending his first co-production workshop, he was convinced of the value of his participation in the process to his work. During the process, Mr. Ochieng' acquired a better appreciation of the need for climate information for the small-holder farmers - beneficiaries of his program. He utilised the three workshops as opportunities to network and initiate conversations with different stakeholders within the workshop including the Kenya Meteorological Department (KMD) on areas for joint collaboration and partnerships. At the end of the co-production process, Mr. Ochieng' had increased his awareness of climate services and the possible role BvAT can play in supporting the same within its areas of operation across the region.

As a result of these interactions, BvAT has approached KMD with a proposal to support the communication aspect within their provision of climate services. This has led to subsequent meetings with directors from both organisations to start a conversation on developing a Memorandum of Understanding to support climate information communication to farmers in future. BvAT will also have an opportunity to add value to KMD's climate information based on their already available agricultural information. Through this, BvAT will be able to mainstream climate information into its programming.

Now with a better understanding of the co-production process and the climate service stakeholder landscape, BvAT seeks to support climate services in the countries where they work. As BvAT continues to bridge the gap between farmers and knowledge producers through their knowledge dissemination initiative, upscaling partnership with climate information providers will become a focus of the institution in its countries of operation. BvAT will utilize its already available media channels with over four million farmers in its audience to support communication of climate information. These channels will include local radio, social media, print, web-based infonet customised for the farmer and face to face interaction with field officers on the ground.



Participants from different institutions and countries discussing climate related factors affecting food security in the region during the Post-GHACOF50 Learning Event in Kigali, Rwanda

Mr. Ochieng' is now advocating on more organisations in climate sensitive sectors to identify their role and plug onto climate services value chain. He reiterates on the opportunities available - in development, interpretation, communication and use of climate information and the need for pro-activeness to support climate services within Kenya and in the region.

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