

GENDER, CLIMATE CHANGE, AND NUTRITION INTEGRATION INITIATIVE (GCAN) NEWSLETTER | July 2017

Putting climate data to use

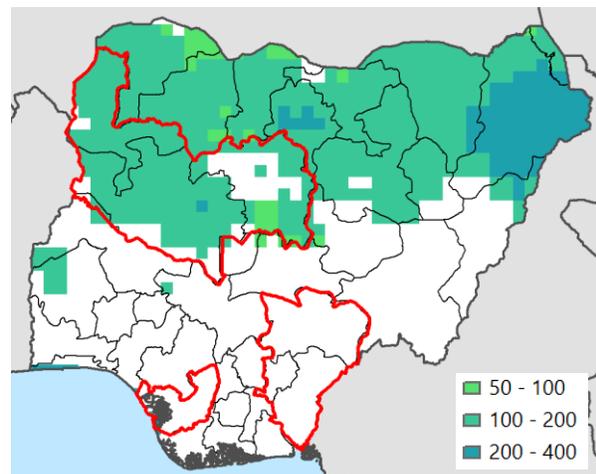
Back to the Future: Using Historical Data to Project Future Trends

Most scientists studying the impact of climate change on agriculture use climate models that project out to 2050 or beyond – some even going to 2100. Even those focusing more short-term rarely study anything earlier than 2030 – the models just have too little change in that time period for them to produce anything of interest.

These climate studies can be of significant help to USAID missions when working with host governments in developing longer-range investment plans in the agricultural and environmental sectors, and can also be of help in assessing climate risk in activities that are meant to have impact for multiple decades.

Yet many climate risk assessments for USAID activities need to assess climate impacts for just a few years into the future, for example, just until the early 2020s. For those assessments, typical climate models and studies are not helpful. In such cases, missions would be better served by looking at climate trends from gridded weather data available from a number of sources.

Areas in Nigeria with Statistically Significant Trends in Annual Rainfall, 1980-2010, in millimeters

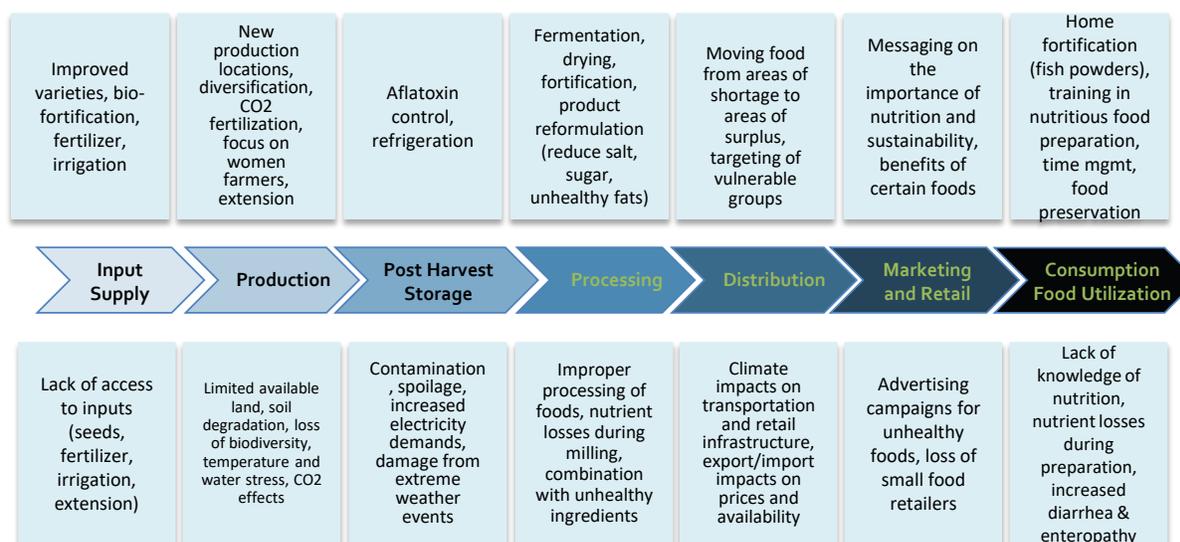


Source: Author, using daily AgMERRA data.

Notes: Results are based on regressions on a time trend at each pixel using 31 years of data. Areas in white did not have a statistically significant time trend at the 10% level using a z-test on the parameter estimate. Areas outlined in red represent Feed the Future's Zones of Influence.

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New GCAN outputs



Source: Adapted with permission from Fanzo et al. (2017).

Climate Change-Nutrition Policy Note

The intersection of climate change, food security, and nutrition is critical given growing adverse climate change impacts that threaten food security and nutrition outcomes, especially for the most vulnerable in the global South. The GCAN team put together a discussion paper which uses a food systems approach to analyze the bidirectional relationships between climate change and food and nutrition along the entire food value chain.

The discussion paper features the graphic shown above, which was developed by one of the GCAN team members (Jessica Fanzo) and which traces the food value chain and how nutrition can enter and exit the chain at each step. This graphics was very popular among many missions, because it helped them think and plan more clearly about nutrition and food security.

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Policy Note on GCAN Priorities for Zambia

Climate change is a substantial threat to sustainable development in Zambia, a country experiencing weather hazards, drought and dry spells, seasonal and flash floods, and extreme temperatures that may well increase under climate change. Achieving the goals of Feed the Future and the Global Food Security Strategy requires careful consideration of the impact of relevant climate science on agricultural production, while at the same time considering other cross-cutting issues that influence agricultural growth, poverty alleviation and resilience, and especially gender and nutrition.

This policy note summarizes assessments of these linkages for Zambia under GCAN. The note highlights changes in climate trends, Zambia's take on climate smart agriculture, gender, youth and social inclusion, Zambia's nutritional profile, and research priorities moving forward.

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Meetings

Gender and Resilience Working Group

The intersection of climate change, food security, and nutrition is critical given growing adverse climate change impacts that threaten food security and nutrition outcomes, especially for the most vulnerable in the global South. The GCAN team put together a discussion paper which uses a food systems approach to analyze the bidirectional relationships between climate change and food and nutrition along the entire food value chain.

At this recent meeting, the GCAN team presented the conceptual framework for climate resilience, gender and nutrition and described how this framework is being used to guide engagements with USAID missions and research on the intersection of these issues. The participants discussed how elements of the GCAN framework may be used to inform a framework on gender and resilience currently being developed by the working group and discussed opportunities

to collaborate on the development of tools and guides for field research and M&E during project implementation. GCAN will continue to remain engaged with this group to ensure that the research and tools from the project are relevant for practitioners.

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DC Datathon Moved to August

Due to scheduling conflicts, the DC Datathon is postponed to August 11 from its original date of July 28.

The event will be the first [Feed the Future DATATHON event in Washington, DC](#) and will showcase findings from harmonized data in [Bangladesh](#) and also invite avid data geeks to generate their own analyses, visualizations, and new insights around topics related to climate shocks, agriculture, gender and nutrition.

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Achieving the goals of the Feed-the-Future Program and the [Global Food Security Strategy](#) requires careful consideration of the impact of climate on agricultural production and livelihoods, while at the same time considering other cross-cutting issues that influence agricultural growth, poverty alleviation and resilience, especially gender and nutrition. To address these challenges the Gender, Climate Change and Nutrition Integration Initiative (GCAN) works with USAID headquarters, field missions, and partners to enhance understanding of the linkages between climate, gender, and nutrition for increased resilience, women's empowerment and improved nutrition.

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