



Standard BEST SUNDAY READ

Search...



Local > News > Can farming shift save stricken Zim?

Can farming shift save stricken Zim?

Local, News



G+1 0

Share

Recovery from years of economic depression has been hit by the blow from recurrent droughts, halving the production of 742 000 tonnes of the main staple, maize.

Only 16% of Zimbabweans (16% of the population) are expected to stay healthy, according to the UN World Health Organization.

Maize production is expected to drop by 50% because of the ongoing El Niño, with the government predicting the upcoming cropping season to receive 70% below normal seasonal rains in the semi-arid regions of the country.

LATEST POPULAR
COMMENTS TAGS



Malaysia says debris found off Thai coast not from missing MH370

JANUARY 26, 2016



Public Relations: How to gain 'free' publicity for your business

JANUARY 26, 2016



Church: The gateway to Heaven

JANUARY 25, 2016



Literary Forum: The exilic doubleness of Marechera

JANUARY 24, 2016



Women and Development: End to child marriages, good news for Zim

JANUARY 24, 2016



Development Community has announced people across the southern African region for the next six months.

Weeks, political leaders debated how to proceed during the COP21 talks in Paris. Scientists have been warning us about the risks around the world. More frequent food crises and social unrest if mitigation policies are in place. Like Zimbabwe, where over three quarters of the land is used for farming, many of which are poor rain-fed crops will suffer the most.

They are facing this enormous and complex problem. Scientists often say they lack a consistent picture of what the future will cost and how it will impact in terms of the future of the farming sector.

The Agricultural Model Intercomparison and Interproject Assessment (AgMIP) comes in.

A programme funded by UK aid, in partnership with the International Centre for Tropical Agriculture (CIAT), aims to better understand the impacts of climate variability and change on the agricultural sector and food security, at global as well as regional scales.

Using realistic and intercomparable projections, climate and economic models, which ultimately help us understand the impacts of climate variability and change.

The study confirmed a mostly negative impact on food production. For instance, "an anticipated steady decrease of yields for staples like wheat, maize, and soybean in many regions even under only small temperature increases."

The community-driven modelling research approach is being used in other regions.

nd stakeholders co-develop specific
 that are tailored for different types of farmers
 text.

rs, farmers, decision-makers, agriculture
 NGOs, and other stakeholders involved in
 ink about solutions for future scenarios
 je is linked with other ecological and socio-

esearcher from the International Crops
 or the Semi-Arid Tropics (Icrisat) is the
 of AgMIP's Crop Livestock Intensification

l with farmers from Nkayi district in
 10.

vulnerability is extremely high here — three
 re poor and 22% are extremely poor.

of farmers have no cattle and an average of
 with maize yielding as low as 300kg/hectare.

redicted to be severe in this semi-arid region
 mperature increase of +2 up to +3,3 °C,
 re planting season. It will impact on crops,
 d water resources.

lready very low, many farming families
 s of two to nine months, the worse off being
 stock.

51% of Nkayi farm households could be
 y climate change, with the poorest without
 t. Eighty-six percent of farmers would benefit
 of climate-smart adaptation technologies,
 p diversification from predominantly maize
 ught-tolerant sorghum cereal crops,
 nuts for better soil fertility, family nutrition
 al purpose forages like
 e to support livestock production.

echnologies like mucuna and manure,
 of low risk, complementary to microdosing
 in zai pits, can contribute to offset impacts
 and increase production and farm incomes.

id better access to accurate climate
 casts, at the right time and in the right

rough another Icrisat initiative with the
 ogical Services Department and the
 ultural Technical and Extension Services of
 were presented climate seasonal forecasts

re messaging and workshops, and could test
rt innovations in "climate field schools".

survey shows the positive impact this had on

lies who received climate information and
t bet technologies have seen their sorghum
300kg/ha to 1 100kg/ha on average.

e information services has also been
r countries.

AgMIP is when we share various scenarios
ns between all agriculture stakeholders at
al levels to facilitate changes in the different
ays Homann. For example, scientists
undnut cultivation given the high demand
lor who currently import the nuts from
as well as the nutrition value of this protein-
t tolerance, soil fertility boosting (as it is a
k feed value features.

armers raised key issues of the lack of
ls, storage and transport facilities to major
food companies.

ment is now emphasising greater support to
chains with new high-yielding varieties
e in the coming months.

tnered with the government and imported 20
seed from Malawi, which was distributed to
ltiplication and testing.



st from the impacts of climate change, a
d such as a shift in crop patterns, linking
opportunities and integrating crop and
. This can only happen when large-scale
by policymakers and key stakeholders like


testing the impacts of these changes are
ese policy decisions.
oes beyond promoting better drought-
te-smart fertilisation practices or providing
on services.

impact in rural poor regions like Nkayi
n integrated approach from labs to farms
eplace, and co-ordinated action between
e organisations involved in the food sector.

ut, climate adaptation has to go hand-in-
make farming more profitable, attractive,
e years, for all types of farms.

AgMIP since it was founded in 2010 with
 Since then, additional funds have been
 JSAid, The Bill and Melinda Gates
 others. AgMIP is now a community of over
 700 members around the world who work together to set
 standards for intercomparison, improvement and
 validation of the support of their home institution. The
 programme provides a better framework to directly
 address the needs of each adaptation strategy, so decision-
 makers can act by acting now to mitigate the projected
 climate change risk. The second phase of AgMIP, which was
 recently launched, further develops the programme by focusing
 on the production of a range of web-accessible
 decision-making tools for use by policymakers and
 researchers in sub-Saharan Africa and South
 America. This will enhance and improve access to AgMIP
 information in a format that will support effective decision-
 making.



mail updates.

SUBMIT

Related Posts:

- [Why ruling against child marriages can't be ignored](#)
- [VP office break-ins mystery deepens](#)
- [Open letter to Saviour Kasukuwere](#)
- [Grief as bulldozers raze Harare mansions](#)
- [Moyo exposes Mugabe aide](#)

act shines Zimbabwe on revenge mission >

is closed.



Subscribe to The Standard now

SUBSCRIBE

- [Copyright](#)
- [Disclaimer](#)
- [Privacy Policy](#)
- [Terms and Conditions](#)

- [Zimbabwe Independent](#)
- [NewsDay](#)
- [Southern Eye](#)
- [Mail & Guardian](#)
- [MyClassifieds](#)

- [Local](#)
- [Opinion](#)
- [Editorial](#)
- [International](#)
- [Letters](#)
- [Cartoons](#)
- [QueenMakers](#)

- [About us](#)
- [Contact us](#)
- [Subscribe](#)
- [Advertise](#)

© 2016 The Zimind. All Rights reserved.

