



Bridging the gap - how the EPICC project brings climate science to practice

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The East Africa - Peru - India Climate Capacities (EPICC) project is developing climate services for and with partners from the water, agriculture and related sectors.

EPICC has established dialogues with partners from policy making, private sector, civil society and science in Tanzania, Peru and India and has jointly with those partners identified demands for seasonal forecasts, climate scenarios and hydrological and agricultural impact assessments.

Based on those science products, EPICC assesses integrated adaptation options that strengthen climate resilience, help to achieve national development goals and potentially reduce migration pressure.

Methods employed include simulation modeling, field surveys, data synthesis, visualizations, tools, platforms, workshops, training sessions and other formats.

With these methods, EPICC aims at co-developing relevant knowledge that meets user needs.

In doing so, we recognize the different contexts, vulnerabilities, adaptation options and demands for capacity development across the three partner countries, at national and sub-national level.

Challenges that EPICC is facing include the need for continuous interaction, for establishing methods and structures that last beyond the project period, and to bridge the often large gap between science and policy- and decision-making.

For that we closely cooperate with related projects, with other climate services initiatives, with various national and sub-national institutions and also with development cooperation.

While the project was conceived in Germany, its funding was conditional on a clear statement of demand by a national agency (ministry) in the respective partner country.

Through this initial link a network of partners from science, policy making and practice was (and is) developed, with national meteorological services playing a central role.

In an iterative process the concept of climate services is explained to partners and operationalized, that way overcoming concerns that EPICC (like other projects in the past) might want to exploit the national partners and their data without tangible benefit for them and their countries.

This joint definition of relevant issues and research questions and eventually building of trust takes time.