

SMALL SCALE FARMERS ADAPTATION STRATEGIES TO CLIMATE  
VARIABILITY IN KIJABE, KIAMBU COUNTY, KENYA



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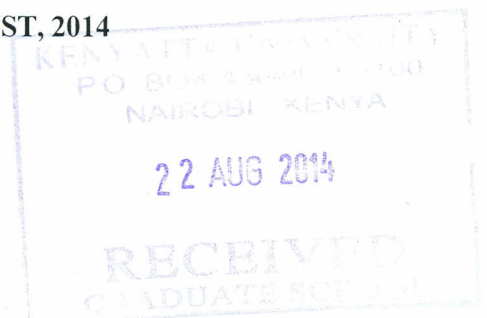
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## ABSTRACT

The challenges of climate variability faced by small-scale farmers in Kenya and most part of the world have always been daunting. Current and predicted climatic changes have already, and will in future exacerbate the extremes of variability and increase the pressures. In Kijabe, small-scale farmers depend on rain fed agriculture and over the years frequent crop failures and rain shortages have become common. Climate researchers and scientists predict increasingly dry conditions in much of Africa due to climate variability. Small-scale farmers' efforts to cope have shown both unfavourable and positive effects and hence the need to be explored. This study will therefore determine the small-scale farmers' adaptation strategies to climate variability, in Kijabe, Kiambu County of Kenya. The objectives of the study will include, to evaluate trends in rainfall and temperature between 1982 and 2013, to assess how these trends have affected the farmers' perception in climate variability and to explore small-scale farmers' adaptation strategies and how socio-economic factors influence their adoption in Kijabe. Mixed method approach will be adopted in addressing the objectives of the study. The study will employ simple random and purposive sampling techniques. Questionnaires, interviews, field observations and review of documents techniques and tools will be employed to generate relevant data. Qualitative and quantitative data analysis techniques will be adopted and results presented using frequency tables, bar graphs and pie charts. T-test and chi-square will be used to test the hypotheses of the study. It is anticipated that the study will provide information to that could help the farmers to adopt the best adaptation practices that would lead to sustainable crop production. It is also expected to provide the policy makers and agricultural extension officers with information which could enable them to formulate appropriate agricultural policies and frameworks that will effectively deal with the impacts of climate variability on future agriculture thus promoting sustainable agricultural production in the country. Finally, the study will contribute to existing body of knowledge on climate variability adaptation strategies and helps to generate ideas for further research.

## ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

<b>CBOs</b>	Community Based Organizations
<b>FAO</b>	Food and Agricultural Organization
<b>GHGs</b>	Greenhouse Gases
<b>GoK</b>	Government of Kenya
<b>GDP</b>	Gross Domestic Product
<b>IFPRI</b>	International Food Policy Research Institute
<b>IPCC</b>	Inter-governmental Panel on Climate Change
<b>KARI</b>	Kenya Agricultural Research institute
<b>NGOs</b>	Non-Governmental Organizations
<b>SPSS</b>	Statistical package for social sciences
<b>UNDP</b>	United Nations Development Programme
<b>UNFCCC</b>	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

<b>ABSTRACT</b> .....	<b>ii</b>
<b>ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS</b> .....	<b>iii</b>
<b>TABLE OF CONTENTS</b> .....	<b>iv</b>
<b>LIST OF FIGURES</b> .....	<b>vi</b>
<b>1.0 INTRODUCTION</b>	
1.1 Background Information.....	1
1.2 Problem statement.....	2
1.3 Purpose of the study.....	3
1.4 Research Objectives.....	3
1.5 Research questions.....	3
1.6 Research Hypothesis.....	4
1.7 Justification of the study.....	4
1.8 Definition of Key terms .....	4
1.9 Scope of the study.....	5
1.10 Conceptual framework.....	5
<b>2.0 LITERATURE REVIEW</b>	
2.1 Climate Variability.....	6
2.2 Trends in Climate Variability .....	6
2.3 Adaptation Strategies to Climate Variability .....	7
2.4 Challenges to climate variability adaptation strategies.....	8
2.5 Socio-Economic Effects due to Climate Variability among Small-scale Farmers .....	9
2.6 Knowledge Gap .....	10

### **3.0 METHODOLOGY**

3.1	Study Area .....	11
3.2	Study design.....	12
3.3	Study Population.....	12
3.4	Sampling Procedures .....	12
3.5	Sample size .....	13
3.5.1	Piloting the study .....	13
3.6	Research Instruments.....	14
3.7	Data collection procedures.....	14
3.7.1	Review of documents.....	14
3.7.2	Questionnaires administration .....	14
3.7.3	Interview schedule .....	15
3.7.4	Field observation.....	15
3.8	Data Analysis .....	16
	<b>REFERENCES.....</b>	<b>17</b>

### **APPENDICES**

Appendix: I.	cover letter .....	21
Appendix II:	Research Questionnaire for Small-scale Farmers .....	22
Appendix: III:	Interview Guide for Key Informants.....	27
Appendix: IV:	Study Budget .....	28
Appendix: V:	Implementation Plan. ....	28

## LIST OF FIGURES

Figure 1.1: Conceptual framework .....	5
Figure 3.1: The Location of the Study area: Kijabe (Source: IEBC (2012)) .....	11