

What is Climate Change?

Climate change refers to the shift in the average weather conditions of an area which is observed over a long period of time, 30 years and above and is one of the most serious environmental threats facing mankind worldwide. Its effects are accelerated by human activities which have an adverse effect on agricultural production. This is mostly evidenced by the overall trend in raising maximum and minimum global temperatures. Climate change may affect the beans value chain in a multitude of ways that vary region by region. It reduces the predictability of seasonal weather patterns and increases the frequency and intensity of severe weather events. Some regions experience floods while others have prolonged drought, pest build-up and water shortages with poor and unpredictable yields. Pests and crop diseases migrate in response to climate variation and pose a potential threat to agriculture over all.

What is Climate Change Adaptation?

Adaptation to climate change refers to the making of anticipatory or reactive adjustments to prepare for expected climate variability and changing average climate conditions, in order to moderate harm and exploit beneficial opportunities in agriculture.

Why Adapt to Climate Change in Beans Value Chain?

Based on the current unpredictable weather conditions such as torrential, stormy and heavy rains, floods and high temperatures that result into long dry spells, it is clear that there is a need to address effects of climate change on production, storage, processing and packaging of agricultural products such as beans. While most of the climate change adaptation strategies such as conservation agriculture focus on effects of climate change on production, there is little consideration of appropriate climate smart interventions to cater for post-harvest value chain issues such as storage, processing and packaging. The effect of climate change on post-harvest value chains cannot be ignored because high temperatures reduce shelf-life of stored products while lower temperatures extend the shelf-life. The proliferation of pests, crop diseases and aflatoxins can increase due to temperature increase which poses a great threat to effective storage, processing and consumption of beans.

Acknowledgements



BEANS ARE MONEY:

PROTECT YOURSELF FROM CLIMATE CHANGE



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BEST PRACTICES IN YOUR GARDEN



Test soil before planting



Pay attention to seasonal weather forecasts



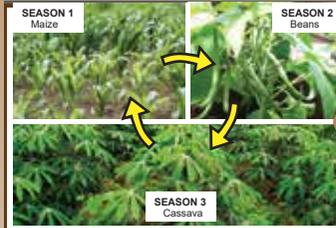
Practice minimum ploughing



Plant certified, early maturing drought and disease tolerant beans varieties



Safely use recommended agro-chemicals to control weeds, pests and diseases



Practice crop rotation



Apply mulch to retain soil moisture



Always buy sealed bags of recommended fertilizer



Irrigate your garden



Practice hedge rows to control soil erosion



Practice basin conservation farming to retain soil moisture



Do not burn bushes and crop residues to avoid killing useful soil organisms



Practice terracing and hedge rows to control soil erosion



Practice agro-forestry

Post-Harvest Handling and Storage



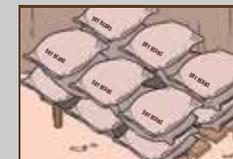
Harvest beans during cool weather to avoid shattering



Dry beans on tarpaulins



Dry beans using recommended driers



Store beans in dry safe places and on pallets