

International Training on

Climate Risk Assessment and Climate Action for Zimbabwe: Building Resilient Communities, Agriculture, and Ecosystems

24-27 November 2026
ICRISAT, Matopos Research Institute

1. Background

Zimbabwe is highly vulnerable to climate change due to its dependence on rain-fed agriculture, recurrent droughts, floods, heat waves, and changing rainfall patterns. Climate-related disasters have significantly affected agricultural productivity, food security, water resources, biodiversity, and livelihoods, particularly among rural communities. According to Zimbabwe's National Climate Policy and Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), strengthening institutional and community capacities for climate risk assessment and climate adaptation is critical to achieving sustainable development and climate resilience.

However, several challenges remain:

- Limited technical capacity to conduct climate risk assessments.
- Insufficient use of climate information in planning and decision-making.
- Weak integration of climate risks into development plans and investment decisions.
- Limited knowledge of climate adaptation and mitigation options at local levels.
- Inadequate coordination among stakeholders and institutions.

There is therefore a need for a comprehensive capacity-building programme that equips stakeholders with knowledge, tools, and skills to assess climate risks and implement effective climate actions.

2. Goal of International Training

To strengthen Zimbabwe's institutional and community capacities for climate risk assessment, adaptation planning, and climate action to enhance resilience and sustainable development.

3. Specific Objectives

- Build technical capacities of government institutions and stakeholders on climate risk assessment methodologies.
- Enhance understanding and application of climate information and climate projections.
- Develop capacities for identifying and prioritizing climate adaptation and mitigation options in various crops and cropping systems.
- Strengthen climate-informed planning and decision-making processes.
- Promote community-based climate adaptation and resilience-building practices.
- Facilitate knowledge sharing and collaboration among key stakeholders.

4. Target Beneficiaries

- Ministry of Environment, Climate and Wildlife
- Ministry of Agriculture, Mechanisation and Water Resources Development
- Local Government Authorities
- Meteorological Services Department
- Agricultural Extension Officers
- Research institutions and universities
- Civil society organizations
- Farmer organizations and community leaders
- Women and youth groups
- Development partners

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5. Proposed Capacity Building Areas

Module 1: Introduction to Climate Change and Climate Risks

- Climate science fundamentals
- Climate change trends in Zimbabwe
- Impacts on agriculture, water, and health

Module 2: Climate Risk Assessment Tools and Methodologies

- Hazard, exposure, and vulnerability assessments
- Climate risk mapping
- Scenario analysis
- GIS and spatial tools

Module 3: Climate Information and Early Warning Systems

- Climate data interpretation
- Seasonal climate forecasting
- Early warning dissemination through Agromet advisory services

Module 4: Vulnerability and Adaptation Assessment

- Community vulnerability assessment tools
- Participatory approaches
- Gender-sensitive climate assessments

Module 5: Climate Action Planning

- Adaptation planning
- Climate-smart agriculture
- Nature-based solutions
- Disaster risk reduction strategies

Module 6: Climate Mitigation and Low-Carbon Development

- Sustainable land management practices
- Carbon sequestration and its measurements
- Carbon credits and methodologies

Module 7: Climate Finance and Resource Mobilization

- Climate finance mechanisms
- Green Climate Fund opportunities
- Proposal development and investment planning

Module 8: Monitoring, Evaluation, and Learning

- Climate indicators
- Tracking resilience outcomes
- Knowledge management systems

6. Expected Outputs

- At least 25-30 stakeholders trained in climate risk assessment and climate action.
- Climate risk assessment toolkits shared.
- District-level climate risk profile (at least one) prepared.
- Climate adaptation action plans developed for at least one district.
- Enhanced institutional coordination mechanisms established.
- Increased awareness and adoption of climate-resilient practices.

7. Expected Outcomes

- Improved national and local capacities to assess climate risks.
- Better integration of climate risks into development planning.
- Increased adoption of climate adaptation and mitigation measures.
- Strengthened resilience of vulnerable communities and agricultural systems.
- Improved access to climate information and early warning systems.

8. Implementation Approach

The programme will adopt:

- Participatory and multi-stakeholder approaches.
- Partnerships with government, research institutions, and development agencies.
- Integration of indigenous knowledge and scientific information.

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