

Project Summary

Title	Performance and Adoption of Soil Conservation Practices as Climate Change Adaptation Strategies in Semi-Arid Districts of East Africa
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Purpose	The purpose of this project is to help farmers in semi-arid areas of Uganda and Kenya, and policy makers understand the different soil conservation practices that can be used for climate change adaptation and the potential negative effects of non-adoption of these technologies.
Project Summary	The adverse effects of climate change threaten food production especially for the most vulnerable groups. Among the vulnerable groups are the smallholder crop producers in sub-Saharan Africa. Due to changing climatic factors such as precipitation and temperatures, some areas in the region have experienced prolonged droughts and increased temperatures which have compromised production of food crops. In response to these changes, farmers have adopted several climate change adaptation and mitigation strategies to reduce the adverse impacts of climate change. Some of these practices include among others; contour ploughing, terracing, agroforestry, minimum or no-tillage and crop rotation which have been adopted in different regions in Kenya and Uganda. However, the extent of adoption in different areas; and the impact of these adaptation strategies on production of different crops in different regions is minimally studied. As such issues such as what would happen to food crop production in areas where such practices are not utilised remain unresolved. Thus, this study seeks to bridge those gaps. The project will seek to; determine the efficacy of the different soil conservation practices used by farmers in different areas of Uganda and Kenya; assess factors influencing the choice and extend of adoption of one or more soil conservation practice(s) over others; assess the effects of adopting soil conservation practices on food production and incomes of farmers with and without these measures in their plots; determine the willingness of farmers to work collectively in applying different soil conservation practices;

	assess the influence of different soil conservation practices on food crop production for the farmers in the different regions; and, determine the threshold below which crop production would cease if soil conservation practices are not put in place by farmers. Two MSc. students will be trained in this project and will be central in delivering the project's outputs.
Country and Specific Location(s)	Eastern Uganda; Machakos and Taita Taveta in Kenya
Participating Institutions	Makerere University University of Nairobi
Start Date	September, 2011
End date	August, 2013
Amount of Funding	US\$60,000

