"Increasing climate information services for smallholder farmers: The case of Senegal"

Across the globe, farmers make strategic decisions everyday about what crops to plant, when to harvest, whether or not to use agricultural inputs (fertilizers, labor, seed, etc.), and more. In the face of increasing climate variability, farmers’ decisions are altered by extreme climactic events like drought, flood, and rainfall variation. In Senegal, farmers, policymakers, and meteorological agents are aware of the need for better climate information and its role on agricultural practices. Recent initiatives through the Research Program on Climate Change, Agriculture, and Food Security (CCAFS) as well as the Senegalese Meteorological Agency have focused on providing down-scaled climate forecasts to smallholder farmers across the country. In this presentation, we look closely at the Senegalese case and how climate information has impacted farmer decision-making. We propose that increasing the accessibility of climate information will encourage farmers in the region to make more climate smart agricultural decisions.