



Pathways to Adaptation

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Key points

AcCLIMATise project

- Why, what and how
- What did we learn

Empirical and theoretical frameworks

Pathways to Adaptation, DAFWA climate adaptation

Why AcCLIMATise?

- Farm earnings highly sensitive to production
- Climatic risk biggest factor impacting on production

- But many farmers were not using available information and tools
- Why not? And what could we do about it?

Needs analysis

- What did they currently do?
- How did they do it?
- What was stopping them doing it better?
- How could we assist them to do it better?

Needs analysis - conclusions

Three key factors influencing uptake:

- Accuracy and timeliness of climate information
- The way in which this information is communicated
- Farmer skills in its interpretation and application

AcCLIMATise – some results and outcomes

Trialled decision support tools with farmers and farmer groups (50 plus trial sites)

- Many valued tools, seasonal outlooks-low confidence

Structured “training” workshops (400 participants)

- Increased knowledge and understanding
- Explicit linking of knowledge to decision making
- Improved risk management capacity

Information products

- Valued in supporting other activities

Engaged private sector consultants/agribusiness

- Increased knowledge and understanding

Key learnings

- Importance of needs based approach
- Information much match the decision making needs of the users
- People factors are paramount

People and relationships

Project team members largely regionally based

- Trial activity, farmer/farmer group liaison, workshop delivery, field days, information

Lessons

- Value of the role
 - Credibility – “your local bloke”
 - Bridged the gap between knowledge producers and users, localisation
 - Conversations with lead farmers
 - Interpretive, integrative role
 - Focus on solutions rather than products
 - Links/engagement with private sector
- Development of their skills

What are we trying to achieve?

Reduce vulnerability through increased adaptive capacity

“The ability of a system to respond to climate change (including climate variability and extremes), to moderate potential damages, to take advantage of opportunities, and to cope with the consequences” (IPCC)

How might we approach the task?

Build on learnings from AcCLIMATise

Learn from theoretical and empirical frameworks

- Adoption theory and practice^{a)}
- Knowledge to action systems^{b)c)}

a) Pannell, D. J., G. R. Marshall, et al. (2006). "Understanding and promoting adoption of conservation practices by rural landholders." Australian Journal of Experimental Agriculture 46(11): 1407-1424. Also see www.ruralpracticechange.org

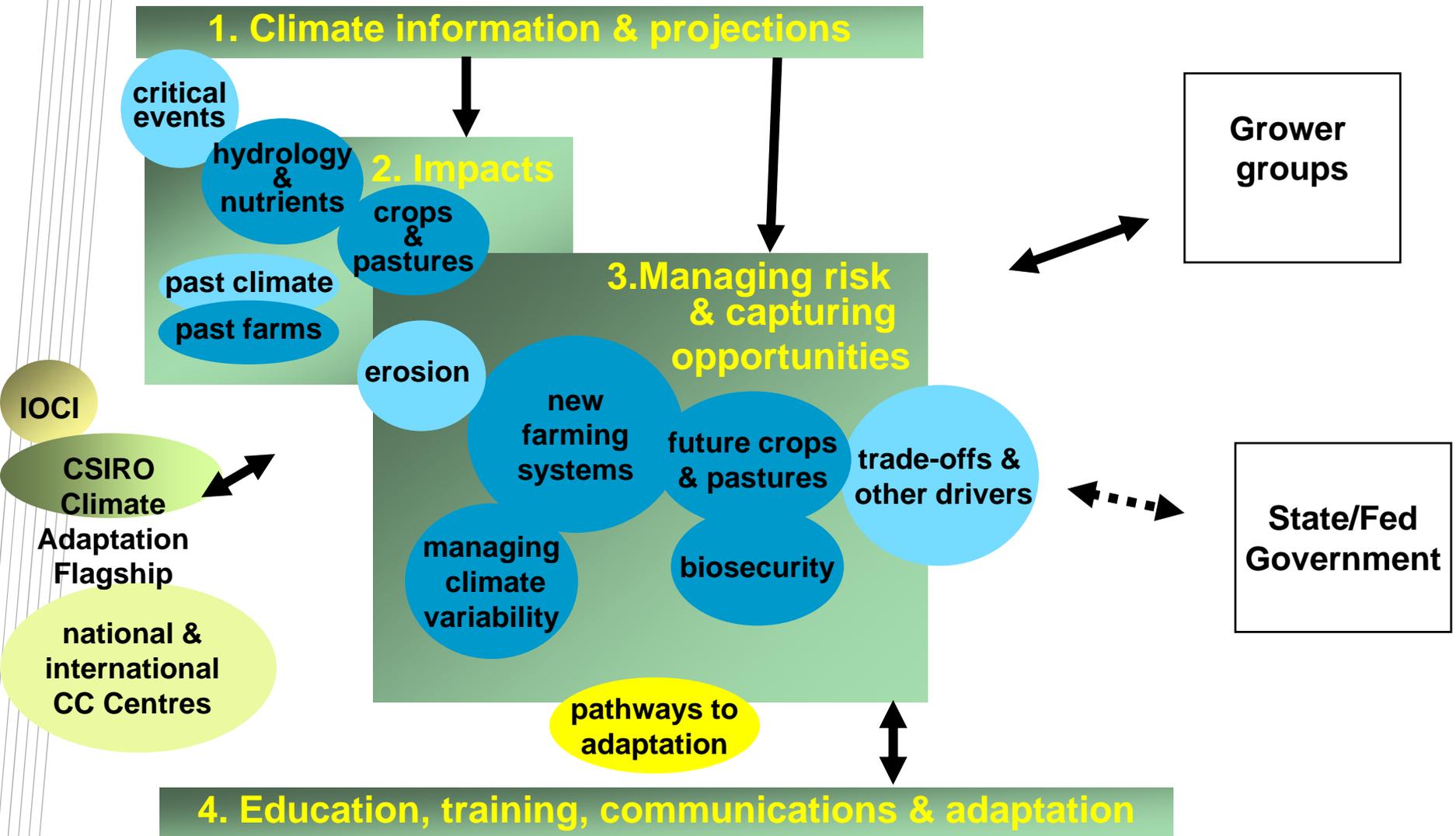
b) Cash, D. and J. Buizer (2005). Knowledge-action systems for seasonal to interannual climate forecasting: summary of a workshop, report to the Roundtable on Science and Technology for Sustainability, Policy and Global Affairs, The National Academies Press, Washington, D.C

c) National Research Council (2009). Informing decisions in a changing climate. Panel on strategies and methods for climate related decision support, Committee on the Human Dimensions of Global Change, Division of Behavioural and Social Sciences and Education. Washington, D.C: The National Academies Press.

Criteria for effective decision support systems

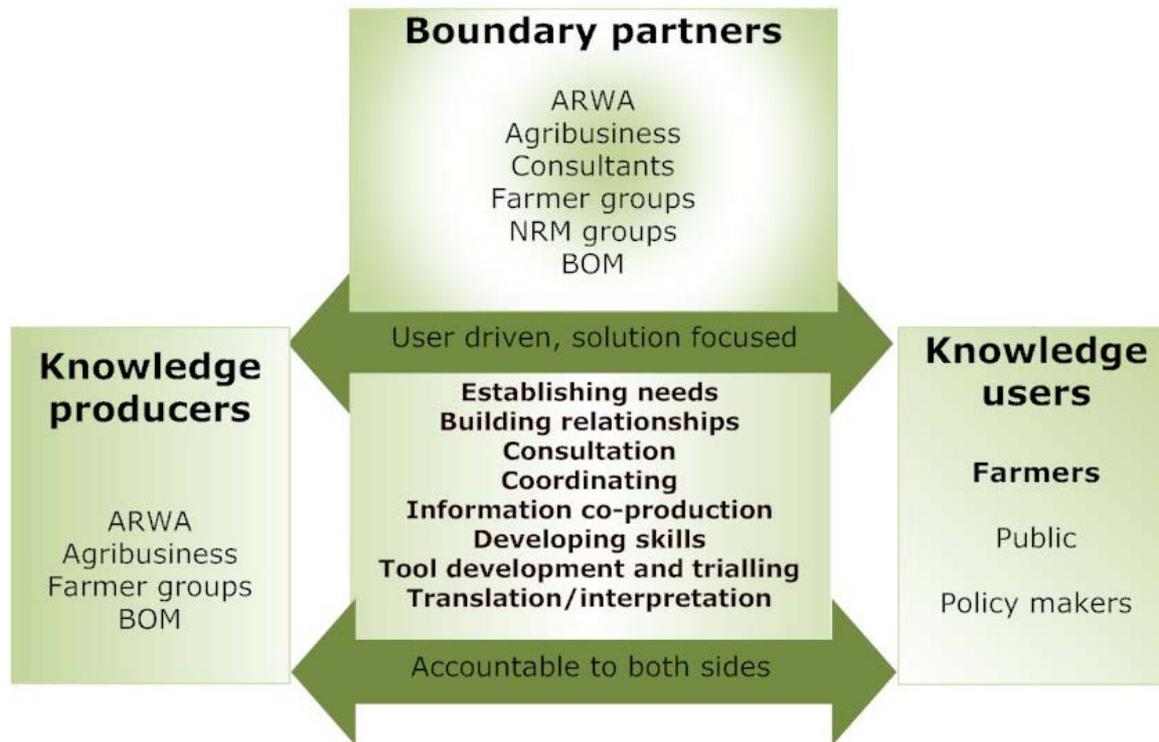
- **Begin with user needs**
 - Ongoing two-way communication between users and producers
- **Give priority to processes over products**
 - Particularly between producers and users
- **Link information producers and users**
 - eg by using intermediaries and networks (boundary organisations)
- **Build connections across disciplines and organisations**
 - Info'/services need multidisciplinary approach
- **Seek institutional stability**
 - Through committed funding and personnel
- **Design for learning**
 - Flexibility, adaptability, learning from experience

ARWA Climate Adaptation Program



Pathways to Adaptation

Establishing a knowledge to action system that enables the building of farmer capacity to adapt to climatic risk



Based on Clark, W. and L. Holliday (2006). Linking knowledge with action for sustainable development - the role of program management: summary of a workshop, report to the Roundtable on Science and Technology for Sustainability, Policy and Global Affairs, The National Academies Press, Washington, D.C.

Acknowledgements



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