BOOSTING RELIENCE: THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN CLIMATE CHANGE, AGROECOLOGY AND UNPAID CARE WORK

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Why are women farmers among the worst impacted by climate change?

- In a patriarchal society and capitalistic economic system, certain roles are socially constructed & attributed to women; women are discriminated in policy making processes and men share resources with other men and not women.

- In Africa, women are predominantly responsible for food production, household water supply and energy supply for heating and cooking. As climate change impacts increase, these tasks are becoming more and more difficult and time-consuming placing a larger burden on women and girls.

- Additionally, women all over the world encounter greater difficulties and barriers than men when it comes to spatial mobility, basic access to education, resources (e.g. land, financial resources, etc.), information and technologies, as well as participation in decision-making , this often stand in the way of building resilience,

- Hence women face specific and greater vulnerabilities due to their different social and economic status.

- A Community-led research commissioned by GROOTS Kenya in 2016 showed Agriculture, Water, Environment and Natural Resources sector, Land and Infrastructure, are among the worst hit sectors by the climate phenomenon yet women small scale farmers form more than 80% of the laborers in agricultural farms, are more dependent on natural resources and environment for livelihoods.

What have been some of the successes and challenges of implementing

- Community-Led, Evidence Generation- Rural women generate their own data on the impacts of climate change to small scale farmers and grassroots communities. This data is used to mobilize 1) other diverse stakeholders around climate change adaptation, 2)as evidence for policy demands and 3) to profile rural women as key actors in implementing the Paris Agreement.

- Multi-stakeholder approach-Using the community generated data rural women mobilize and equip other diverse actors (CSOs, Private sector, Government agencies) with evidence for joint policy advocacy and to champion for mainstreaming of CC in government plans and budgets- Climate Action in Counties Platforms. Case in point- https://roggkenya.org/wpcontent/uploads/Laikipia_CIDP_2018-2022_County-Integrated-Development-Plan.pdf

Agricultural Sector (Crops, Livestock, Fisheries)

Climate change risk	Drought	Decreased rainfall	Pests and diseases	Flash floods	Shifting agriculture seasons (* delayed onset of rains)	Wind
Negative impact of the risk	. Low to zero yields . Malnutrition . Poverty . Human/wildlife conflicts . Human/human conflicts . Stress/poor human health . Unemployment . Crime . Livestock deaths	. Low yields . Malnutrition . Poverty . Human/wildlife conflicts . Human/human conflicts . Stress/poor health . Unemployment . Crime	. Reduced yields/income . Low quality of yields . Increased production costs . Malnutrition . Poor health of humans, crops and livestock . Mortality (humans, livestock)	. Livestock deaths . Human deaths . Crop destruction . Soil erosion . Destruction of infrastructure (roads, power, markets, etc.) . Low yields (C, L)	. Investment losses . Disrupted production and marketing plans . Food insecurity	. Soil erosion . Crop destruction . Diseases . Dispersion of rain clouds . Increased evapotranspiration
Solutions Mitigation/ Adaptation	. EWS . Insurance (C,L) . Improved extension service . Improved production technologies . Water harvesting and storage . Food and feed preservation . Postharvest management . Strategic food reserves . Herd management . Vaccinations	. EWS . Insurance (C,L) . Improved extension service . Improved production technologies . Water harvesting and storage . Food and feed preservation . Postharvest management . Strategic food reserves . Herd management . Vaccinations	. EWS . Insurance (C,L) . Awareness creation . Surveillance . Pest control programmes . Disease control programmes . Capacity building on IPM . Quarantine	. EWS . Insurance (C,L) . Improved drainage systems . Community capacity building . Tree growing campaigns . Water harvesting and storage . Catchment management plans . Onfarm soil and water management programmes	. EWS . Improved production technology (Extension) . Water harvesting and storage . Food and feed reserves . Pest and disease control programmes . Insurance (C,L)	. EWS . Tree planting . Wind energy generation . Wind breaker technologies
Cost	500m	200m	50m	100m	120m	100m
Time frame	5 years	5 years	5 years	5 years	10 years	5 years

Improved production technologies include:

Early land preparation, Conservation agriculture, Drought escaping crops, Choice of crop cultivar – high-value tree crops for income (avocado, mango, apple, etc.), Relay production, Urban and peri-urban agriculture, Drip irrigation/Farm ponds, Integrated pest management, On-farm water harvesting, Contract farming, Agro-forestry, Zero grazing, AI, Paddocking, Home-based feed formulation, Aquaculture, ICT identification of livestock, Apiculture (beekeeping).

- Scaling up community innovations through knowledge transfer and resourcing (Community Resilience Fund)-Grassroots women have devised way ,using indigenous knowledge, to respond to climate change. GROOTS Kenya is successfully promoting these local innovation through outreach programmes and by availing flexible, affordable and adequate capital to the women for scaling this innovations. https://grootskenya.org/project/resourcing-grassroots-womens-social-capital-to-build-community-resilience/

How to combat political apathy/ denial of climate change and the drive towards climate smart agriculture vis a vis Agroecology?

- The political apathy is driven by economic interest; The political system is controlled by economic actors who object to the shift to a green and more resilient economy since such a disruption of the status quo is a threat to “big” business.

- Building resilience mean deconstruction of the status quo and such disruption is only possible through building of a climate justice movement. It is therefore imperative for those of us who believe that climate change is real to invest aggressively in collective organizing at local level, national and in global organizing

How to influence national plans on climate change. Links with current work on SDGS.

- GROOTS Kenya has a tested the advocacy model below, that has resulted gains highlighted thereafter ;


1. Support Farmers to generate Evidence on climate change impacts
2. Invest in building resilient capacities of grassroots communities
3. Map and rally diverse stakeholders around the climate agenda
4. Stakeholders conduct gap a analysis on government plans and budgets in relation to climate change mainstreaming
5. Jointly advocate for climate change policies development , CC mainstreaming in budgets and for development of institutional coordination inside government

Results:

1. County Climate Change policy for Laikipia County and Mainstreaming of CC in Laikipia County Development Integrated Plan CIDP 2018-2022
2. Budget allocation to clean household energy for Kitui County
3. Initiation of Energy and Climate Change policy for Kiambu County.
4. Appointment of grassroots women to policy advisory committee.