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CENTRE FOR FOOD TECHNOLOGY AND RESEARCH  
BENUE STATE UNIVERSITY, MAKURDI



## Climate Resilience Experiment 1 Concept Note

**VISION:** To build the capacity of small holder farming communities to better manage their farming schedules in the face of irregular weather patterns, improve their livelihoods and data flows between them and other partners.

We wish to reduce information gaps around weather patterns in farming communities, promote collaborations with partners who have access to critical data to prevent unnecessary waste of farmers' resources and improve their livelihoods.

**CONTEXT:** Most of the agricultural production in Benue is done by small holder farmers with limited access to irrigation who rely greatly on rainy season patterns that guide the timing of planting and harvesting and the mix of crops they plant. Recent, unexpected changes in weather patterns have resulted in lost input, crops, labour, and income for many farmers. These communities have limited access to data that could help them better adjust their farming activity to current weather patterns.

**OBJECTIVE:** We aim to develop knowledge exchange platforms where small holder farmer communities can engage and receive timely information about weather patterns and coping mechanisms. We want to test the effectiveness of this knowledge in helping farmers manage their activities, reduce wastage, and improve livelihoods. These exchanges will cover dry and wet seasons.

**METHODOLOGY:** The Lab has 3 strategies for bridging the data gaps. We will share data from the annual rainfall and temperature prediction calendars, and seasonal updates which are issued through the State Emergency Management Agency (SEMA) in the pilot communities and through call-in radio and TV programmes delivered in partnership with the Center for Food Technology and Research (CEFTER) e-extension programme and the UNDP Peacebuilding Building programme initiative - Benue Agro-Innovation Hub (BAI Hub).

The radio and TV programmes will also feature tips on climate resilient agricultural practices.

In collaboration with the Nigerian Meteorological Agency (NIMET), we will also develop area and crop variety specific calendars for the pilot

communities in this experiment. In addition to this NIMET will deliver sensitization and capacity building programmes to the pilot communities.

The scheme will be piloted in Mbaya and Jato-Aka where the team will collate baseline data, implement the capacity building programmes and monitor the impact of the experiments. The Radio and TV programmes have a wider reach and will therefore also contain data useful for other communities.

**TARGETS:** We propose to reduce losses incurred on input, crop, and labour losses due to erratic rainy seasons by 30%.

**TIMELINES & BUDGETS:** The Lab will put **\$8,000 USD** towards funding the radio show for 2 planting seasons (one dry, one wet) and develop solutions for subsequent seasons after reviewing the impact of this experiment.

### Schedule of Partners - Climate Resilience Experiment

| S/No. | Partner                                           | Role                              | Key Responsibilities                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
|-------|---------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1.    | Benue Agri-Business Innovation Hub - BAI Hub      | Technical Partner                 | <p>Boots on the ground and local community engagement.</p> <p>Carry out local engagements in Benue including data collection, community and partner engagements, coordination of pre, mid and endline surveys of experiment participants, monitoring and evaluation of experiment results.</p> <p>Collaboration on the development of content and schedules for the radio and TV programmes.</p> <p>Occasional hosting spots on the radio and TV capacity building programmes.</p> |
| 2.    | Benue State SDGs Team                             | Benue State Govt. Representatives | <p>Policy Partner: To be kept apprised of progress on the experiments and achievements with a view to supporting policy development on these and related issues and supporting local capacity across the State.</p> <p>Community liaison and engagement experts.</p> <p>Coordination with State security outfits for field work.</p>                                                                                                                                               |
| 3.    | Center for Food Technology and Research - CEFTER  | Technical & Implementing Partners | <p>Technical expertise<br/>Development of data models for the experiments with the Acc Lab and BAI Hub teams.</p> <p>Provision of personnel for development of data models, data collation, monitoring and evaluation during experiments.</p> <p>Provision of their TV platform on Benue TV for the outreach programmes to communities.</p> <p>Provision of resources, key personnel to feature on radio and TV programmes during the experiment.</p>                              |
| 4.    | The Nigerian Meteorological Agency - NIMET        | Technical Partner                 | <p>Agro-meteorological team</p> <p>Development of data models and planting schedules/calendars for key species of crops in the pilot locations for the experiment.</p> <p>Capacity building of farmers in the pilot locations on using the calendars developed and other weather data.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| 5.    | Benue State Emergency Management Agency (BENSEMA) | Technical Partner                 | <p>Provision of access to their early warning system and Local Emergency Management Committee platform and data from these platforms.</p> <p>Resource personnel to feature on the radio and TV shows and share tips on safer practices and weather information.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                |

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| 6. | Thrive                                            | Technical Partner  | Advisory and support on derisking the experiment for the small holder farmers e.g., by off taking produce.                                                                                                                                   |
| 7. | The Nigerian Hydrological Services Agency - NIHSA | Technical Partner  | <p>Provision of information on flooding; timing, impact, and precautionary measures.</p> <p>Resource personnel to feature on the radio and TV shows and share tips on better use of early warning systems etc.</p>                           |
| 8. | BNARDA & Ministry of Agriculture                  | Technical Partners | <p>Policy partners.</p> <p>These partners will be kept apprised of progress on the experiments and achievements with a view to supporting policy development on these and related issues and supporting local capacity across the State.</p> |
| 9. | Radio Benue                                       | Technical Services | Airing of the call-in programmes, which will feature information on weather patterns, tips for resilient agricultural practices etc.                                                                                                         |