



Adapting agriculture to climate change: Developing promising strategies using analogue locations in Eastern and Southern Africa

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This paper describes the project CALESA, led by the International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics (ICRISAT), and performed in cooperation with the Kenya Agricultural Research Institute (KARI), Kenya Meteorological Department (KMD), Zimbabwe Meteorological Department (ZMD), Midlands State University (MSU), and the Hamburg University of Applied Sciences (HAW) in Germany.

Using a combination of model-based ex ante analyses and iterative field-based research on stations and in farmers' fields, the project has tested potential agricultural adaptation strategies for rainfed agriculture in the semi-arid and dry sub-humid tropics. This has been achieved through choosing four currently important crop production zones (two in Kenya and two in Zimbabwe) and then identifying corresponding 'spatial analogue locations' for each production zone, providing eight study locations in all.

This paper presents the project, its methods, the approaches used and outlines some of the results reached. A strong element of participatory research with farmers within the project locations, coupled with a special emphasis to gender issues, has ensured that the project activities and outputs may be replicable elsewhere in Africa.