

# Identifying Current Research Priorities and Needs Related to Climate Change and Human Health

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# Introduction

- **Research:** Systematic investigative process employed to increase or revise current knowledge by discovering new facts, methods, technologies etc
- Young/junior researchers **fear** research
- They perceive research to be **hard**
- Quantitative research is seen to be even **harder**
- Both Senior and Junior researchers **find difficulty** in identifying research needs/gaps: resort to plagiarism, re-cycling completed research
- Due to the above challenges, research proposals written by young researchers are usually shallow and not well thought-out ... **random thoughts assembled together**

# Identifying Research Priorities and Needs

## According to whose interest?

- **Donor funded research:** donors tend to dictate areas to be funded based on their priorities for overseas support
- Research areas of national interest may be rejected by donors if outside priority areas for support by their governments.

## Who should participate in identification of research priorities and needs?

- Government (institutions e.g. UNCST, NARO, UIRI, UVRI, Universities etc)
- Private sector (NGOs, CSO, business community, industry)
- Academia (senior and junior scientists, social-scientists)
- Research institutions
- Development partners (donors)

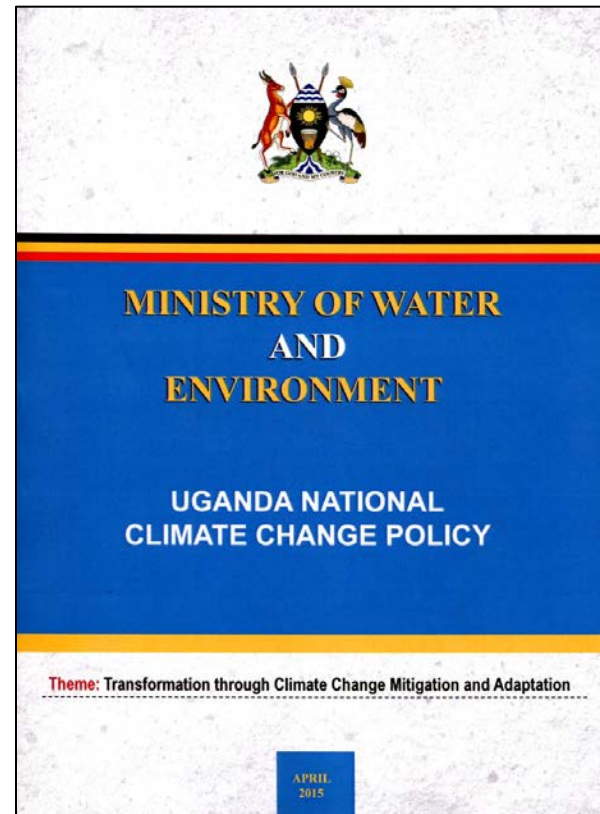
## What should guide identification of research priorities and needs?

- Institutional strategic plan
- Development sector strategy and policies .g. ASSP, Health Sector Strategy
- National development plan e.g. NDP II
- National development vision e.g. Uganda's Vision 2040
- Regional development agenda e.g. East African Community Development Strategy: 4<sup>th</sup> Dev Strat 2011-2016)
- Global development agenda e.g. SDGs

# What should guide identification of research priorities linked to climate change?

National Climate Change  
Policies/Strategies/Frameworks

**Policy specific objective 1 page 17** ... promote research and development, transfer and diffusion of technology through the use of appropriate information sharing, incentive schemes and support mechanisms relevant to various sectors e.g. health, agriculture (food and nutrition)



## How should early career researchers/academics be involved in identification of research priorities and needs related to climate change?

1. Exposure to research early in their careers e.g. as research assistants, graduate students
2. They should be prepared to participate in research: change of mindset
3. Seniors should mentor juniors in research, explain the importance of research, identification of research priorities and needs and explain why their involvement is crucial. This would build their **confidence** in doing research
5. They should participate in multi-stakeholder meetings for developing research agenda (priorities, needs, gaps)
6. Their views should be solicited on priority research areas, themes
7. They should be encouraged to express their views freely during multi-stakeholder meetings.

# Outputs of research priority setting

- **Thematic areas:** research themes that guide e.g. call for proposals in case of competitive grants (or institutional research programmes)

Example: **Climate Change and Food Security**

- **Research Clusters:** major research areas

1.	Aquaculture and Fisheries
2.	Agriculture ( crops, livestock)
3.	Food and Nutrition
4.	Land Use
5.	Natural Resources (water, forests, wetlands, soil, rangelands)
6.	Energy production, conservation and use

- **NOTE:** research clusters may be influenced by vocal/pushy people with personal interest in advancing their disciplines

# Concluding remarks

1. There is a need for identification of priority areas and needs for **research** and **innovation**
2. Moving research outputs to products





3. It should be clear from the beginning whose needs the research priorities are meant to address



4. Identification of research priority areas, needs/gaps should include mapping existing centres of excellence or establishing them for:
  - a) Collaborative (multi-disciplinary) research
  - b) Junior researchers' internship placements for skills development and capacity building

**Thank you for Listening**

