

CAAST-Net Plus SADC Regional
Workshop on Climate Change Adaptation
in Agriculture, Crossroads Hotel,
Lilongwe, Malawi

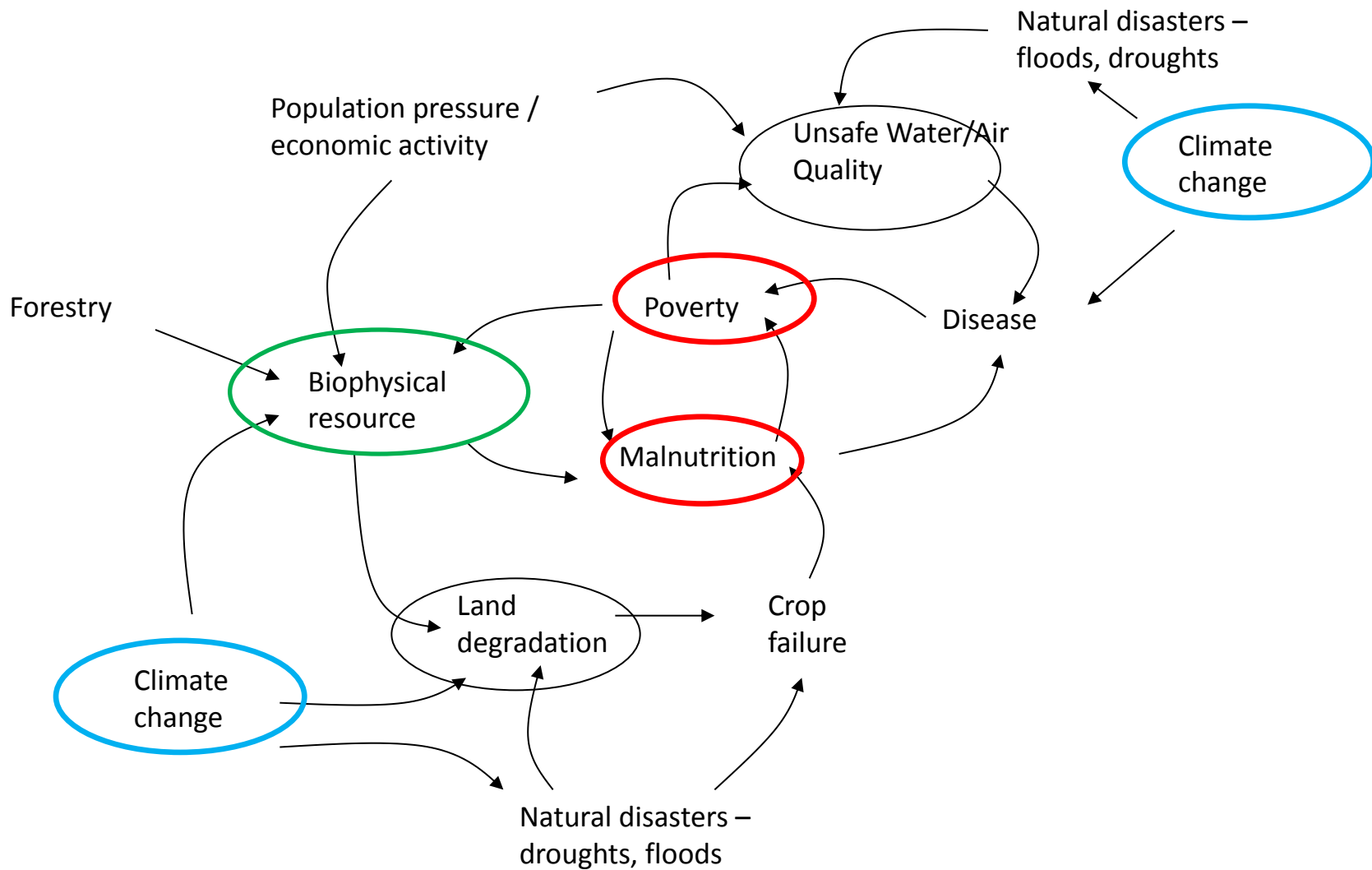
5-6 December

A Recap of Day 1

By Arthur Chapman

General

- Science \rightleftharpoons Policy
- Climate change (impacts and response) is a very complex issue



Gender

- Women are half the workforce (or two thirds –they run the homes and the household food production)
- Different genders have different understanding of systems
 - Womens' maps of socio-economic system more detailed
 - Mens' map of resource more spatially correct
- In some places women own the land (matrilineal society), but still don't make the landuse decisions and this may have to do with too few men (what women do for love!)

Indigenous knowledge

- Consider what people know in their place
- They are the experts – have lived there for years
- Some has scientific basis – validate and use
 - Wind direction as indicator of likelihood of rainfall

Knowledge Management

- Don't aggregate issues – bring focus to ground / household level
- Uptake of research findings has many barriers – identify these
- A centre dispensing information on adaptation (was one proposal)

Conservation agriculture

- CA – it is very labour intensive.
- Important subtle points were made – carbon sequestration in the soil
- Conservation of soil should be one of the most outstanding lessons – why aren't we hearing more about it?)

Country Initiatives

- Malawi – mapping and recording of coping strategies
- Lesotho is at the heart of South Africa (we heard about that). Activities include crop yield modelling ,
 - initiatives to increase productivity.
 - Erosion?
- Botswana – the concept of heat stress was introduced – relating to animals.
 - We need to understand more about the effects of high temperature on crop yield.

Communication

- What about the SADC Outlook Forecast?
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Infrastructure

- Ongoing problems with lack of weather data
- Higher station densities needed for crop yield insurance, climate modelling, crop yield modelling.
- Weather monitoring infrastructure is not up to scratch.
 - Current services (eg Met Services) are not always believed or trusted.
 - Farmers make their own decisions of when to plant
 - Spatial variation of rainfall is high (how to deal with that?)
- But remember to think of the whole value chain.

Innovations

- Insuring risk of loss of crop yield
 - Macro insurance at national level,
 - Micro weather insurance for small farmers – varying degrees of success –
 - low uptake by small farmers because of high barriers.
 - Capacity building is required in contract building required.
- Look for the useful opportunities in the changing climates? Growing crops in new areas.
- There is a role for SMEs – who can drive social and technical innovations

Coordination and management

- SADC Secretariat on Climate Change Adaptation
- SADC initiatives on climate change adaptation, which includes the Tripartite Climate Change Programme that covers the COMESA/EAC/SADC RECs
- Coordination of activities across the SADC region is a big challenge.
- Monitoring and evaluation
- Watch out for maladaptations

Gaps

- Principles of adaptation?
- Skills gaps exist in terms of climate modelling, downscaling and expertise in agrometeorology
- But remember to think of the whole value chain.

Thank you