

**SMALLHOLDER FARMER
PERCEPTIONS AND EXPERIENCES OF
CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION
POLICIES IN SEMI-ARID DISTRICT OF
ZVISHAVANE, ZIMBABWE**

By

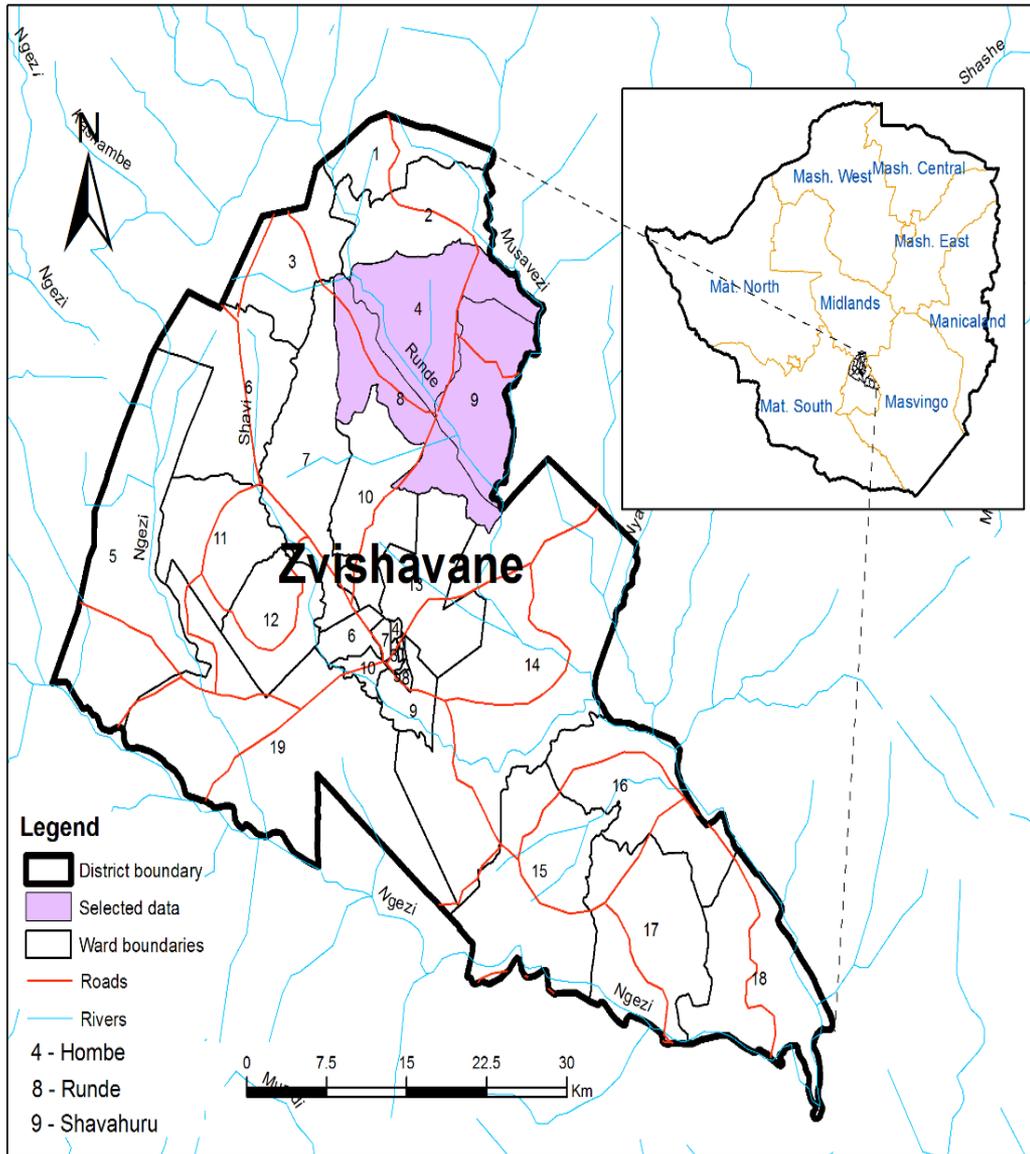
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INTRODUCTION

- Background to the research problem- rural communities that rely on climate sensitive livelihoods and are vulnerable (IPCC, 2007,2014)
 - climate change is differently affecting the livelihood of the people (spatially)
 - local and national policies and institutions shape the people's capacity to adapt to climate change (Chagutah, 2012; Murwira, 2013); Jiri, et.al, 2014; Musiyiwa et.al, 2015)
 - Zimbabwe does not have a stand lone climate policy (under formulation) and climate change is manage various pieces of legislation and the recently launched National Climate Change Response Strategy
- Background to the study area- it a rural community in the country's agro-ecological region IV (characterised by semi-aridity)





- area receives rainfall of 450-600mm p.a.
- area experience seasonal droughts and prolonged intra season dry spells
- area have various institutions that work with the smallholder farmers on varied livelihood programmes



OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

- ❖ To establish smallholder perceptions of climate change adaptation related policies as they relate to their livelihoods.
- ❖ Establish the institutions and institutional arrangements for climate change adaptation for the smallholder farmers.



RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

- ❖ Used a bottom up perspective
- ❖ 300 house holds were randomly selected from three Wards in Zvishavane District
- ❖ Data collection was done through a household questionnaire survey, focus group discussions and key informant interviews (of community leaders, district and national level policy makers)
- ❖ Review of secondary data through policy document analysis



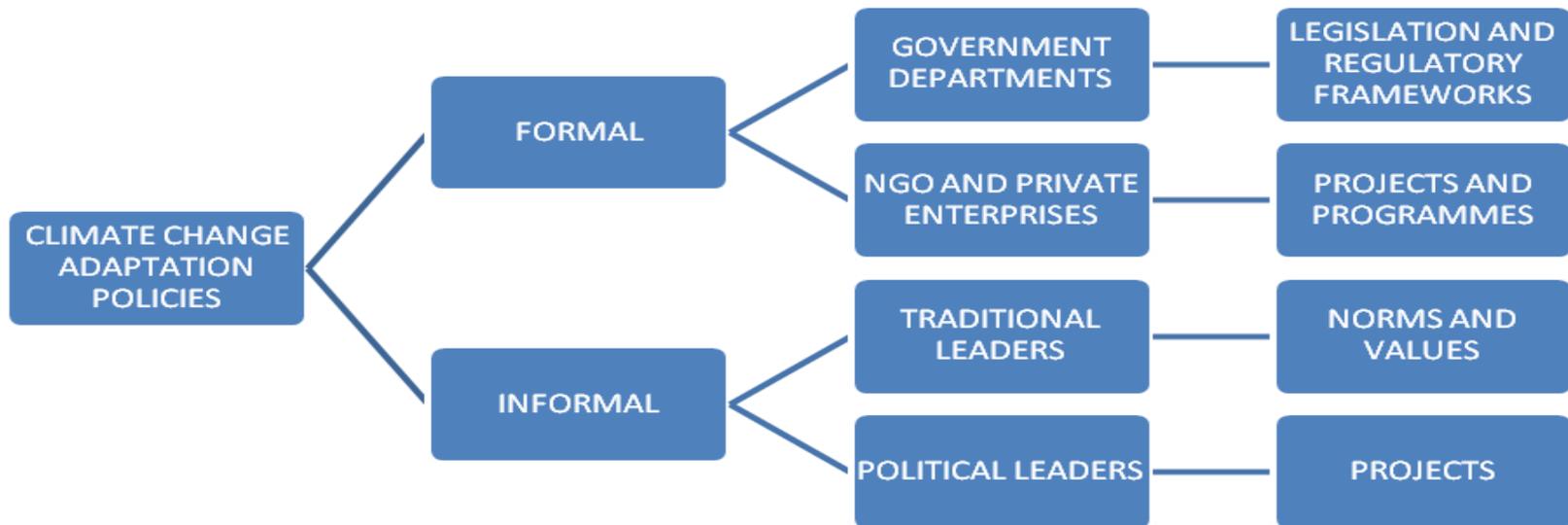
FINDINGS

- ❖ Community is engaged in various activities to cope with climate shocks
- ❖ Policy was defined as any plan of action, rules and regulations, programmes and projects (from government, civic and private organisations) or locally constituted way of doing things.
- ❖ Communities have challenges with policy demarcation (who is the initiator of the programme or project). This points to flaws in policy processes- challenges in policy effectiveness and accountability



Institutions for climate change adaptation

- ❖ Both formal and non formal structures were identified as illustrated below
- ❖ All institutions are visibly present in the community in varied ways (complimentary to each other)
- ❖ Informal institutional arrangements emerged to be very important in farmer's adaptation at local level
- ❖ Non-governmental organisations and development agencies have exclusionary tendencies in their policy implementation.



FINDINGS CONTINUED...

- ❖ Farmer acknowledged that several policies are there for climate change adaptation but their effectiveness is challenged by the implementation processes
- ❖ These are shown in the following tables



	Government	Non-governmental organisation	Other institutions
Food production practises	Access to land through land reform programme (decongesting communal areas)	Trainings on land conservation and appropriate farming methods	Local leadership enforcing policies against cutting down of trees and encouraging sustainable harvesting
	Establishment of irrigation schemes, through the department of Mechanisation and Irrigation Development	Provision of agricultural inputs and implements	Traditional leadership ensures land use, cropland not to be used as pasture land during farming season.
	Agricultural input schemes	Provision of water through drilling boreholes and rehabilitation of existing water sources	Local leadership encourage land management to avoid soil erosion
	Drilling of boreholes through District development Fund (DDF) and Zimbabwe National Water Authority (ZINWA)	Small livestock promotions through purchase voucher	Traditional leaders meetings promote sharing of ideas
	Training on livestock rearing by the Livestock Production Department (LPD)	Sponsoring of field days to enhance interaction between farmers and AGRITEX	Traditional chiefs liaise with government agencies for agricultural inputs
	Land tillage help through Operation Maguta Programme		
	Farmer trainings on various farming methods through AGRITEX		

	Government	Non-governmental organisations	Other institutions
Management of income sources	Training on post-harvest technologies through AGRITEX	Provision of materials to establish and build storage facilities	Chiefs spearheading Zunde raMambo programme
	The Grain Marketing Board offer markets for the farmers (but now dysfunctional)	Construction of sheds for marketing purposes	Traditional leaders encourage safe keeping of harvest
	Cattle fattening programmes through LPD	Food and Agricultural organisation funding cattle fattening programmes	
		Establishment of climate innovation centre market linkages	
Adjustments to resource consumption patterns	Regulating of forest products harvesting by the Forest Commission	Trainings in environmental conservation in partnership with AGRITEX and EMA	Local leadership enforcing on indiscriminate cutting down of trees and promoting sustainable harvesting
	EMA trainings on environmental conservation practises	Food handouts and distribution	Households adjust frequency of meals

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

- ❖ Informal actors especially traditional leaders play a key role in climate change adaptation through encouraging response strategies and placing importance on indigenous management systems of climate change and therefore the need for strong stakeholder synergies in the policy process
- ❖ Challenges in policy demarcation create flaws in policy processes(policy evaluation and audit and accountability)
- ❖ Communities have developed viable adaptation options that can be integrated into the national policy frameworks
- ❖ Need for harmonisation of all policies that affect smallholder farmer's livelihoods for sustainable adaptation.



THANK YOU

