

Understanding farmers' drought perceptions in Tanzania and Ethiopia

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1. Background and Objective

- Agricultural productivity limited due to soil degradation
- Limited use of SWC measures
- Farmers see drought as their major problem

⇒ To understand farmers' drought perceptions



2. Methods

- Questionnaires
- In-depth interviews
- Group discussions
- Picture assignment
- Drought seminar (Tanzania)

4. Conclusions

- Drought perceptions are based on weather conditions
- Drought perceptions include soil properties and soil quality concerns
- Agronomic measures that increase rainwater use efficiency:
 - Address drought problem as perceived by farmers
 - Address soil degradation concerns as perceived by scientists

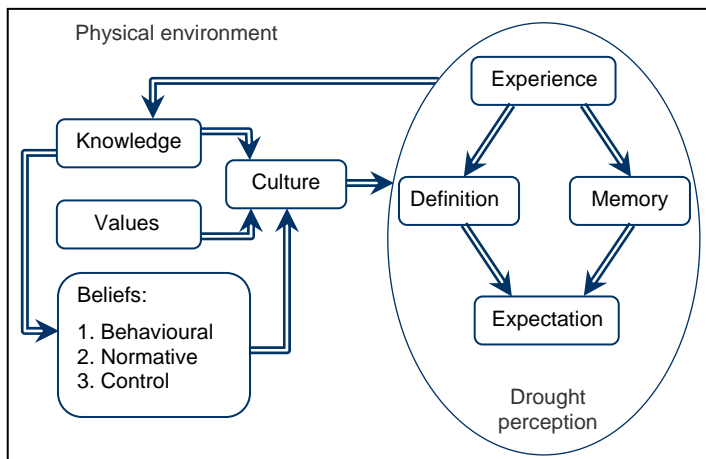


Figure 1: Elements shaping and influencing drought perception

3. Summary of results

- Drought perceptions in both countries are built on similar principles
- Farmers have area-specific knowledge of drought based on:
 - Climatic conditions
 - Memory of and experiences with drought (Figure 1)
 - (changes in) Physical environment
- Farmers see differences in drought vulnerability (Table 1)
- Experiential knowledge strengthens farmers' beliefs (Figure 1)

Table 1: Perceived differences in drought vulnerability according to farmers

Tanzania	Ethiopia
Land management: Timing, technique & crop type	Land management: Timing, SWC, fertilizing & crop type
Soil characteristics: Type, texture & fertility, length of use	Soil characteristics: Type, texture, depth & fertility
Location of land: Slope	Location of land: Slope, altitude
Farmers' characteristics: Ability & attitude	Farmers' characteristics: Ability, attitude, sex household head & land holding
Weather conditions: Rainfall & sunshine	



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