KJWA, Workshop 2(b): "Methods and approaches for assessing adaptation, adaptation co-benefits and resilience"

Views from Uruguay

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Conceptual elements

- Adaptation to climate change refers to **changes in processes, practices and structures** that take place in agroecosystems to moderate the potential harms associated to climate variability and change.

- **Tracking adaptation progress** (understood as the systematic monitoring of processes, outcomes and impacts) is critical to **assess** adaptation actions, **draw lessons** and **improve** continuously.

- In the agricultural sector adaptation means **modifying** agricultural production, natural, socioeconomic, institutional **systems**, as well as policy formulation, in response and anticipation for current and projected climate change and its impacts.

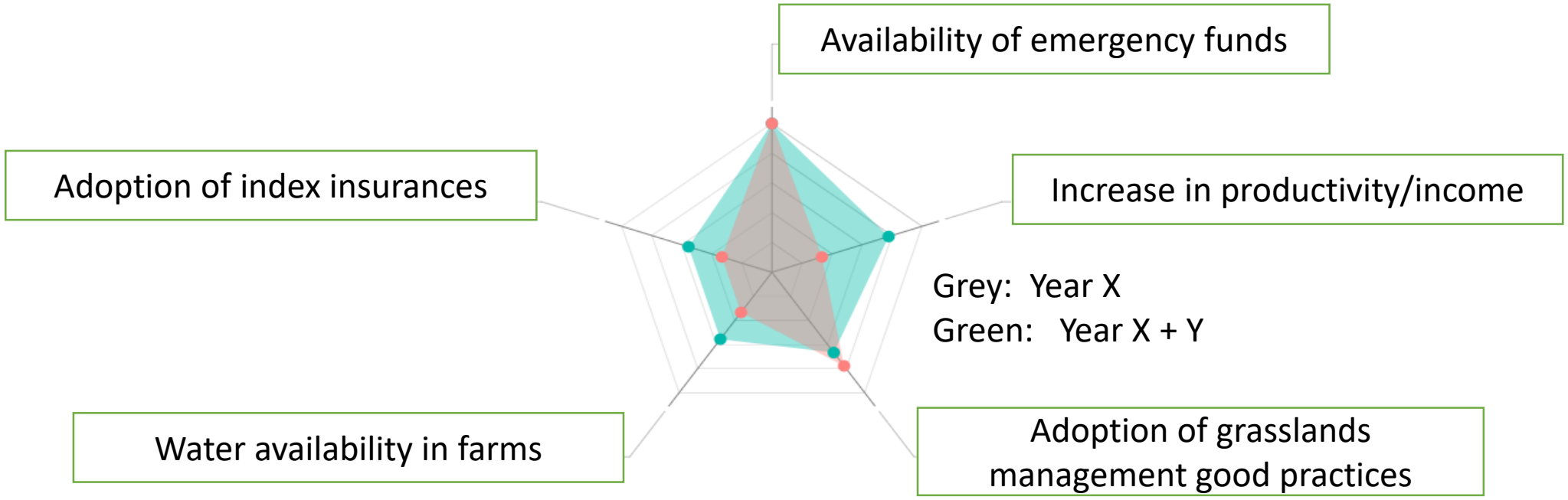
Progress in M&E of agriculture adaptation in Uruguay

- Since 2010, Uruguay has defined adaptation to climate change in agriculture a a national strategic goal for sustainable development.

- Uruguay implements adaptation actions with a **co-benefits approach** (more productivity and income to farmers, sustainable use of natural resources, les carbon intensity).

- The **Integrating Agriculture in NAPs programme** (coordinated by FAO/UNDP and funded by BMUB of Germany), is supporting Uruguay since 2017, to develop a national strategic plan for adaptation to climate change in the agriculture sector, to reduce the vulnerability of agriculture, fill knowledge gaps and draw lessons for adaptation in other sectors of the socioeconomic system.

Uruguay is currently implementing an interactive platform for systematic M&E (visualization example for livestock)



Lessons learned by Uruguay so far (1)

- It was very useful to establish and group **categories of indicators** that reflect main dimensions of the NAP-Ag. As proposed by FAO on its ”Tracking Adaptation in Agricultural Sectors”, four categories of indicators were adopted, related to:

  (1) natural resources and ecosystems,

  (2) Production and productivity,

  (3) Food security and nutrition, and

  (4) Institutional and support services.

- In each of the four categories indicators were identified. We concluded that some indicators can be the same for all sub-sectors, but others are **specific** of each type of production system (e.g. rice, apples, cattle, etc.) as they have different vulnerabilities.
- No single set of indicators fits all adaptation situations (whether is: in-sector / across-sectors / in-country-region / across-countries-regions).
- A **vulnerability assessment** is a **prerequisite** to design appropriate adaptation actions and meaningful M&E systems.

Lessons learned by Uruguay so far (2)

- It is more efficient to develop M&E systems that are compatible with NAPs, NDC and SDGs to avoid duplicating efforts.

- Availability of updated good quality information is one of the main **challenges** to track progress in adaptation and data collection systems need to be strengthened. Filling the gap between what is available and what is needed is a **resource intensive** process.

- A combination of **process and results indicators** are needed to reflect the long-term nature of adaptation to climate change in agricultural systems.

- A combination of **quantitative and qualitative** information is needed (e.g. qualitative research methods can help to understand how farmers make decisions and to identify hypothesis for work and opportunities to improve policies design). Single weighted index indicators were avoided.

Lessons learned by Uruguay so far (3)

- M&E systems are key for **learning**. In this regard, methodologies are needed. One that we find interesting is “reflexive monitoring in action” (RMA), developed by the Wageningen UR.

- Developing a **Loss and Damage** protocol for their systematic and consistent assessment is an important piece of the M&E toolbox, as adaptation is intended to reduce both.

- Systematic **monitoring of weather events**, is necesary to assess how agro-ecosystems absorb adverse impacts maintaining its structure and functions.

Finally, suggestions for ways forward in KJWA:

1. Implement a **compilation** of existing methods and approaches of assessing adaptation progress in agriculture and prepare a technical report for consideration at SBs 51 (e.g. by the Secretariat).

2. Preparation of **flexible methodological frameworks** to help Parties in developing their own sets of relevant methods and indicators M&E of adaptation.

3. Developing mechanisms to facilitate knowledge sharing among Parties, e.g. through a **web platform** and **publications**.

4. Provide **guidance** (through COP decision) to the appropriate **CBs and financial bodies** for **capacity building and technology transfer** to developing countries to strengthen M&E systems (including methods, approaches and improving national data bases), for a more effective implementation of the NAPs, the Adaptation Communication and the adaptation goals in the NDCs.

Thank you!

For more information:

woyhantcabal@mgap.gub.uy