

SHARP



Self-evaluation and Holistic Assessment of climate Resilience of farmers and Pastoralists

The Self-evaluation and Holistic Assessment of climate Resilience of farmers and Pastoralists (SHARP) tool addresses the need to better understand the situations, concerns and interests of farmers and pastoralists relating to climate resilience through a participatory self-assessment.

THE NEED

“The unexpected flood which hit Mr Sow and his farming community in rural Senegal a few years ago constituted a devastating and unexpected blow that destroyed large parts of the community’s livelihood and took several years to recover. While an isolated flood is not proof of changing climate patterns, the case does illustrate how increased climatic variability can affect the lives and livelihoods of food producers. Based on these incidences and on scientific evidence, there is a need to develop effective programmes to empower food producers in their struggle to improve their capacity to survive, recover from, and even thrive in changing climatic conditions.”

THE APPROACH

The SHARP tool was developed in a collaborative manner with numerous contributors in the context of ongoing GEF-financed climate change projects. SHARP is both a learning tool as well as a monitoring and evaluation tool that works by first identifying areas of poor resilience and providing a baseline upon which changes can be assessed. It fills a void in farm system resilience assessments carried out in an integrated participatory, yet scientifically sound manner.

The tablet-based Android tool assesses governance, environmental, social and economic resilience with facilitators in a participatory manner.

SHARP AT A GLANCE

Timeline	Start: May 2013 Field tests: September 2013, March 2014 Tablet Application: December 2014 Theoretical: Submission of methodology paper to a peer-reviewed journal Presentation: SHARP at the ETH World Food System’s Conference: June 2015 Implementation: 2015 onwards
# of reviewers:	150+ (3 rounds of revisions) e-discussion September 2014
# of farmers & pastoralists involved in testing:	450+
Countries tested in:	6 (Uganda, Senegal, Mali, Zimbabwe, Zambia, Angola)
# of projects included in:	8 (Mali, Angola, Mozambique, Niger, Burkina Faso, Uganda, Senegal, Chad)
FAO departments consulted:	18 (AGP, ESA, ESN, ESP, FIR, FOE, FOM, NRC, NRL TCI, CIO, FAOUG, FAOSN, FAOML, FAOSFS, FAOZW, FAOMR, FAOBF)





BUILDING A STRONG TOOL

- Development of a SHARP application with over **450** farmers in Uganda, Mali, Zambia, Zimbabwe and Senegal;
- Three rounds of expert reviews and comments to ensure the quality of SHARP;
- Backstopping with University of Leeds to ensure scientific quality;
- E-discussions, media and publications.¹

INVOLVING KEY PARTNERS

- SHARP presented at the 2014 Nexus Conference and 2015 WFS conference;
- Discussions with various NGOs in sub-Saharan Africa (e.g. Biovision Foundation and Groundswell International) on partnerships to implement SHARP in 2015.

IMPLEMENTATION

- Included in GEF-funded projects in Angola, Senegal, Mali, Chad, Mozambique, Niger, Burkina Faso and Uganda;
- Partnering with NGOs to bring SHARP to many other projects worldwide.

SHARP assesses the climate resilience of farmers and pastoralists through:

1. A participatory self-assessment of climate resilience addressing **environment, social, economic, agricultural practices & governance** aspects;
2. A gap analysis and assessment of the responses with farmers and pastoralists in a rapid assessment and at the regional and national levels through a more in-depth, cross-sectional assessment;
3. Engaging with local government officials and policy makers to assess agricultural and pastoral policies regarding effectiveness and gaps;
4. Informing and improve agricultural practices as well as curricula and government policies.

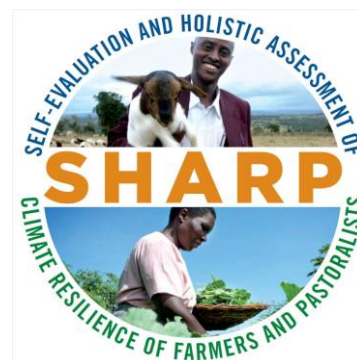
THE WAY FORWARD

SHARP is continually evolving during implementation in different contexts and following ongoing feedback by experts.

Please contact SHARP@fao.org for more information or visit our website below.



SHARP results shown through the tablet application



SHARP empowers farmers and pastoralists to self-assess their climate resilience in order to improve their livelihoods.

Practical **tablet-based application** with 52 questions that gives significant flexibility of the user to implement in different contexts and timescales.

¹ <http://wle.cgiar.org/blogs/2014/05/26/can-farmers-pastoralists-self-assess-climate-resilience/>

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