

Delivery of Climate Information Services (CIS) through Youth Climate Information Centres

By:

GYAMPOH, B A and OWUSU, D K

Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology, Kumasi, Ghana



Introduction

- Challenges to successful use of climate information services in adaptation of farm activities to climate change and climate variability (CC&CV)
 - access
 - interpretation
 - usability
- Two key factors driving challenges to successful use of climate information services by most rural farmers

Functional literacy of most farmers

What is “Functional Literacy?”

Functional Literacy is the ability to manage daily living and employment tasks that require reading skills beyond a basic level



Appropriate Delivery



For CIS to be beneficial

- Farmers seek:

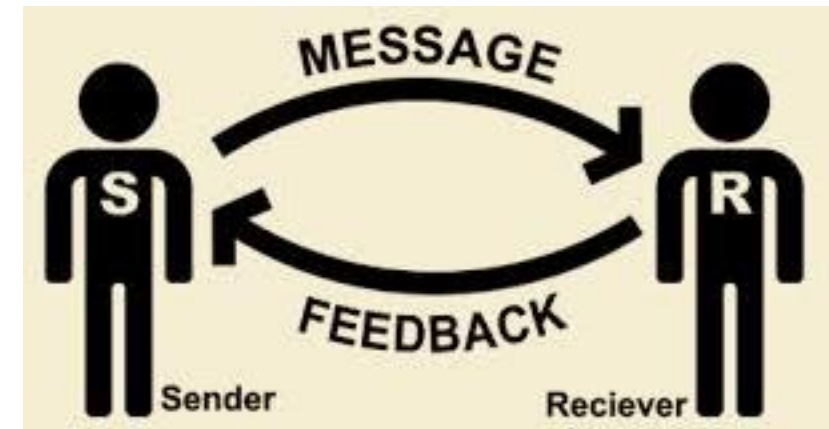
tailor-made
information at the
lowest scale; farm
level



readily usable
information

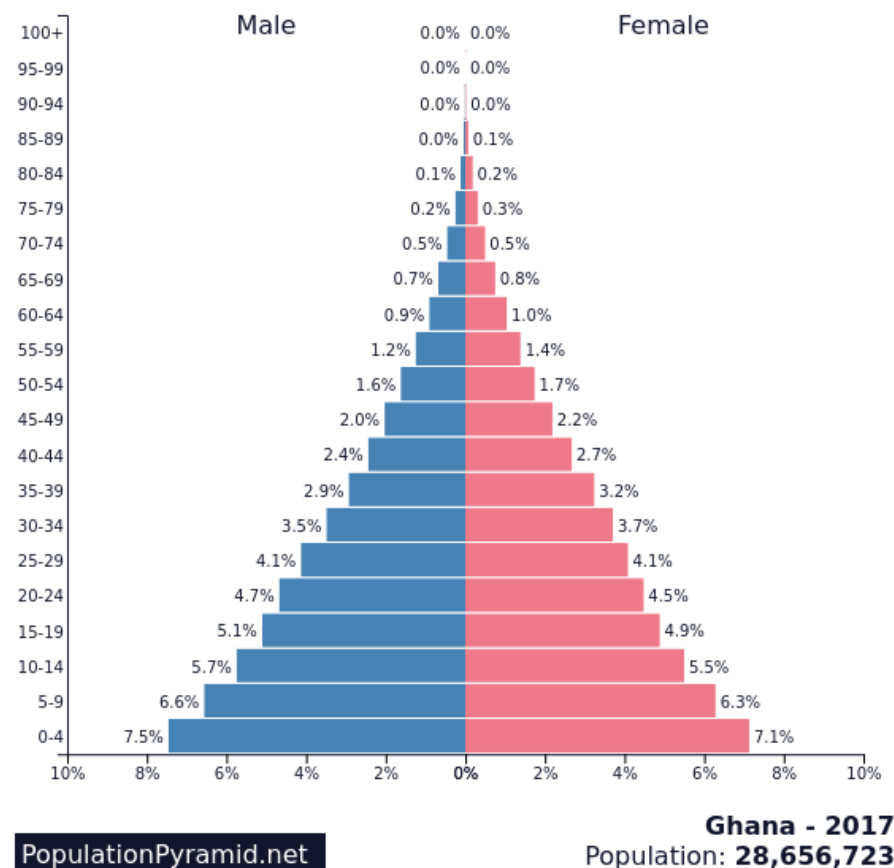


ability to follow-up;
two-way
communication



The Innovation: YCIC

- An innovation in the **management** and **delivery** of climate information services using youth in rural farming communities as intermediaries between farmers and a network of climate and agricultural scientists.



The youth in rural farming communities:

- want to do things differently
- are more functionally literate
- are technology-savvy
- use smart phones
- are able to search for information and interpret them
- reside in the same farming communities
- are the today

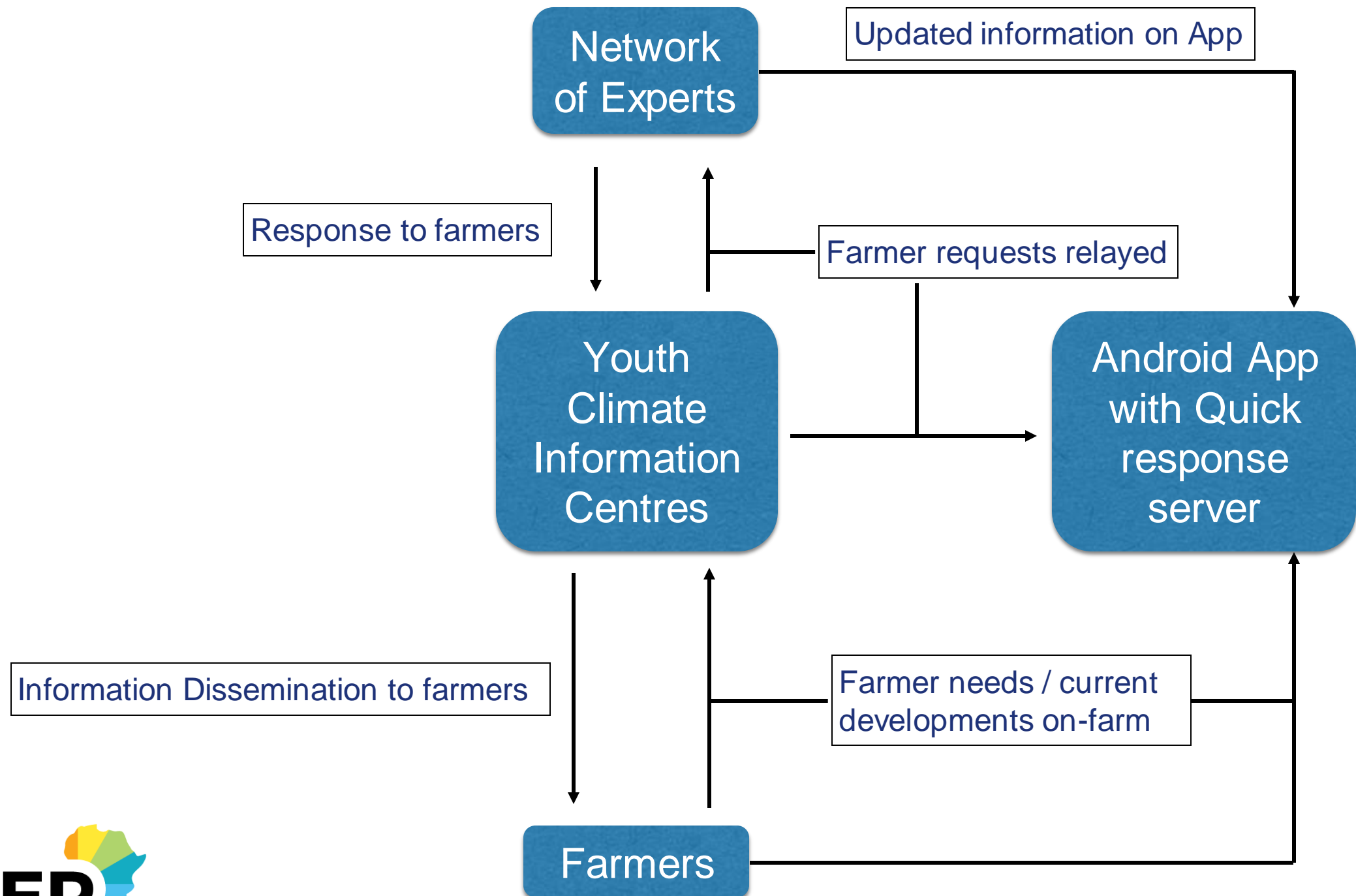


Youth Climate Information Centres (YCIC)

- An organised network of scientists and practitioners
- Youth in farming communities who are able to collect exact weather/climate needs of farmers who are unable to reach directly to the network of scientists
- Youth liaising with network of scientists through direct contact with coordinating centre and Android App for responses with interpretations to farmer needs
- Tailor-made responses delivered to farmers through Youth Climate Information Centres in local language
- Feedback system between farmers and Expert network



The Innovation: YCIC



Sustainability

- Will run on existing systems that are functioning in most rural communities in Ghana
 - Community information centres
 - Unit committees
 - Youth Groups
 - Farmer Unions
- It will create awareness of climate change among young people and expose them to the knowledge available to make agriculture 'cool and attractive'
- Get youth into agriculture with knowledge gained
- Spur entrepreneurship through setting-up of information centres



Expected Outcome

- farmers' accessibility to and use of climate information services will be enhanced
- farmers will be able to receive more than just general climate/weather information but more specific advice on their farming activities
- youth involved in the programme will gain more understanding on impact of climatic changes on agriculture
- researchers and practitioners in agriculture and climate change will gain more insight into specific farmer needs regarding climate information
- eventually, farmers will be helped in better adapting their farming activities to climatic changes and climatic variability.



Summary

- This innovation seeks to enhance tailor-made information delivery with feedback mechanism and learning of best practices
- Improves upon usual general climate information services delivery
- Researchers and practitioners learn from successful practices through feedback mechanism for future interventions
- Builds on already established structures within communities as such the innovation can be scaled up by bringing on board many experts and farmers and youth groups or individuals.
- Vulnerable farmers will have opportunities to effectively adapt to the impacts of climate change with reliable and usable information



Thank you

