

## Vulnerability and Adaptation of farming households in semi-arid Ghana to climate change and other stressors

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### Introduction and Problem Statement

Climate change poses a major threat to the environment and to human wellbeing. Its impacts vary. Farmers whose livelihoods evolved around rain-fed agriculture and are living in semi-arid regions of Africa are most vulnerable. The direct impacts of climate change as well as the ability to cope and adapt to the negative effects and harness the beneficial effects associated with climate change is highly differentiated and context-specific to local scale.

In addition, climate change is not the only factor defining vulnerability but rather in conjunction with other non-climatic. Therefore, understanding the impact of climate change, assessment of vulnerability and adaptation at local scale is crucial.

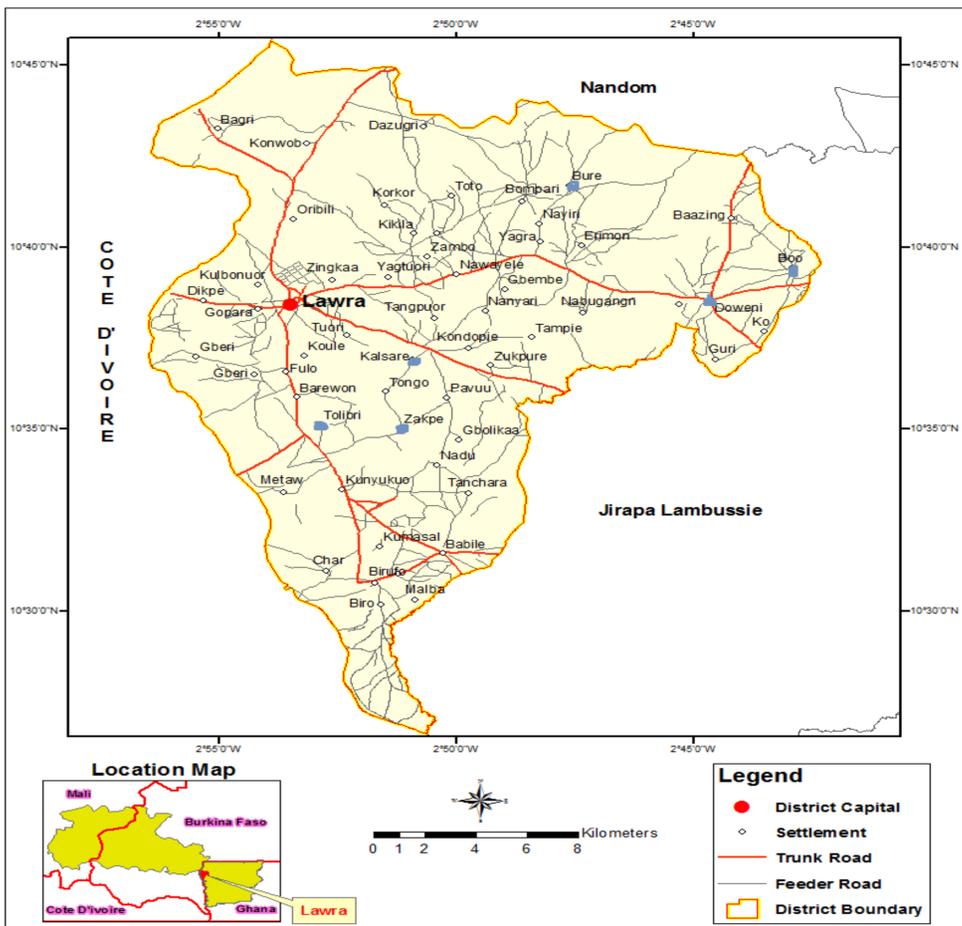
Despite the importance of vulnerability assessment to identifying which populations and localities are most vulnerable and most resilient to climate risks, very few is known about the dynamic of vulnerability and adaptation among farming households in semi-arid Ghana to multiple stressors. For instance, very little is known about how gender and social configurations of households and communities contribute to vulnerability and adaptation capacities, preferences and strategies.

### Research Objective

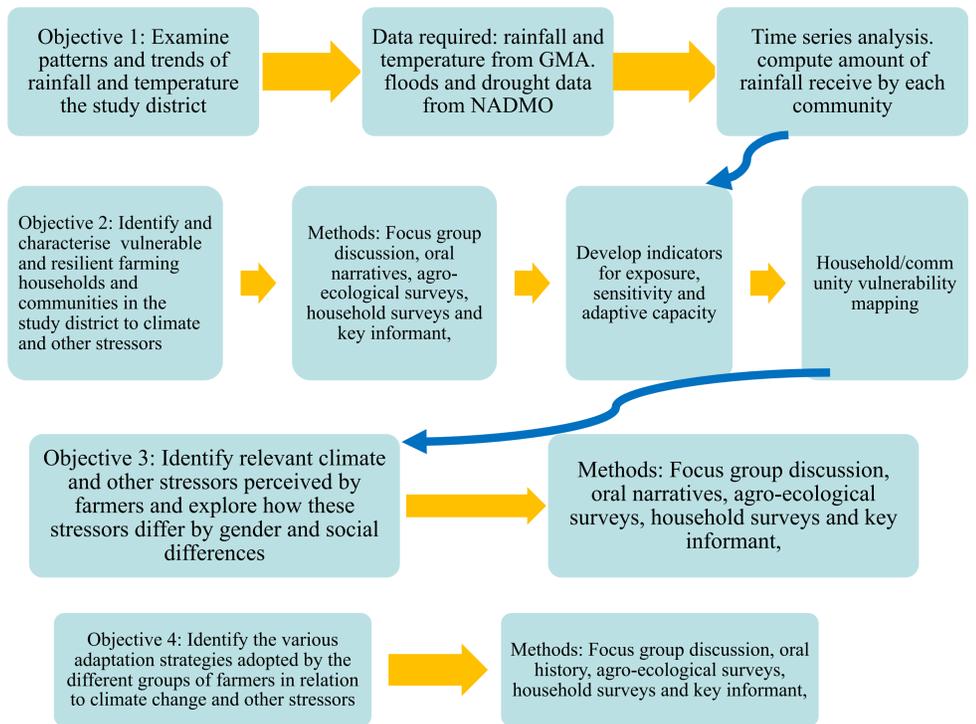
The aim of the ongoing study is to explore the role of climate change and other stressors in shaping the vulnerability and adaptation capacities, preferences and strategies of farming households and communities in the Lawra District in Upper West Region.

### Study area

The communities (in blue) are Kalsagri, Zakpee, Tolibri, Boo, Eremon Buree and Dowine in the Lawra District of West Upper Region, Ghana.



### Research Methods



### Preliminary Results

#### • MAJOR STRESSORS

- Lack of rainfall, floods, high temperatures, pests infestation, low soil fertility, theft, livestock disease, bush fire, and ill-health.

#### • BARRIERS

- Women and migrants cannot own land.
- Religious affiliations hinder ownership of certain animals, such as pig.

#### • ENABLERS

- People, regardless of social groupings, can own a farm.
- Married, single, divorced and widowed women in male-headed households are free to own farms.
- Migrant and People with disability can own farms.
- No restrictions to cultivate major crops such as groundnut, maize, millet and guinea corn.
- No restrictions on ownership of cattle, goats, sheep, fowls and pigs (restricted only by religion).
- Married women are free to own farms.
- Some communities undertake dry season farming.

#### OTHER INFORMATION

- Dry season farming is done in Tolibri and Zakpee. Tolibri is flood-free.
- Social groups involved in farming are men, women (including married, single, divorced, and widowed), migrants, disabled people.
- Most vulnerable include disabled people, children, women and old people.
- Wealth is defined only by amount of harvested crops.
- No non-farming activities undertaken by farmers.
- Adaptation options (indigenous and imported) are available but not everyone is practicing.

### Contact Us

Poster prepared by Stephen Omari

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