Cocoa Climate Change Scenarios: A case study in Côte d'Ivoire

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Abstract

Climate change and agriculture are interrelated processes, both of which take place on a global scale. It is known that poorer countries will be hardest hit with reductions in crop yield due to changes in rainfall patterns and increases in temperature. Vulnerability assessment has emerged within the social sciences as a key framework for examining climate change implications and building potential adaptation measures. Furthermore, the use of scenario storylines as part of the vulnerability assessment permits an early understanding of potential impacts. Thus allowing experimentation and incremental reconfiguration before the consequences of climate change become catastrophic. This comprehensive study finds that climate change has adverse impacts for the Ivorian cocoa sector and for the international cocoa market. It concludes that scenario storylines have the capacity to support policy makers and stakeholders decisions in their attempts to mitigate and adapt to potential and undesirable climate change implications.