

Assessment of the Climate Predictability Tool's effectiveness in mitigating risk to developing countries from short-term climate variation

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Developing countries are especially susceptible to seasonal variation in climate. Rainfall and temperature influence the spread of diseases such as malaria, dengue, and cholera, as well as agricultural yield. Floods and drought can pose a severe risk to economic output and life. Climate information can help mitigate those risks by predicting the spread of disease, the next season's rainfall, or the potential crop yield. IRI has created the Climate Predictability Tool (CPT) to create and disseminate this climate information. The CPT is intended to allow local meteorological organizations to make their own advance-warning forecasts in the hope that it will reduce the risk to these variations in climate. Before the CPT, making climate forecasts was extremely time-consuming and required extensive statistical training; the CPT is a tool that makes climate information much more widely available. Our goal with this project is to determine the long-term impacts of the CPT on people's actual livelihoods, but in the short term we have information on the spread of knowledge of the CPT and training to use the CPT. We anticipate acquiring information from users on how and why they use the CPT upon receipt of our completed survey.