

Climate Services in Jamaica: Policy, Process, and Product

John Furlow

USAID Global Climate Change Office

Jamaica's Meteorological Service and Agricultural Extension Service jointly produced a drought forecast that provides tailored information to farmers about pest management, seed varieties and other things that can help turn the forecast into tangible action. Before the Jamaicans could develop such a tool, considerable work had to be done to build trust among the Met Service and its clients; persuade the Met Service that by taking on such a task, there might be rewards in terms of budgets and reputations; create interest and support across the government for such an undertaking; and show the "clients" for climate services that there might be benefits to their own areas of responsibility if they worked with the Met Service. USAID and the Climate Services Partnership facilitated this process over the course of a year, helping the Met Service work with its stakeholders to deliver a useful tool for decision making.