SHARP+ resilience assessment in the United Republic of Tanzania
in the districts of Kaliua, Mlele, Sikonge and Urambo

CONTEXT

The **Self-evaluation and Holistic Assessment of Climate Resilience of Farmers and Pastoralists** (SHARP+) is a comprehensive approach and tool developed by the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), under the Office of Innovation, to assess the resilience of smallholder farmers at the household level. It considers various factors that influence resilience, including environmental, economic, social, and governance aspects. Implemented through a modular numerical survey, SHARP+ can be tailored to the specific context of the country or project in which it is utilized.

The tool is mainly used to **identify the aspects of the farming system in need of intervention, inform the design of projects activities as well as to monitor and evaluate the resilience and adaptive capacities of the agroecosystem**. This is made possible by an automatic calculation of resilience scores per assessed module as depicted in the Figure below. Furthermore, SHARP+ facilitates the assessment of existing adaptation capacities, providing valuable insights for informed decision-making and strategy development.

APPLICATION IN THE FIELD

The SHARP+ tool has been deployed in the United Republic of Tanzania as part of the Integrated Landscape Assessment Methodology (ILAM) within the **Drylands Sustainable Landscapes Impact Program** (DSL-IP). The DSL-IP is led by the FAO, funded by the Global Environment Facility (GEF) and implemented in partnership with the International Union for Conservation of Nature, the World Wildlife Fund, the World Overview of Conservation Approaches and Technologies, the World Bank, and the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification.

DSL-IP aims to promote Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN) in drylands across eleven countries in Africa and Central Asia. In the United Republic of Tanzania, the project prioritizes sustainable beekeeping as well as Neglected and Underutilized Species (NUS) such as, millet, black beans, and groundnut, as core themes for achieving LDN and enhancing livelihoods. It also focuses on Sustainable Land Management practices (SLM), and increased women's participation, as ways to scale up green value chains and strengthen resilience to climate and economic challenges.

Resilience scores per module from the social, environmental, economic and governance domains (N=631)
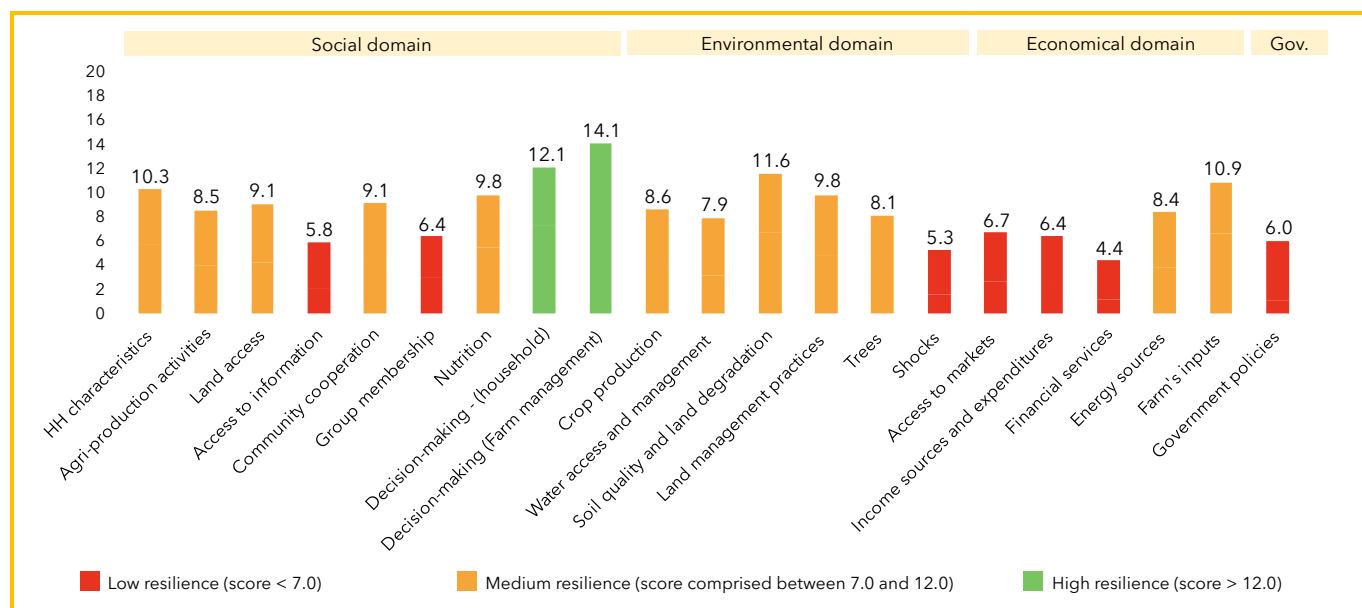
Key findings

On average, the entire sample demonstrates **low resilience scores across seven different modules**, as highlighted by the red bars in the chart above. In contrast, decision-making regarding both farm and household management shows high resilience levels, indicating that **decision-making within the household is generally balanced or shared between genders.**

Agricultural practices and crop cultivation

- Production systems are especially diversified among FFPO members who are almost systematically engaged in bee-keeping along with crop production.
- Overall, maize is the most planted crop along with groundnut and beans, while the cultivation of millet remains marginal.

Income sources and expenditures

- Across all groups with low scores, most households lack non-farm activities to generate supplementary income, which could act as a buffer during agricultural crises.
- Most households are unable to invest in their farms, as household budgets prioritize essential needs like health, education, and food. Additionally, the capacity for saving is limited.

Climate and Environmental Challenges

- Flood and droughts emerge as the most frequent shocks.
- Severe shocks have caused significant impacts while most households lack coping strategies and expect limited support for future recovery, thus undermining their resilience.

Access to information

- Most households lack quality information on weather forecast, cropping or livestock adaptation practices, and climate adaptation practices.
- When information is accessed, it mostly comes from one source, usually being radio or television.
- Tailored information provided by extension workers, farmer organizations, or indigenous knowledge sources is almost never accessed, thus reducing the preservation of traditional knowledge and the adequacy of information provided to enhance resilience.

Access to markets and group membership

- Except for Ulelema and Miyombo members, most farmers sell some of their production on local markets or to dealers. However, they often face challenges in making profit due to fluctuating or low prices.
- Only few households are organized to sell through formal or informal groups, and even less are involved in certification schemes. Implementation of these strategies could enhance their negotiating power and improve sales conditions.
- Many members of Mizinga, Tunza, CCUN, and Square Youth expressed dissatisfaction with the benefits of their group membership, indicating a need to explore the underlying causes of this discontent within these FFPOs.

To align with these objectives and contextual nuances, the SHARP+ tool has been customized. This adaptation included the integration of a comprehensive Behaviour Change Assessment, looking into barriers and leavers for the uptake of the project's core themes, supplemented by additional questions on sustainable land and forest management.

SHARP+ was implemented as part of the project as a baseline assessment. Surveys were conducted in the districts of Kaliua, Mlele, Sikonge and Urambo (region of Katavi and Tabora) in September 2024, with a total of 631 surveys administered. The analysis encompassed eight Forest and Farm Producer Organizations (FFPOs): Miyombo, Kumila, Mizinga, Tunza, Tokomeza, Ulelema, Chama Cha Ufugaji Nyuki (CCUN), and Square Youth; as well as non FFPO members. This disaggregation is designed to effectively target and prioritize project interventions.

Geolocation of the survey, United Republic of Tanzania
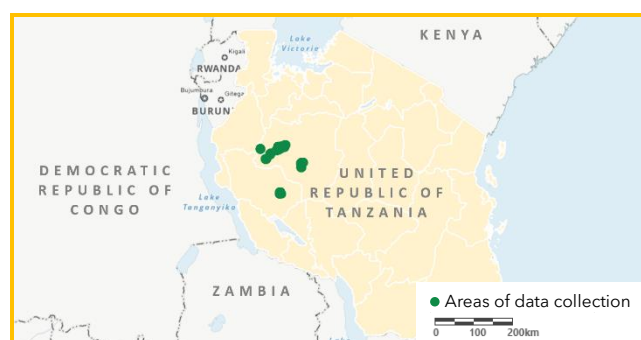
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WAYS FORWARD

In the following step, focus group discussions will be carried out with the prioritized FFPO members to validate the survey results and collaboratively identify solutions to the challenges identified. Additionally, the results will guide the design of Farmer Field School (FFS) interventions, enabling the scaling up of SLM practices and the strengthening of targeted green value chains. Key findings will be accessible, visualized, and integrated into the DSL-IP dashboard, along with data gathered through remote sensing as part of ILAM.

This approach enables the unique needs of each FFPO to be accurately addressed, offering a comprehensive understanding of the situation and dynamics and supporting the promotion of sustainable practices across countries.

For more information:
- SHARP website: www.fao.org/in-action/sharp
- Project website: http://www.fao.org/in-action/dryland-sustainable-landscapes
- sharp@fao.org