

Political and Public Will for Local Adoption of a Global Initiative: Climate-Smart Agriculture in the Senegal River Valley

A Rutgers
Consortium
Project

Funding:
USDA & USAID

Midwest Political
Science Assoc.
Annual Meeting

April 9, 2016



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CSA in Senegal

Theoretical approach: Public Will and Political Will (PPW)

- Definitional components of concepts
- Operationalization and assessment
- Emphases here: decision makers; problem and solution definitions; incentives

Initial research question

Applying the PPW approach, what are the obstacles and opportunities for adoption of climate-smart agriculture (CSA) in the Senegal River Valley from the perspectives of stakeholders?

CSA in Senegal

Why CSA?

Important global effort with local implementation flexibility

Why Senegal?

Combination of problems, importance of agriculture, capacity, and CSA programs

Stakeholders in relevant areas

- (1) Government employees
- (2) Employees of nongovernmental organizations (NGOs)
- (3) Agricultural producer groups
- (4) Researchers

CSA in Senegal

Design & Method

- Qualitative case study
- Semi-structured interviews (21 with 46 stakeholders)
- Field notes; audio recordings

Background: CSA

Major elements

- (1) Sustainable increase in agricultural productivity
- (2) Climate change adaptation and resilience
- (3) Reducing/removing greenhouse gas emissions

CSA in Senegal

Key Findings & Analysis

(1) Sufficient set of decision makers

- President important; real avenues for others, including donors, multilaterals, etc.

(2) Common understanding of problem

- Political: not having enough affordable rice
- Many other problems identified

(3) Common understanding of solution

- Political: rice self-sufficiency
- Variety of CSA programs



Belly Namari, Senegal

CSA in Senegal

Key Findings & Analysis (Continued)

(4) Commitment of relevant decision makers

- Incentives: Strong consumer preferences; prospect of riots
- Allocation of resources

(5) Alignment of problem & solution

- Political: aligned
- Meeting other objectives?
 - Deforestation, loss of biodiversity
 - Potential water overuse
 - Opportunity costs



Drip irrigation,
Senegal

CSA in Senegal

Discussion

- **Why rice?**
 - Preferences and pressure
 - Historical path dependency
 - Focusing events
 - Papa Abdoulaye Seck
- **Rice feasibility**
 - Politically quite feasible
 - Scale daunting
 - Price competition difficult; quality maybe an option



Irrigation system, Senegal