



Adoption Rates and Diffusion of Climate Smart Agriculture Practices Among Maize Farmers in Eastern Ethiopia: A Qualitative Study,

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Abstract

Climate change poses significant challenges to agricultural productivity in eastern Ethiopia, particularly among maize farmers who rely heavily on traditional farming methods. This study employed a qualitative approach involving semi-structured interviews with 30 randomly selected maize farmers from two districts in eastern Ethiopia. Data collection was conducted through focus group discussions and key informant interviews to gather detailed insights into the adoption process of CSA practices. The analysis revealed that about 45% of interviewed farmers had adopted at least one CSA practice, with irrigation and improved crop varieties being the most widely implemented strategies. Socio-economic factors such as access to credit, education level, and farm size were identified as key determinants influencing adoption decisions. The study underscores the importance of socio-economic support in facilitating the diffusion of CSA practices among maize farmers in eastern Ethiopia. Policy makers should prioritise enhancing agricultural extension services, providing financial assistance, and increasing access to education for farmers to facilitate further adoption of CSA practices.

Keywords: *Ethiopia, Maize Farmers, Climate Change Adaptation, Sustainable Agriculture, Rural Development, Participatory Research, Social Capital*

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