

## RESEARCH BRIEF

Religious beliefs and tradition can act as barriers to the effective behavioural change needed for adaptation in semi-arid regions. However, these can also be used to leverage local practices for better uptake of adaptive measures.

### KEY FINDINGS

Climate-smart agriculture has the potential to increase the resilience of the farming communities in semi-arid north-central Namibia that are vulnerable to the impacts of climate change and variability. Although some farmers have adopted climate-smart practices, others have been slower to transition toward new methods.

Traditional norms and religious beliefs can prevent the implementation of agricultural practices that enable adaptation to climate change such as the use of seasonal forecast information, uptake of new agricultural practices and the sale of livestock when a drought is expected.

### WHAT WAS DONE, AND WHAT WAS NOVEL?

Our book chapter focuses on the role that traditional norms and religious beliefs play in decision making in agriculture. It not only highlights their importance in making agricultural decisions, but it also suggests how tradition and religion can be harnessed to enable the uptake of climate-smart agricultural practices.

### KEY IMPLICATIONS FOR POLICY, PRACTICE AND RESEARCH

It is important to work with traditional and religious leaders to enable the uptake of more adaptation practices. Information needs to be co-developed with these leaders, and tailored and disseminated in a way that it is trusted by farmers with different beliefs. This can include, for example, the use of religious narratives.

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**Book chapter:** Davies, J., Spear, D., Chappel, A., Joshi, N., Togarepi, C. and Kunamwene, I. 2018. Considering religion and tradition in climate smart agriculture: Insights from Namibia. In: T. Rosenstock, A. Nowak and E. Girvetz (eds.) *The Climate-Smart Agriculture Papers*. Cham: Springer, pp. 187-197. [Link](#) to book. [Link](#) to chapter.



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