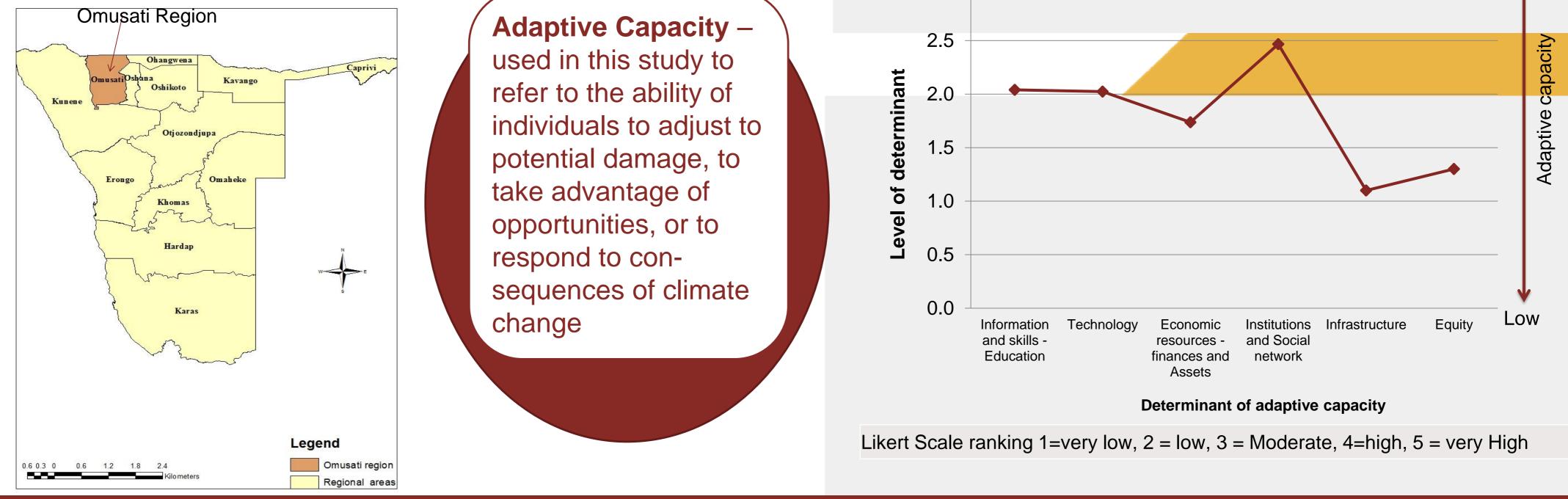
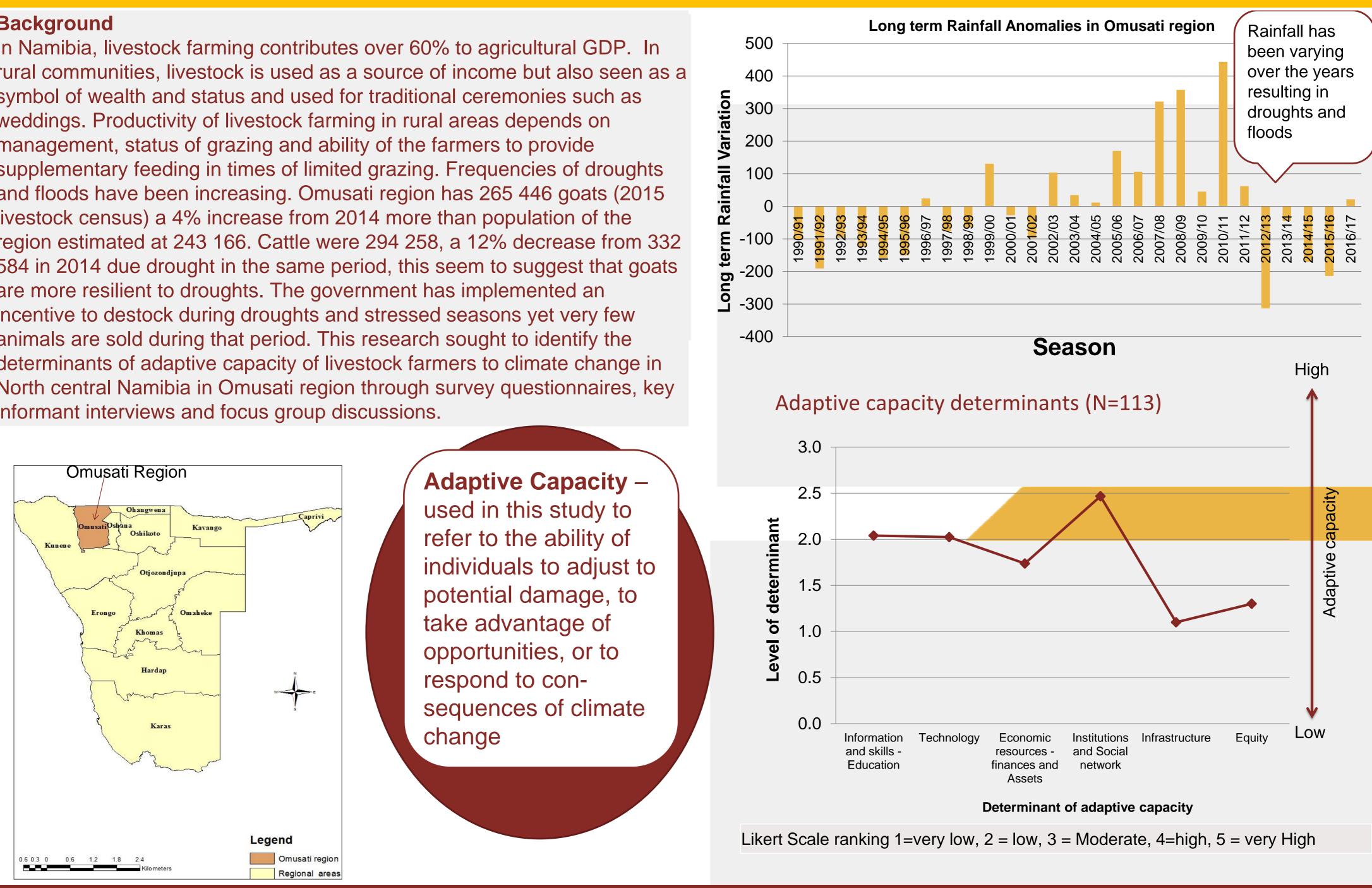
An assessment of determinants of adaptive capacity of livestock farmers to climate change in Omusati Region, North Central Namibia Adaptation at Scale in Semi-Arid Regions

Poster prepared by: Cecil Togarepi Research done by: Cecil Togarepi and Cornelia Haukongo

Background

In Namibia, livestock farming contributes over 60% to agricultural GDP. In rural communities, livestock is used as a source of income but also seen as a symbol of wealth and status and used for traditional ceremonies such as weddings. Productivity of livestock farming in rural areas depends on management, status of grazing and ability of the farmers to provide supplementary feeding in times of limited grazing. Frequencies of droughts and floods have been increasing. Omusati region has 265 446 goats (2015 livestock census) a 4% increase from 2014 more than population of the region estimated at 243 166. Cattle were 294 258, a 12% decrease from 332 584 in 2014 due drought in the same period, this seem to suggest that goats are more resilient to droughts. The government has implemented an incentive to destock during droughts and stressed seasons yet very few animals are sold during that period. This research sought to identify the determinants of adaptive capacity of livestock farmers to climate change in North central Namibia in Omusati region through survey questionnaires, key informant interviews and focus group discussions.





Results

Adaptive Capacity and determinants

Overall adaptive capacity of livestock farmers is very low, and varies according to gender and age as well as diversity of incomes and level of education **Economic resources**-Most farmers lack financial resources to purchase fodder, vaccinations, and restock and diversify

Technology- most livestock farmers are not able to access technology that is required for improvement of livestock production

Informational and skills – Although information is available, the format in which it is shared is not easily accessible due to language and media used as some have limited levels of literacy

Infrastructure – Available infrastructure is inadequate to serve the purposes of the farmers and is often far away such as auction pens, markets, etc. Institutions and social networks – Institutions are available but often do not address their specific needs, however they rely more on their social networks especially from their kith and kin as well as neighbours when in need of assistance with livestock production

Equity – some well off and powerful farmers have ability to fence off huge tracts of land meant for communal grazing to the detriment of the majority thereby limiting their adaptive capacity to take action when their livestock are affected by grazing

Conclusions and policy implications

Need to understand cultural importance of livestock in adaptation measures

Livestock is kept for cultural and traditional purposes like weddings, funerals, special occasions, and social status and most farmers are not driven by income to keep livestock

There is need to understand the needs of farmers before offering incentives to sale and destock during stressful seasons (droughts) through subsidies and access to markets. Favourable market prices alone are not adequate – they have other tradeoffs to consider Need for subsidies for growing fodder crops as well as rewarding farmers that sell more livestock in a year!



www.assar.uct.ac.za





This work was carried out under the Adaptation at Scale in Semi-Arid Regions project (ASSAR). ASSAR is one of five research programmes funded under the Collaborative Adaptation Research Initiative in Africa and Asia (CARIAA), with financial support from the UK Government's Department for International Development (DfID) and the International Development Research Centre (IDRC), Canada. The views expressed in this work are those of the creators and do

not necessarily represent those of DfID and IDRC or its Board of Governors.

For more information contact ctogarepi@unam.na University of Namibia





Part of the CARIAA programme:







International Development Research Centre Centre de recherches pour le d éveloppement international