

## Farmers' Perception and Response to Climate Change Across Agro-ecological Zones in Conflict-Ridden Communities in Cameroon

**Authors :** Lotsmart Fonjong

**Abstract :** The livelihood of rural communities in the West African state of Cameroon, which is largely dictated by natural forces (rainfall, temperatures, and soil), is today threatened by climate change and armed conflict. This paper investigates the extent to which rural communities are aware of climate change, how their perceptions of changes across different agro-ecological zones have impacted farming practices, output, and lifestyles, on the one hand, and the extent to which local armed conflicts are confounding their efforts and adaptation abilities. The paper is based on a survey conducted among small farmers in selected localities within the forest and savanna ecological zones of the conflict-ridden Northwest and Southwest Cameroon. Attention is paid to farmers' gender, scale, and type of farming. Farmers' perception of/and response to climate change are analysed alongside local rainfall and temperature data and mobilization for climate justice. Findings highlight the fact that farmers' perception generally corroborates local climatic data. Climatic instability has negatively affected farmers' output, food prices, standards of living, and food security. However, the vulnerability of the population varies across ecological zones, gender, and crop types. While these factors also account for differences in local response and adaptation to climate change, ongoing armed conflicts in these regions have further complicated opportunities for climate-driven agricultural innovations, inputs, and exchange of information among farmers. This situation underlines how poor communities, as victims, are forced into many complex problems outsider their making. It is therefore important to mainstream farmers' perceptions and differences into policy strategies that consider both climate change and Anglophone conflict as national security concerns foe sustainable development in Cameroon.

**Keywords :** adaptation policies, climate change, conflict, small farmers, cameroon

**Conference Title :** ICERCCPMG 2022 : International Conference on Environmental Risk, Climate Change, Poverty, Marginality and Gender

**Conference Location :** London, United Kingdom

**Conference Dates :** June 27-28, 2022