

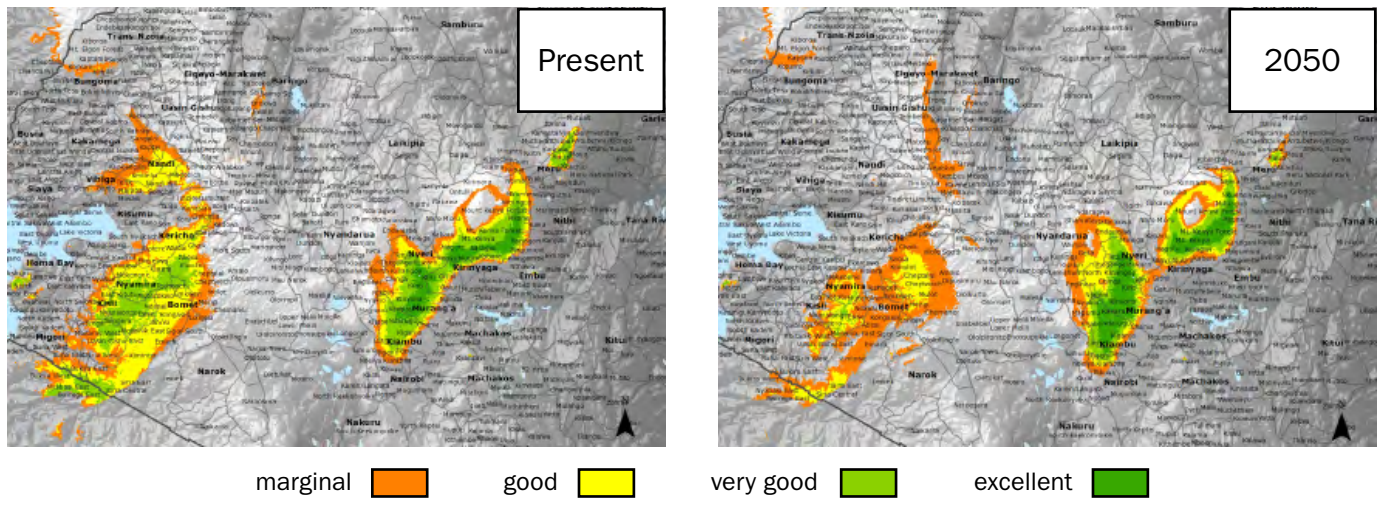
Securing tea supply & livelihoods

Adapting to climate change, Kenya

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Climate change will affect where and how tea is grown, and consequently the people that depend on it for a living will also be affected. Since smallholder farmers are particularly vulnerable, ETP and the German Development Agency (GIZ) have developed a 3 year partnership to assist 50,000 Kenyan tea farmers to build resilience and help them secure their future livelihoods. Initially the project will work with farmers that supply KTDA (Kenya Tea Development Agency) factories - Kenya's largest tea smallholder association.

Predicted changes in climate suitability for tea growing



Context

Kenya is the world's third largest tea producer and the sector directly and indirectly employs around 3 million people, 8% of the country's total population. Impacts such as rising temperatures, variable rainfall, drought, and increased incidences of pests and diseases pose high risks for tea - predominantly a rain-fed crop. Over 60% of Kenyan tea is produced by smallholders and the potential impacts of climate change have already been demonstrated, when a drought in 2009 led to a 30% drop in production for Rift Valley producers.

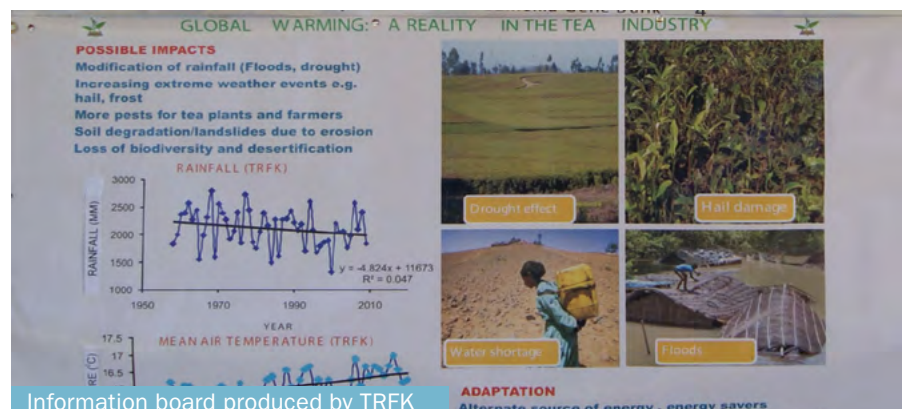
Identifying high risk areas

The first step was to work with climate change modellers at the

Centre for International Tropical Agriculture (CIAT) to assess how climate change will affect the suitability for growing tea in various regions in Kenya between now and 2050. The mapping indicated that many tea growing areas will reduce in their suitability for tea production, placing smallholders' harvests and the security of their

livelihoods at heightened risk. The maps were shared with a number of stakeholders at a meeting in Kericho to demonstrate the implications of climate change and to stimulate discussions on how to tackle the issues.

The meeting included representatives from all the major tea organisations in Kenya, such as



KTDA, the Tea Research Foundation of Kenya (TRFK), Tea Board of Kenya, the Kenya Agriculture Research Institute, as well as certification organisations and NGOs.

The meeting was also used to build and enhance strong links with other organisations carrying out similar climate change work, such as the Cafédirect Producers Foundation/Comic Relief project, which is working with Fairtrade producers in Uganda and Kenya. There was a clear consensus that climate change poses a major threat to tea production in Kenya, and that systematic action should be taken to address it.

Building adaptation capacity

A number of activities are now underway to support farmers from the largest smallholder organisation, the Kenya Tea Development Agency (KTDA), to adapt to climate change:

- A set of training materials on adapting to climate change in the tea sector has been used to develop a pool of trainers who can work with the farmers predicted to be affected.
- Meetings have been held at all levels within KTDA to increase the capacity to take action
- Five groups of smallholders with different climate change risks have been selected and work is underway to develop adaptation plans and implement the most appropriate measures with those groups.
- A 'toolbox' of adaptation measures is being developed and tested.



Young tea bushes

Building both appropriate adaptation tools, and a network of institutions that can empower and support farmers, will enable smallholder communities to become more resilient. This will ultimately help to reduce the economic, social and environmental threats of climate change.

ETP's work in Kenya is being expanded to other smallholders as retailers, such as Marks and Spencers, fund adaptation work in their supply chains. ETP is also working with a variety of partners to scale up work on climate change to other tea-growing countries in Africa and Asia.



More efficient stoves (Jiko)



KTDA smallholder farmer

Adaptation Options

- Improving farming practices, including soil management and pruning techniques
- Selection and introduction of more drought and disease resilient tea varieties
- Introduction of energy efficiency measures in tea factories and worker housing to help reduce deforestation
- Building resilience into smallholder production, through crop diversification and the introduction of kitchen gardens
- Water harvesting and water conservation practices

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