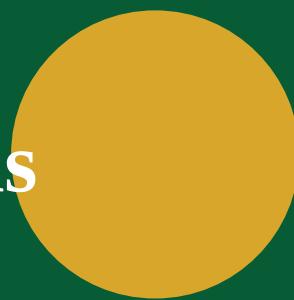


Climate-Smart Practice Cards



Field notes for soil, water, timing, resilience, and responsible intensification

GUIDE · FARMERS

Use concise practice cards to discuss locally appropriate actions that can improve productivity, resilience, and resource efficiency.

How to use this resource

Select cards relevant to the farm. Discuss each option with extension personnel, test changes on a manageable area, record results, and scale only after evidence from local conditions.

IMPORTANT PRACTICE NOTE

This educational resource supports planning and discussion. Adapt recommendations to local conditions and consult qualified agronomists, mechanics, financial advisers, extension personnel, regulators, and market actors before making material decisions.

A climate-smart decision process

Climate-smart agriculture is context specific. The objective is to improve productivity and resilience while reducing avoidable environmental pressure where feasible.

- Observe: record rainfall, soil moisture, pest pressure, crop stage and unusual events.
- Assess: identify the most important production and climate risks.
- Choose: compare practical options, cost, labour, skill and likely benefit.
- Test: use a small demonstration area with a comparison plot.
- Learn: measure yield, cost, labour, water, losses and farmer experience.

Card 1 · Protect the soil

Keep soil covered where appropriate; reduce unnecessary disturbance; use suitable rotations; add well-managed organic matter; and control erosion before it expands.

Card 2 · Plan with weather information

Use credible seasonal and short-range forecasts as one input—not a guarantee. Combine forecasts with field observations, local knowledge, suitable varieties and contingency plans.

Card 3 · Use water productively

Repair leaks, maintain channels, schedule irrigation by crop need and soil condition, reduce runoff, and avoid waterlogging. Protect water quality from sediment, fuel and agrochemical contamination.

Card 4 · Select suitable seed

Use quality seed of varieties suited to production goals, local ecology, maturity window, market demand and verified pest or disease considerations. Record source and batch.

Card 5 · Feed crops responsibly

Base nutrient decisions on realistic yield goals, field history and credible soil or plant information. Apply the right source, rate, time and placement while protecting water.

Card 6 · Integrated pest management

Monitor regularly, identify the problem correctly, use preventive and non-chemical options where effective, and apply registered crop-protection products only according to the label and professional guidance.

Card 7 · Diversify risk

Consider crop, enterprise, market and timing diversity that fits the farm. Diversification should have a clear production, income, soil or resilience purpose.

Card 8 · Reduce harvest loss

Plan labour and equipment, harvest at suitable maturity, protect grain from rain and soil, dry safely, measure moisture where relevant, and use clean storage.

Card 9 · Manage energy and machinery

Match machine size to task, maintain engines and implements, reduce idle time, plan field routes and combine operations where safe and agronomically appropriate.

Card 10 · Keep evidence

Record the practice, field, date, cost, labour, rainfall, yield, quality and observed benefit. Evidence supports better adaptation than memory alone.

Farm resilience action plan

Complete this worksheet in pen or digitally. Use one copy per enterprise, service, season, group, or learning session.

PRIORITY RISK OR OPPORTUNITY

PROPOSED PRACTICE AND EXPECTED BENEFIT

FIELD OR ENTERPRISE FOR THE TRIAL

RESOURCES, ADVISER AND START DATE

MEASURES OF SUCCESS AND REVIEW DATE

Put knowledge into practice.

Use this resource alongside local knowledge, qualified technical advice, safe operating procedures, and verified market information.

ADECAT-MECHFARM

Agriculture · Mechanization · Training · Enterprise · Food Security

Website: adecat-mechfarm.org

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For programme and partnership enquiries, use the official website contact channel.