

PhD Topic: The effects of climate variability on food security in Tanzania, paying attention to the effects of changing rainfall patterns on food consumption. The case of Bagamoyo District

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Abstract: In the wake of the continuing debate on the effects of climate change on the well-being of households, this study considers the impact of short-term weather variations (rainfall variability), as an indicator of climate change, on the food consumption (as an element of food security) of rural households in Bagamoyo district, Tanzania. The description of the research as a requirement for the study will lead to the award of Doctoral Philosophy in Environmental Science at the University of Ghana under the Trans-disciplinary Training for Resource Efficiency and Climate Change Adaptation in Africa project.

Climate change is a complex biophysical process. It is therefore not possible to predict precise future climate conditions but the scientific consensus is that global land and sea temperatures are increasing under the influence of greenhouse gases and that they will continue to increase, regardless of human intervention, for at least the next two decades. Vulnerability to environmental changes occurs due to variation in frequency, due to the duration of those changes or due to people being constrained economically, socially or politically from responding adequately to those changes.

This document is an interim product that is intended to guide early thinking on the work. The products that eventually emerge from the process may ultimately differ in both scope and content from considerations described herein.

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