#### A framework for assessing the impact of agricultural drought in developing countries

Glenn Hyman International Center for Tropical Agriculture (CIAT) Cali, Colombia

Annual Meeting of the Association of American Geographers; March 24, 2009; Las Vegas, NV

Paper Session: Reducing the Threat of Drought: Better Understanding Drought Impacts and Risk Management Options

#### Motivation

- Drought: the most important constraint?
- What crops to work on, and in which regions?
- How might we develop a resource or information system that would guide a crop improvement initiative aiming to help farmers mitigate the negative effects of drought?

#### Commissioned research: Generation Challenge Program

To identify drought-prone regions with high poverty

To focus on the most important crops in drought-prone regions



http://www.generationcp.org/

#### Collaboration

- Glenn Hyman, Peter Jones and Sam Fujisaka at the International Center for Tropical Agriculture (CIAT)
- Stanley Wood at the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI)
- John Dixon at the International Maize and Wheat Improvement Center (CIMMYT)
- Carmen de Vicente of the Generation Challenge Program (GCP)



http://www.fao.org/farmingsystems/

#### Global spatial analysis framework



Hyman, G., S. Fujisaka, P. Jones, S. Wood, C. de Vicente and J. Dixon. 2008. Strategic approaches to targeting technology generation: Assessing the coincidence of poverty and drought-prone crop production. *Agricultural Systems*. 98:50-61.

## Stunting: < 2 SD below global mean of height for age



### Aluminum toxicity: one of 22 soils constraints mapped



#### Global Maize Distribution: one of 20 major crops mapped



You, L., Wood, S., 2006. An entropy approach to spatial disaggregation of agricultural production. Agric. Syst. 90, 329–347.

#### Failed Seasons Drought Model



### Seasonal Drought Index

#### Sorghum in Sub Saharan Africa















#### **Complementary studies**

- Getting the focus right: food crops and smallholder constraints
  - Expert survey
  - Information not found in typical surveys, including:
  - Biotic constraints, management and socioeconomic constraints
- From Attractiveness to Feasibility: A Strategic Assessment of the Capacity to Develop, and Adopt GCP Technologies
  - Capacities of national programs for technology adoption
  - Country case studies in Mali, Burkina Faso, Nigeria, Tanzania and Indonesia

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### What farming systems are found in a given country?

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### What countries make up a farming system?

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# What other countries have similar environments (spillover)?

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#### Table 4

Fifteen farming systems with over 2.5 million stunted children and showing the main crops of the systems

Farming system <sup>a</sup>	Stunted children ('000s)	Crops <sup>b</sup>
SA rice–wheat	28,310	Rice, pulses (chickpea) millet, wheat, maize, bean
SA rainfed mixed	24,547	Rice, millet, sorghum, chickpea, bean, groundnut, maize, wheat
EAP upland intensive mixed	15,435	Maize, rice, wheat, sweet potato, potato, bean
EAP lowland rice	13,368	Rice, maize, wheat, sweet potato, groundnut
SA rice	11.668	Rice, pulses (chickpea)
SSA cereal-root	6319	Sorghum, millet, pulses (cowpea), maize, groundnut, cassava
SSA maize mixed	6318	Maize, cassava, sorghum, pulses, groundnut, millet, bean, sweet potato
SA highland mixed	5162	Rice, maize, wheat, potato, groundnut, pulses (chickpea)
SSA root	4989	Maize, cassava, rice, sweet potato, cowpea, sorghum, groundnut, bean
SA dry rainfed	3610	Sorghum, millet, chickpea, groundnut, bean
SSA agro-pastoral millet/sorghum	3135	Millet, sorghum, pulses groundnut, maize
LAC maize-beans	2837	Maize, bean, sorghum
SSA highland temperate mixed	2761	Maize, wheat, sorghum, barley, millet, pulses
EAP temperate mixed	2596	Maize, wheat, potato, groundnut, millet
EAP highland extensive mixed	2537	Rice, maize, wheat, potato, groundnut, pulses

<sup>a</sup> SA, South Asia; SSA, sub-Saharan Africa; LAC, Latin America and the Caribbean; EAP, East Asia and the Pacific.

<sup>b</sup> Crops appearing for the first time in the list are in italics.

#### Focus crops of the Generation Challenge Program

## Potential drought impact index (PDDI)

 $\sum (A^*F)$ i-1

where A is the non-irrigated area harvested and F is the probability of a failed season for each grid cell. The index accounts for the extent of staple food crop production weighted by the probability of a failed season.

#### Focus regions for the GCP



The proportion of area within each farming system experiencing at least a given number of failed seasons in a 100-year period for sub-Saharan Africa. Systems represented by solid lines are among the 15 systems of the world with more than 2.5 million stunted children.



#### Results

- Farmers in drought prone areas largely depend on 12 staple crops
- 15 farming systems in poor, droughtprone areas account for 70% of all stunted children
- Farmers grow a diverse set of crops in these rainfed mixed cropping systems

#### Discussion

- Information resources used for making research investment decisions
- Better global crop maps needed
- Complementary studies to fill gaps
- Climate change considerations need to be incorporated
- Need to develop cultivar-specific analyses