

regional news >
policy**Climate projections remain valid, new study shows**

To help policymakers prepare for effects of climate change, a group of climate scientists evaluated projections from Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC).

In a report published this month, the researchers examined the scientific work and expert judgments that went into the five-part framework.

The IPCC, which is under the auspices of UN, periodically evaluates current and potential effects of climate change based on thousands of scientific studies. Its analyses are published for policymakers and the public as "assessment reports."

The researchers found that even when they updated the report with findings from the past two years, and identified the limitations in how the report was initially compiled, the judgments by and large remained valid.

Transparency in the name of more effective policy was the driving force, said Micheal Oppenheimer, second author of the paper and professor of geoscience and International affairs at Princeton University.

Oppenheimer and his co-authors of the Nature Climate Change paper were all authors on the Fifth Assessment Report.



Using animal traction to open up land: One of the challenges that Uganda faces is how to increase agricultural productivity. FILE PHOTO

Makerere alumni to tackle agric challenges

Last week, Prof Jonny Mugisha, a Makerere University academic invited more than 60 post graduate (Masters and PhD) alumni to form a platform that will look into solutions for challenges in the agriculture sector.

Prof Mugisha, an agricultural economist and the dean of School of Agricultural Sciences, told his former students, who are based in both public and private sector, that they must use their skills and knowledge to tackle these pressing challenges.

He argued that if they choose to only use their expertise for personal gain, it will be unfair to the country. "We must help our sector and if we help it, we shall be helping all Ugandans."

At the meeting, it was agreed that a platform be formed and a committee was set up to prepare for the official launch later this year.

Julius Twinamatsiko, a PhD student who is the committee chairman, said: "We [agreed] to form a platform that will provide practical solutions."

These challenges are along the agricultural value chain including input provision, production, post-harvest handling, marketing and consumption."

Climate change is another key challenge that the platform will focus on.

Twinamatsiko said the committee will look at the different options as proposed and come up with the most feasible. There will be periodic meetings to agree on a workable option.

"We should have many more gatherings as we think about these challenges," Prof Mugisha said.

-Blanshe Musinguzi

national news > technology