

CLIMATE-SMART
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Parallel Session L1

Regional Dimensions

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14:00–18:00

77. **Socio-economic scenarios to develop and test agricultural adaptation policies in Central America and the Andes**

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Successful climate adaptation strategies cannot take only climate impacts into account. Instead, socio-economic, ecological and political factors interact with climate impacts, strongly influencing both the adaptive capacity of vulnerable groups, and their needs. A multi-stakeholder scenarios approach with multiple plausible, narrative and numerical, stories about future contexts can help policy makers work with future uncertainty that may influence adaptive capacity in their regions. However, in many scenario processes, it is not clear whether the scenarios have had an impact on decision-making. To overcome this challenge, we have found that scenarios are most powerful when they are used to test and develop specific decision pathways, such as government policies and action plans. We present two cases: Honduras and a regional Andes process where we focus on Colombian policy. The successful use of scenarios for targeted policy guidance that encourages Climate Smart Agriculture depends on developing a strong relationship with decision-makers to identify draft policies and information needs; it depends on a process where tailored scenarios are used directly to review and develop policies up to their finest details together with a multidisciplinary and multilevel team of experts and decision makers; it also requires openness and flexibility on the side of the decision-makers and the facilitating researchers to put changed policies into action.