

GECAFS SAF Research Questions

The questions listed below are the combined outputs of two project planning meetings for the GECAFS SAF project, held in Gaborone, Botswana, in December 2004 and July 2005. The questions for Food Systems and Theme 1 (Vulnerability and Impacts) were developed at the workshop in December 2004; the questions for Themes 2 (Adaptations) and 3 (Feedbacks) were elaborated by participants at the SAF3 meeting held in July 2005.

Features of SAF food systems	General Qs	
	<p>How can SAF food systems be defined so as to enable an analysis of their interactions with GEC and the consequences for food security?</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. How can standardised datasets of Food System determinants be developed so as to be robust across the region? 2. How do food availability and accessibility relate to food production and exchange at SADC, national and sub-national scales? 3. What are the trends in food availability, access and utilisation at SADC, national and sub-national scales? 	
GECAFS Theme 1 Vulnerability and Impacts	General Qs	
	<p>How will GEC (esp. changing water availability and land degradation) interact with other stressors to affect food systems and hence food security at national and regional levels?</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 4. How does the interaction between stressors and determinants define the vulnerability of food systems in Southern Africa? 5. What makes each component of food systems vulnerable to different stressors? 6. How does GEC affect the stressors, the determinants, and the interaction between them in Southern African food systems? 	
GECAFS Theme 2 Adaptations	General Qs	
	<p>What new technical, policy and institutional adaptation options need to be developed to reduce vulnerabilities of food systems to GEC at regional and national levels?</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 7. To what extent have food systems adapted to ongoing GEC; to other stressors?; and to “double exposure”? 8. How has the diversity of adaptation options changed over time as food systems have evolved? 9. What are the interactions among regional-level and national-level food system adaptation strategies? 	
	Regional level Qs	National level Qs
	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 10. What are current technical, policy and institutional adaptation strategies at regional level? 11. How will GEC affect national comparative advantages for given crops? 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 14. What are current technical, policy and institutional food system adaptation strategies at national level? 15. What are relative benefits (CBA) of targeted input strategies (e.g.

	<p>12. How would improved regional cooperation (in trade, infrastructure, R&D, strategic reserves, transboundary water management) help reduce vulnerabilities of food systems?</p> <p>13. How would changes in food aid philosophy affect adaptation strategies (regional self-reliance)?</p>	<p>fertilizer subsidies) versus resource transfer in other sectors (e.g. social safety nets)?</p> <p>16. What are relative benefits of large-scale commercial farms versus small-holder schemes to adapt to GEC?</p> <p>17. How will changing the allocation of national resources towards agriculture and food issues help adapt to GEC?</p> <p>18. What is the role of governance in the development and implementation of food system adaptation options and strategies?</p> <p>19. What is the best way(s) to bring about cultural change/ acceptance towards different crops/ foods?</p>
<p>GECAFS <i>Theme 3</i></p> <p>Socioeconomic and Environmental Consequences of different food system adaptation strategies</p>	<p>General Qs</p>	
	<p>What will be the consequences of current and new technical, policy and institutional adaptation options on socioeconomic and environmental conditions at regional and national scales?</p> <p>20. What are the externalities at regional level of national adaptation strategies?</p> <p>21. Is there conflict between adaptation strategies at the national level and regional levels or regional goals?</p> <p>22. How far forward in time should feedback analysis extend?</p>	
	<p>Regional level Qs</p> <p>23. What would be the consequences of irrigation & diversification driven by transboundary water management on regional self sufficiency?</p> <p>24. How would different adaptation strategies change regional-level biodiversity?</p> <p>25. How will different food system adaptation strategies affect the region's economic development?</p>	<p>National level Qs</p> <p>26. What would be consequences of irrigation & diversification driven by the implementation of effective transboundary water management on livelihoods and environmental parameters?</p> <p>27. What would be the cultural consequences of reliance on new foods?</p> <p>28. How would different adaptation strategies change national GHG budgets?</p>