

TO winterschool@csag.uct.ac.za

FROM:

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**APPLICATION TO PARTICIPATE IN THE TRAINING COURSE IN USING
CLIMATE INFORMATION FOR ADAPTATION DECISION MAKING, CAPE TOWN,
JULY 2009**

I wish to apply for participation in the Winter School” on “Use of climate information for developing adaptation strategies, plans and policies”. I am a meteorologist by profession working in application of climate information, research, at the Institute for **Meteorological Training and Research** which is a branch of the **Kenya Meteorological Department**.

Previous experience in climate research is in the area of application of climate information in various economic sectors. Examples include: “Predicting Malaria Epidemics in the Kenyan Highlands Using Climate Data: A Tool for Decision Makers A. K. Githeko and W. Ndegwa *Journal of Global Change & Human Health*”. Other work in use of climate information is in the project “Making the Best of Climate-adapting Agriculture to Climate Variability”, a project supported by Association for Strengthening Agriculture Research for Eastern and Central Africa. (ASARECA), whose main aim was to avail innovative strategies for enhancing mitigation of, recovery from, and resilience to climate-induced crises amongst smallholder farmers in arid and semi-arid areas of Kenya. Work from this project has not yet been published due to technical problems with relevant institutions.

I am currently involved in climate change adaptation through the project, “**Managing Risk, Reducing Vulnerability and Enhancing productivity in a Changing Climate**”. Like the title suggests, the objective of this work is geared towards, impacts of climate change induced crises mitigated and resilience improved through adoption of innovative strategies aimed at reducing risk and managing vulnerability by smallholder farmers in GHA. My role in this project is to provide climate data analysis and relevant input related to climate change. Climate change is however only gaining momentum and many institutions have not build necessary capacity in the area to enable effective management of the sector. Outputs from this work include, enhancing the overall knowledgebase on impacts of climate variability and associated physical and economic vulnerabilities, developing and availing decision aides that support decision making in selecting appropriate responses to manage risks and capitalize on opportunities created by variable climate, evaluating and assessing the impacts of climate change on vulnerability of agricultural systems and the adequacy of the current management options and adaptation strategies to cope with future climate and last enhancing operational and technical capacity of national institutions to develop and disseminate regularly updated climate knowledge, products and adaptation plans. The challenge I face now in my current work is mainly the interpretation of global scale climate change future scenarios vis avis local conditions.

It is against this background that I render my application for the two week training programme on use of climate information for developing adaptation strategies, plans and policies.

Kindly consider positively my application

William Ndegwa Githungo
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