

Interactive comment on “Climate and resource information as tools for dealing with farmer-pastoralist conflicts in the Sahel” by O. Mertz et al.

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Thank you very much for the positive notes on the general aspects of the paper. Below we respond to the specific comments and constructive suggestions for changes:

1) It would be good to show a more critical attitude towards seasonal forecasting, questioning whether seasonal forecasts are in fact reliable, especially in the West-African Sahel, where weather stations and recording of weather data are somewhat limited. Hence, it may be advisable to consult the literature on weather forecasting in order to assess the reliability of such data. The reliability aspect of weather forecasting data is also relevant for 3.1, when the authors discuss conflicts between farmers and institutions due to unreliable flooding forecasts.

a. We agree that this is an important issue and we can add some lines on the reliability of forecasts, how it has evolved over time and what it means for the relationship between farmers and institutions. This will of course be based on other sources. We are not sure whether it will be possible to integrate this in 3.1, but it can be a discussion point related to the 'new' conflict between the government institutions disseminating information and users that are affected by information – it may not be a matter of 'wrong' information, but rather about how it has been interpreted along the communication pathway from producer to user.

2) The authors could be more specific about the use of conventional mobile phones, whether the sharing and accessing of information is mainly voice-based, or whether some information is also accessed via systems that allow the display of web content on conventional mobile phones, such as Opera Mini Mobile Browser or SMS services.

a. Phones are mainly used for voice-based information exchange, especially since there is still high illiteracy among pastoralists. We can add a sentence about this.

3) The potential of pastoralists in feeding back information on actual on-site situational data should be explored further. One wonders whether there are examples from other African countries where such crowd-sourcing activities may take place? Given that crowd sourcing is in its infancy for most applications and in the Global North, this maybe not yet the case in relation to weather forecasting.

a. We can integrate the ideas in Müller et al 2015 (<http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1002/joc.4210/full>) in this discussion

4) Technical corrections: Page 4, line 9, delete word "August", and page 9, line 3, author is missing at end of sentence.

a. Corrections well noted

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