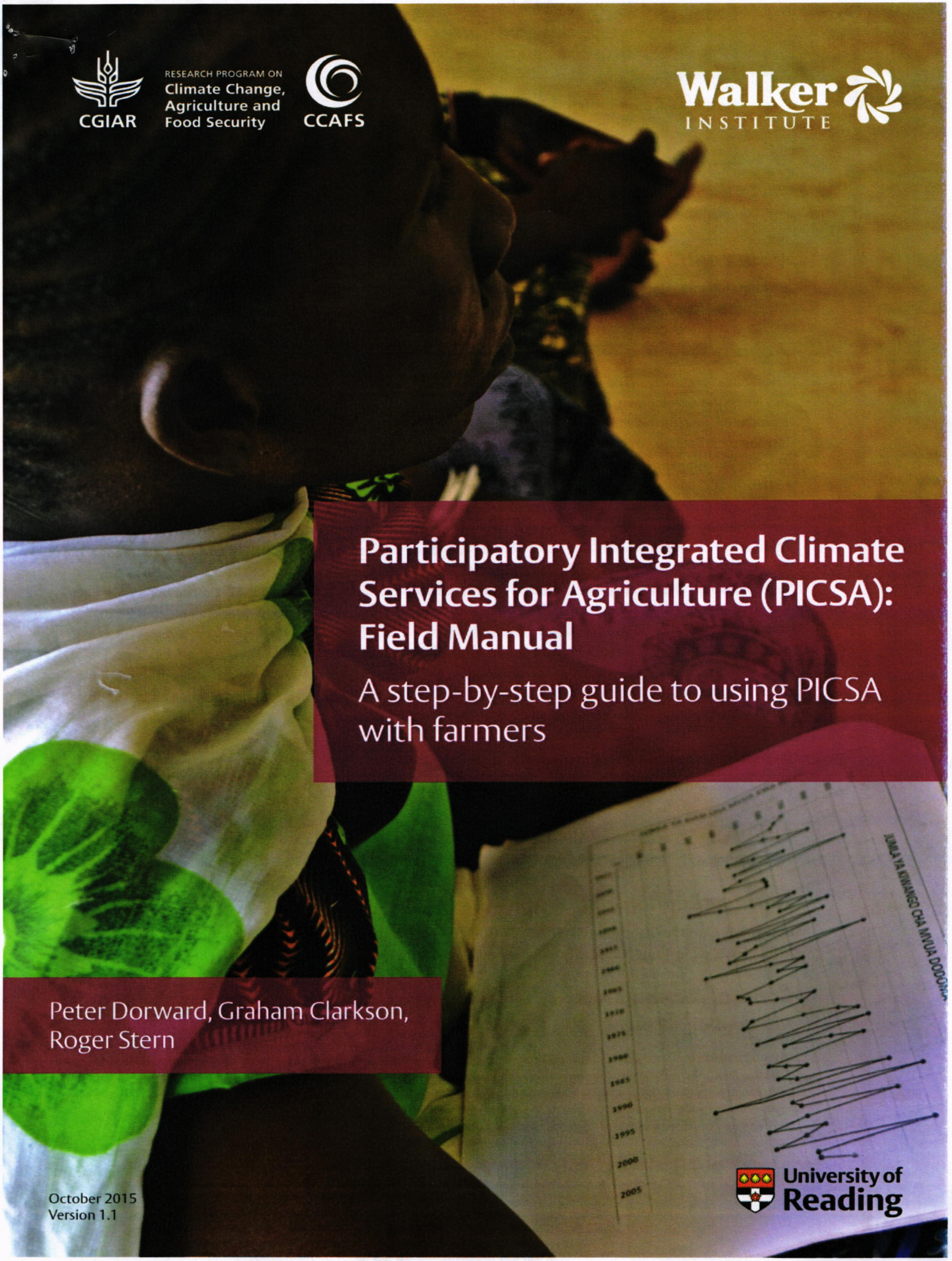

Participatory Integrated Climate Services for Agriculture (PICSA): Field Manual

A step-by-step guide to using PICSA with farmers

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Taken during a PICSA training session in Makoja, Tanzania during October 2014. Cecilia Schubert (CCAFS)

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Step L – Learn from experience and improve the process

At the end of the season it is important to review the PICSA process with farmers and to identify lessons for the future. This can be in a group meeting and involve discussing the following questions with farmers:

- In what ways (if any) did farmers find the training and use of PICSA useful?
- Which parts of the process were the most helpful and why?
- In what ways could the PICSA approach be improved e.g. if we use it next year?

It would be helpful to write up on a flip chart the main points that come from the discussion.

If possible at this meeting, provide updated historical graphs with the climate data from this last season included. Farmers can then see how the season compared with other years.

Appendices

A note on the appendices:

Appendices 1-8 need to be prepared in advance of the training workshop. They provide locally specific information in relation to climate, options available to farmers and regarding local communication. The following provide the titles and where relevant, blank forms that can be filled in. For further information visit www.walker-institute.ac.uk/research/PICSA

Appendix 1: Crop Information Table

The information in the crop information table needs to be location specific.

Crop	Variety	Days to maturity	Crop water requirement	Chance of sufficient rainfall if season starts on x (Early)	Chance of sufficient rainfall if season starts on x (Middle)	Chance of sufficient rainfall if season starts on x (Late)

Appendix 2: Crop Related Practices Matrix (practices identified as potentially suitable for this are by development organisations)

This information needs to be location specific and should be collated well in advance of training.

Appendix 3: Livestock Options Matrix (options identified as potentially suitable for this area by development organisations)

This information needs to be location specific and should be collated well in advance of training.

Appendix 4: Livelihood Options Matrix (options identified as potentially suitable for this area by development organisations)

This information needs to be location specific and should be collated well in advance of training.

Appendix 5 – Where do short-term forecasts come from and how are they communicated to farmers

They are prepared and released from the forecasting office of the national meteorology agency. The process, including the frequency and timing of short term forecasts will differ from country to country. This appendix needs to be prepared by or with the National Met Service.

Appendix 6 – A list of common terms used in short term forecasts and their explanation

The common terms used in a forecast will differ from country to country and should be translated into local language/s. This appendix needs to be prepared by or with the National Met Service.

Appendix 7 – List of cell phone numbers of farmers who wish to receive up-to-date weather forecasts

Farmer name	Location	Livestock or crop farmer?	Mobile phone number

Once you have collected the mobile numbers please send them to .....

Appendix 8 – Example short-term forecasts and warnings

The kinds of information and the terminology in the short term weather forecast will differ from country to country and should be translated into local language/s. This appendix needs to be prepared by or with the National Met Service.

This work was implemented by the University of Reading as part of the CGIAR Research Program on Climate Change, Agriculture and Food Security (CCAFS). The views expressed in this document cannot be taken to reflect the official opinions of CGIAR or Future Earth.

About PICSA

This manual is a step-by-step guide to the Participatory Integrated Climate Services for Agriculture (PICSA) approach which has been developed to help smallholder farmers manage climate variability and risks.

The manual has been designed to support field staff in their work with farmers in the lead up to and during the agricultural season. Emphasis is placed on supporting farmers, with information and tools, to make decisions that best suit their individual contexts and objectives (options by context).

The PICSA approach couples local climate, crop, livestock and livelihood information with participatory planning tools that farmers can use to decide the best farming and livelihood options for them. PICSA makes extensive use of historical climate information provided by National Meteorological Services to facilitate farmers to explore risks and opportunities.

www.walker-institute.ac.uk/research/PICSA

About the Walker Institute

The Walker Institute was established by the University of Reading in 2006. It aims to use research to enable the development of climate –resilient societies, which are able to adapt to an uncertain, changing world. We address some of the fundamental questions facing development and encompass social, economic, technological and political strategies across all scales of society.

www.walker-institute.ac.uk

About the Statistical Services Centre

The Statistical Services Centre (SSC) was established in 1983 and is part of the School of Mathematical and Physical Sciences at the University of Reading. The SSC team combine academic excellence with extensive practical experience to provide high quality training and consultancy support in all facets of statistics and data management.

http://www.reading.ac.uk/ssc

About the CGIAR Research Program on Climate Change, Agriculture and Food Security (CCAFS)

The CGIAR Research Program on Climate Change, Agriculture and Food Security (CCAFS), led by the International Center for Tropical Agriculture (CIAT), brings together the world's best researchers in agricultural science, development research, climate science and Earth System science, to identify and address the most important interactions, synergies and trade-offs between climate change, agriculture and food security.

www.ccafs.cgiar.org