

2020/21 Priorities for SLMACC – Adaptation

SLMACC – Adaptation focuses on social impacts and policy research to address targeted policy questions and science around adaptation.

Key priorities

Risk

1. Work with local government to support risk assessment on adaptation plans so that work is tangible and has practical applications. Also consider a similar piece of work with iwi. We would prefer to see this as a combined piece of work.
2. Updated pest and disease predictions in a warming environment and investigate adaptation strategies to mitigate increased risk (ensure building on past SLMACC work).

Adverse Events

3. Analysis on the cost and impact of future adverse events (e.g. droughts, fires and floods) on the primary sector (including economic, social, cultural and environment). We know climate change will increase the number of adverse events, but there is a lack of analysis of actual impacts to the primary sector.
4. Adaptation pathways and decision support in the face of uncertainty to plan for and limit the impact of adverse events. Include analysis of recent adverse events (e.g. Northland droughts, Southland floods etc.) and how these affected the primary sector and rural communities.

Water

5. How could water allocations in a changing climate be balanced to meet primary sector and public needs (e.g. public health, endangered species, and domestic water supply)?
6. What are the adaptation and mitigation options for farmers to improve water quality and their potential impacts or contributions toward meeting climate change commitments?

Adoption and behaviour change

7. Building upon 2018 'Mind the gaps: Synthesis and systematic review of climate change adaptation in New Zealand's primary industries'
<https://www.agriculture.govt.nz/dmsdocument/31458-slmacc-report-mind-the-gaps-synthesis-and-systematic-review-of-climate-change-adaptation-in-new-zealands-primary-industries>
Evaluate past adaptation projects success in long term behaviour change. Investigate what creates sustained change and identify gaps in creating long-term adaptation.
8. Roll-out previous regional-specific adaptation projects into other regions or nationwide.

2020/21 priorities for SLMACC – Extension

SLMACC – Extension focuses on communicating the newest research findings to farmers, growers and other primary industry professionals in a way that can directly influence engagement, implementation and lasting behaviour change.

Key priorities

1. Translate science into fit-for-purpose on-farm resources. Leveraging on existing platforms or work in the primary sectors (networks, websites etc.).
2. Establish a network of approved rural professionals who can hold workshops and facilitate knowledge transfer to farmers.
 - a. As a starter, train the trainer for rural professionals interested in upskilling in climate change and on farm mitigations to hold workshops in their regions and work with MPI's Regional Economic Development team.