

**Managing and coping with drought in Bugesera natural region of Rwanda: Kavumu Village
Rainwater Conservation Plan**

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Abstract

The present paper discusses the strategies to use in order to manage and cope with drought in Bugesera Natural Region of Rwanda. In fact, it is aimed at proposing some long term and sustainable mechanisms that can be adopted by Bugesera people in reference to their capacities in order to cope with water scarcity in the region. The paper is based on the experience of Bugesera people with drought and famine in the period of 1998-2002 and the fact that rainy is one of the natural capital that Rwandans have and should exploit. The researchers therefore suggest the rainwater conservation plan by each household of Bugesera respective illages referring to a model village named Kavumu Village. The methods used to get information include documents related to drought in the history of Bugesera and the main characteristics of the region, the interview with the chief of Kavumu village and the observation made in Kavumu village. Basically, the research is qualitative. From this, the researchers made a water conservation plan referring to the local capacities and vulnerabilities that are common to Rwanda in general and those that are found in Bugesera specifically in Kavumu village. The plan suggested consists of two types of tanks for the households in Kavumu village i.e. the tank connected to the house and the underground tank. With this, there is a hope that people can cope with drought and famine in a sustainable way as far as agriculture is important in the economy of Rwandan households. This paper is therefore made in order to serve humanitarian workers in the area of disaster management.

Key Concepts: Drought, climate change, rainwater conservation, local people capacities and local people vulnerabilities.