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FROM EASTERN EUROPE TO EAST AFRICA: A COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS OF THE EFFECTS OF CLIMATE CHANGE ON RURAL DEVELOPMENT IN ROMANIA AND KENYA



Phelyster Nafula KISAMBU¹, Laura SMULEAC², Enoch OPUKA¹, Raul PASCALAU², Thomas Okoth OPIYO¹

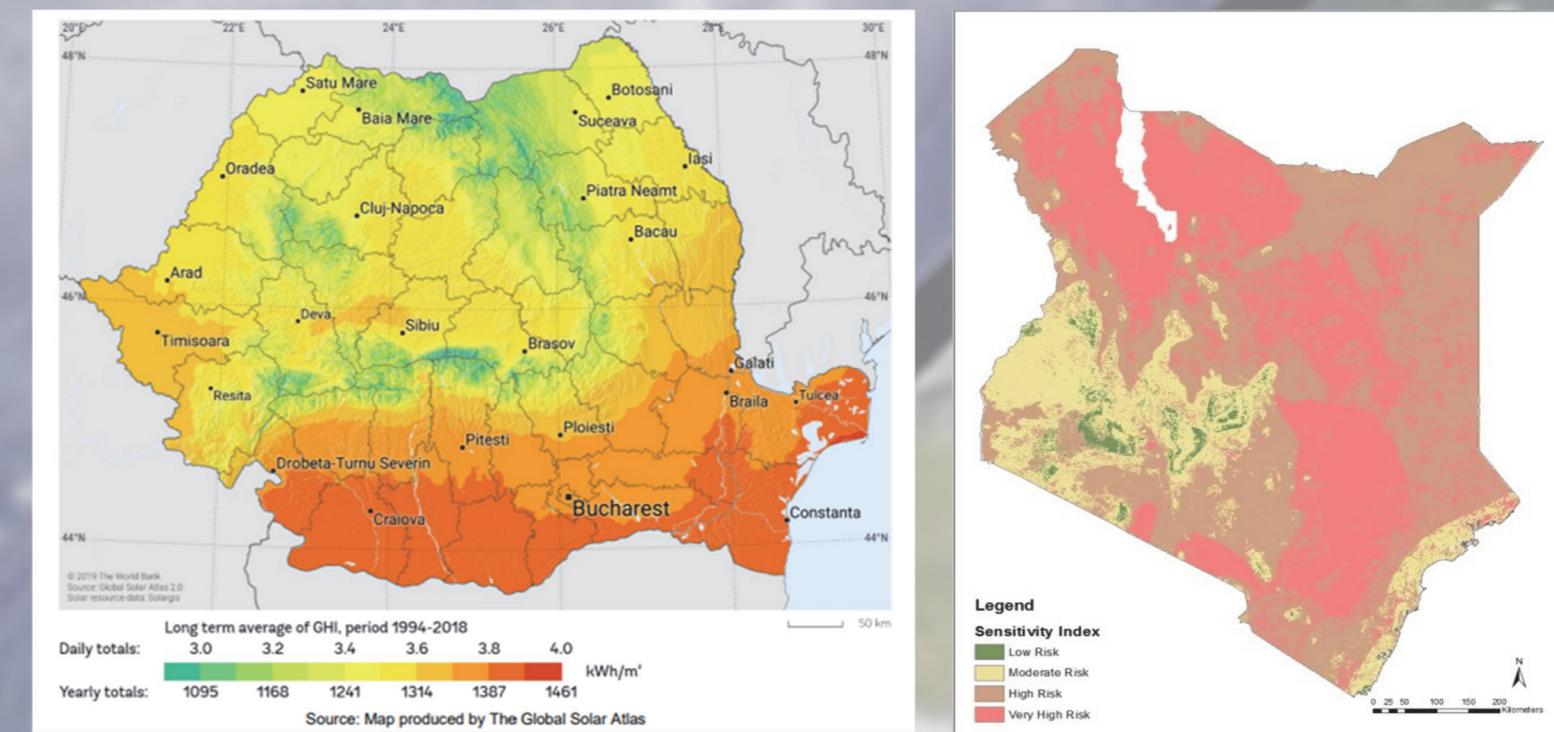
¹*University of Life Sciences „King Mihai I” from Timișoara*

Introduction

Climate change is one of the most significant environmental problems confronting the globe today. Its effects are being seen in many countries across several sectors of society, including rural development. As per the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), the average temperature of the earth's surface has increased by approximately 1°C since the pre-industrial era, an aspect that implies that temperatures will continue to rise in the future. The increase in temperature has resulted in a change in weather patterns, leading to increased incidences and severity of extreme weather events such as droughts, floods, and heatwaves, which have severe consequences for the rural communities that rely heavily on natural resources for their livelihoods. It is factual that based on the different geographical locations, Kenya and Romania have different levels of development and vulnerability to climate change. Kenya is a developing nation situated in East Africa and is characterized by an agricultural economy. In the past few decades, Kenya has been prone to droughts and floods due to climate change leading to unpredictable weather patterns. As a result, agricultural productivity has decreased including the exhaustion of water resources and heightened levels of food insecurity.

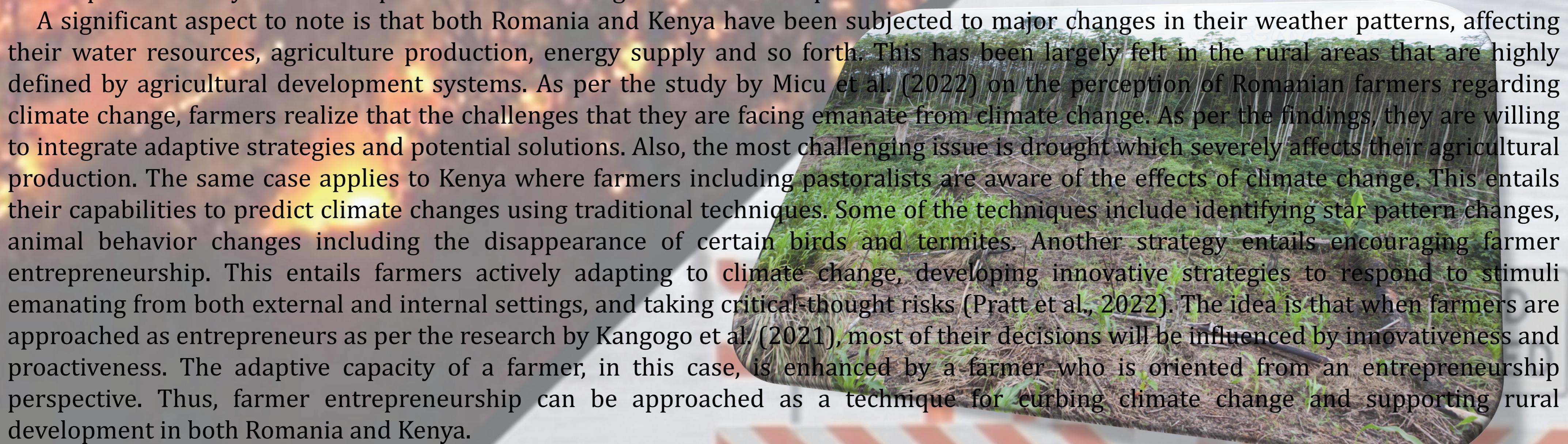
Material and method

The research methodology used to guide the study was secondary data analysis. This entailed identifying recent scholarly articles that had comprehensively addressed the research topic. Several databases were used to access the articles, databases that include Google Scholar, EBSCOhost and Scopus. The search terms used to identify the articles were “rural development” “climate change,” “Kenya” and “Romania.” The articles were chosen based on their relevance to the research topic, the date of publication, and the credibility of the authors. Kenya is blessed with a wide variety of ecosystems that perform important roles in industries crucial to daily life like agriculture, tourism, and fisheries. Therefore, climate variability—especially in Kenya's dry and semi-arid regions—increases the vulnerability to food insecurity and water availability, even if just slightly. The principal rainfed crop, maize, has seen a decrease in production, which has increased food insecurity.



Result and discussions

Comparative analysis of the impacts of climate change on rural development in both countries

A photograph showing a woman in a green dress working in a field. She is bending over, possibly weeding or harvesting. The field is lush and green, with various plants growing. The background shows more of the same agricultural land under a clear sky.

A significant aspect to note is that both Romania and Kenya have been subjected to major changes in their weather patterns, affecting their water resources, agriculture production, energy supply and so forth. This has been largely felt in the rural areas that are highly defined by agricultural development systems. As per the study by Micu et al. (2022) on the perception of Romanian farmers regarding climate change, farmers realize that the challenges that they are facing emanate from climate change. As per the findings, they are willing to integrate adaptive strategies and potential solutions. Also, the most challenging issue is drought which severely affects their agricultural production. The same case applies to Kenya where farmers including pastoralists are aware of the effects of climate change. This entails their capabilities to predict climate changes using traditional techniques. Some of the techniques include identifying star pattern changes, animal behavior changes including the disappearance of certain birds and termites. Another strategy entails encouraging farmer entrepreneurship. This entails farmers actively adapting to climate change, developing innovative strategies to respond to stimuli emanating from both external and internal settings, and taking critical-thought risks (Pratt et al., 2022). The idea is that when farmers are approached as entrepreneurs as per the research by Kangogo et al. (2021), most of their decisions will be influenced by innovativeness and proactiveness. The adaptive capacity of a farmer, in this case, is enhanced by a farmer who is oriented from an entrepreneurship perspective. Thus, farmer entrepreneurship can be approached as a technique for curbing climate change and supporting rural development in both Romania and Kenya.

Conclusions

In conclusion, this report has presented a comparative analysis of the effects of climate change on rural development in Kenya and Romania. The findings indicate that both countries have experienced significant changes in their climate patterns. These changes have had severe consequences for rural communities which highly depend on agricultural activities for their livelihoods. Due to the reliance on secondary data in the study, future research should incorporate primary data to effectively address the subject of interest.