

## ***Climate Education Materials With Sector-Focused Context***

[www.nc-climate.ncsu.edu/edu/ag](http://www.nc-climate.ncsu.edu/edu/ag)  
[www.nc-climate.ncsu.edu/edu/k12](http://www.nc-climate.ncsu.edu/edu/k12)

### **THE NEED**

Agriculture extension agents have a vague knowledge of climate impacts due to El Niño Southern Oscillation (ENSO) events. An online survey of North Carolina extension personnel was conducted in the Spring of 2009 to identify knowledge of, attitude toward, and willingness to use climate information and seasonal climate forecasts. About 84% of the survey population, 109 extension agents, had not received any training in meteorology or climate-related subjects. 82% agreed their work is influenced by ENSO climate events. Within the agriculture community understanding how ENSO impacts their daily routine during planting season is key to their seasonal success.

### **SERVING THE NEED**

A climate education website was assembled by three undergraduate students during the Summer of 2009 with the focus toward agriculture extension agents. The website breaks down weather and climate related terms into a form that is easily understood by extension agents and other sector professionals. An outside resource also provided contextual examples relating the terms to agriculture. This helps to provide a better understanding of the importance of climate and weather to agriculture extension agents by connecting the information within the website to the extension agents' expertise. The focus for the website is sectoral professionals and the website is designed to be easily adapted for other sector audiences.

### **IMPACT**

The initial website designed for the agricultural community turned out so well that the website was adapted for a K-12 educator audience. A survey was conducted for K-12 educators to better understand what they teach about weather and climate in their classrooms and their training on various related topics. The survey is currently being polled and the responses will be used to create activities that will be useful in the classroom related to each of the different topics within the website. Workshops have also been conducted with educators to better improve the look of the website and to gain feedback on the information within each page. Both of the websites are still under construction and will be implemented soon.

Future sectoral audiences include water resource managers, forestry professionals, and public health professionals.

*"...your page definitely has some great stuff I could use!" - Kery Manning, Monument Charter School librarian*

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