



Institutional Adaptations to Climate Change

Community Vulnerability Assessment
of Outlook, Saskatchewan

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Photo credit: Polo Diaz, Bruce Morito, and Bonnie Galenzoski

Community Vulnerability Assessment

Why choose Outlook?...

...IRRIGATI
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Insights into:

- what irrigation means to a community in the SSRB
- how irrigation limits climatic exposure
- how irrigation affects adaptive capacity
- how institutions facilitate irrigation

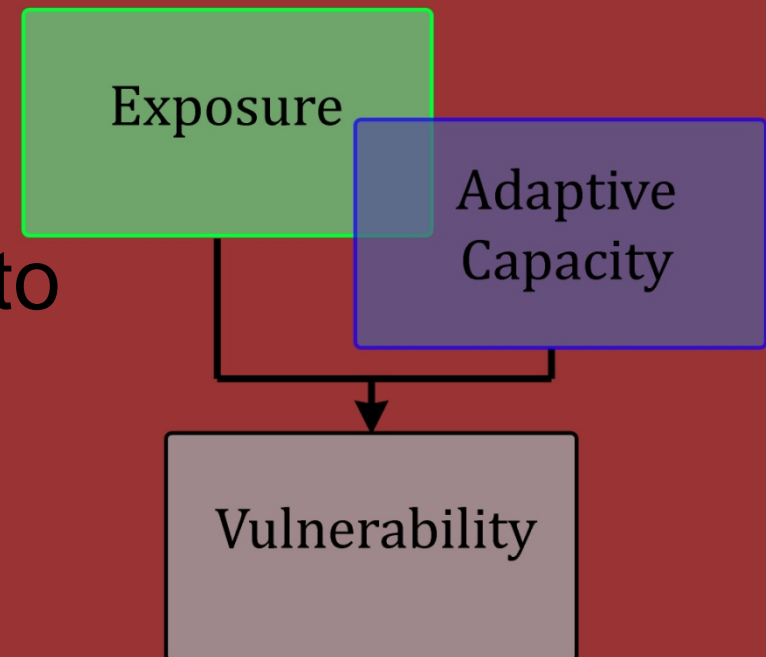
Community Vulnerability Assessment

What we did:

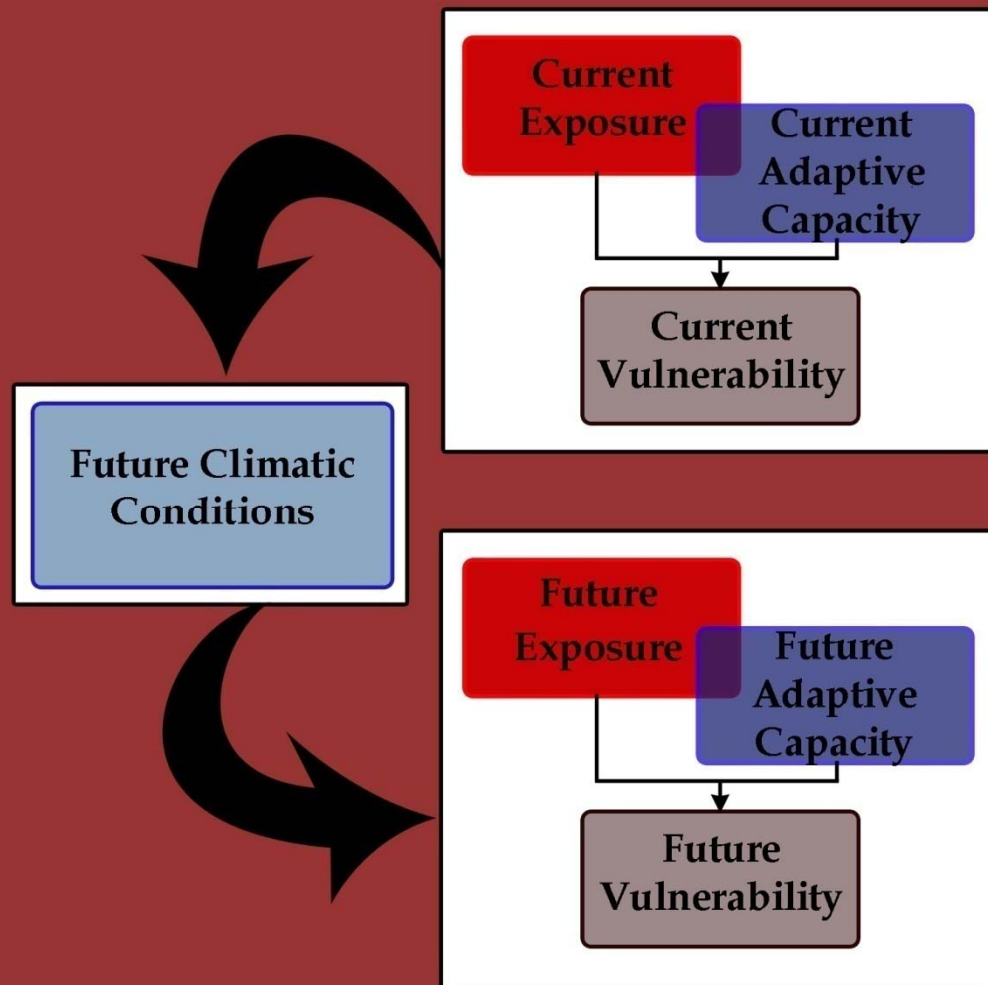
- conducted face to face interviews with community members in order to document first-hand exposures and adaptive strategies
- analyzed the interview data for re-occurring themes related to vulnerability

The Concept of Vulnerability

- Exposure - conditions that affect the community
- Adaptive Capacity - the ability of the community to cope with different exposures
- Vulnerability - a function of exposure and adaptive capacity



Vulnerability Approach



Research Findings – Current Exposures

Climatic and Environmental Exposures:

- Drought (1988, 2001, 2002)
- Frost
- Hail
- High winds
- Disease and pests
- Soil salinity

Research Findings – Current Exposures

Social and Economic Exposures:

- Loss of younger generation
- Poor commodity prices
- High input costs

Research Findings – Current Exposures

Institutional Exposures:

- Increasing insurance premiums, yet decreasing coverage
- Removal of Spot-loss hail coverage
- Removal of Crow Rate

Research Findings – Current Adaptive Strategies

Water Management:

- Conversion from flood to pivot irrigation
- Developing access to multiple water sources (dugouts, wells, etc.)
- Monitoring soil moisture levels to ensure that irrigation water is not over applied

Research Findings – Current Adaptive Strategies

Financial Management:

- Seeking off the farm jobs or custom farming opportunities
- Increase or decrease farm size
- Commodity diversification

Research Findings – Current Adaptive Strategies

Social:

- Social support networks
 - Equipment borrowing or renting
 - Help when needed
 - Advice

Research Findings – Current Adaptive Strategies

Institutional:

- The Provincial Government facilitated the development of irrigation in the area and has done studies into further irrigation development
- RM and Provincial Government put in rural pipelines for drinking water
- Consumptive charges on water use encourage conservation

Thanks!



Photo credit: Bonnie Galenzoski