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Anthropological Perspectives and Policy Implications of Climate Change Research

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Chris Jost with research assistant Salam Bahadio interviewing farmer Al Hadji Issa Kormodo (right) concerning his use of seasonal rainfall forecasts. Bonam, Burkina Faso, February 2001.
Image courtesy of Carla Roncoli

SPECIALS of Climate Research (CR) present important new information on climate phenomena measured and assessed by closely coordinated group efforts. They concentrate on specific research themes or geographic areas.

CR SPECIAL 11 reaches out into areas beyond those addressed in previous SPECIALS. Considering climate variability, human adaptation and social vulnerability, it incorporates essential views of anthropologists, social scientists and policy makers, and thus attempts to build a bridge between the more quantitative, objective climate assessment methods of the natural sciences and the more qualitative, contextual and subjective methods of the social sciences.

The contributions to CR SPECIAL 11 focus on documenting current case studies on human responses to

extreme climate conditions in different localities of the earth. They underline the need for: (1) more human-oriented insights into local climate-crop interrelations; (2) better farmer access to modern climate forecasting; (3) improved information for farmers on agricultural services and technologies; (4) new policies that support the sustainability of rural livelihoods; (5) knowledge that can improve climate-change policy making; (6) combinations of quantitative and qualitative methods.

With respect to broader ethical and political contexts reference is made to the significance of deepening North-South dialogues on social justice and equity for the international debate on global warming.

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