



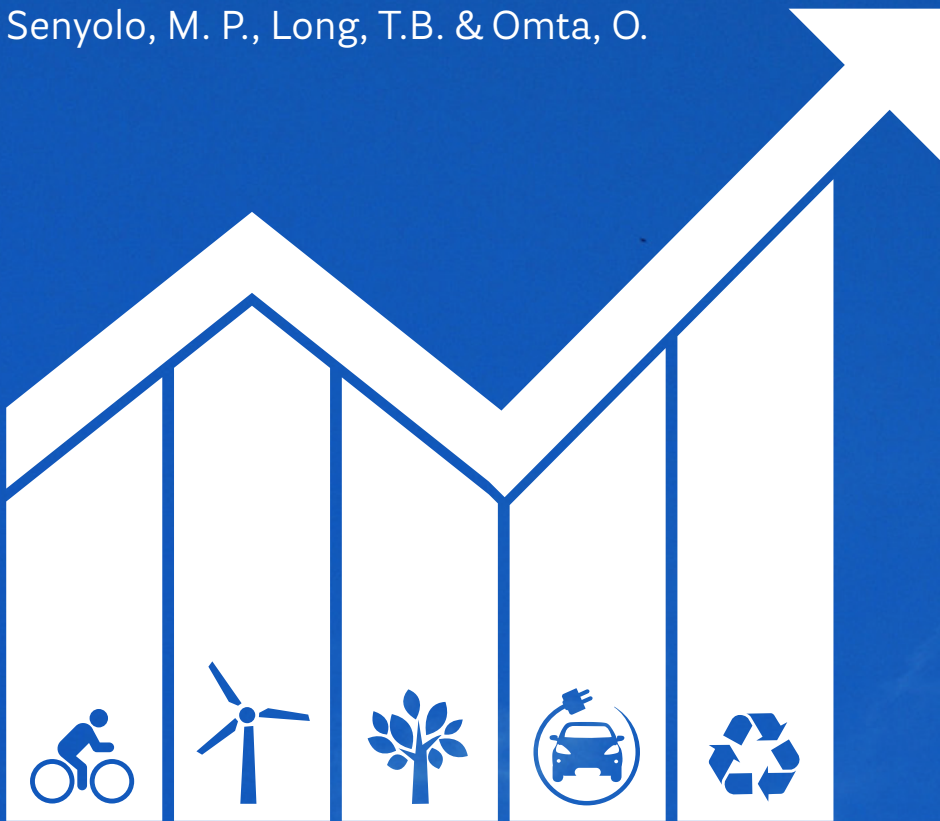
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Enhancing the adoption of climate-smart technologies using public-private partnerships: lessons from the WEMA case in South Africa

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Enhancing the adoption of climate-smart technologies using public-private partnerships: lessons from the WEMA case in South Africa

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Abstract

Climate-smart agricultural technological innovations have the potential to reduce climate change impacts on agriculture. Due to several barriers, their current rate of adoption and diffusion is low. Public-private partnerships (PPPs) have the potential to facilitate technology development and dissemination to smallholder farmers. The aim of this paper is to examine the role of the water efficient maize for Africa (WEMA) project in enhancing technology adoption by smallholder farmers in South Africa. This study explores how PPPs enhance technology adoption and highlights the challenges faced within PPPs using WEMA case. A critical analysis, involving iterative process helped to construct a comprehensive narrative. We found that disputed outcomes, stakeholder concerns, shortage of seeds, disinclination of local companies to market new seeds, upkeep of previous relationships, contractual arrangements and high level of expertise and skills required from farmers were the main factors that affected the efficacy and impact of WEMA on the targeted output and beneficiaries.

Keywords: Climate-smart agriculture technological innovations, public-private partnerships, water efficient maize for Africa, technology adoption, smallholder farmers