Effects of drought on economic development

- Sharp drop in crop yields — of cash crops for export, and the supply of seed available for next season's planting.
- Increases in food prices, in the level of malnutrition, black marketeering, and human and livestock deaths.
- Migration into the cities from the rural areas.
- Depletion of scarce foreign currency (for emergency grain purchases) that creates long-term foreign debts; a dependence on costly food imports that inevitably derails long-range development programs.

The scientific remonstrable on climate and drought in Africa adopted a draft Plan of Action to Combat Drought in Africa to remind African leaders and foreign-aid donors of their need to develop post-drought, recovery programs while they are in the midst of drought and to avoid stop-gap responses such as rebuilding the huts of evicted and relocating refugees.

While leaders of newly independent African countries have had to cope with a score of crises traditional to the development process they also have had to deal with drought for a large part of the period of Independence.

The effects of drought have come with, and even worsened, some of the other consequences to economic development.

Despite recurrent droughts, policymakers in Africa and donor countries continue to consider droughts as transitory, yet the current drought is this fourth in West Africa this century. Such an attitude leads to almost no recognition of the drought's effects.

Putting new land under cultivation in West Africa was started by governments from 1953 to 1967. A serious drought followed. Government officials tried to increase agricultural production to keep up with the food shortage. There was no success, but they unwittingly set up the farmland that occurred in 1968 and 1973. Farmers in the newly cultivated areas believed they had become victims of the natural disaster, in reality they were victims of government decisions.

POST DROUGHT RECOVERY
People consider drought a passing phenomenon: Here this season, gone next season, and to be repeated almost every year. And droughts are natural events that leave an area unprepared for the return of drought or rain.

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