



Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences

Department of Development Studies

**AN INVESTIGATION OF CLIMATE COPING AND ADAPTATION
STRATEGIES UNDERTAKEN BY HOUSEHOLDS IN CHIVI DISTRICT
WARD 22**

BY

CLEMENCIA TAONANA

L010 0173K SUPERVISOR: MS S. NDLOVU

**A DISSERTATION SUBMITTED IN PARTIAL FULFILMENT OF THE
REQUIREMENTS FOR THE BACHELOR OF SOCIAL SCIENCE
HONOURS DEGREE IN DEVELOPMENT STUDIES**

MAY 2014

ABSTRACT

The goal of this study was to examine the strategies used by small holder farmers to adapt to and cope with climate change and variability in Chivi District. While change and variability continue to threaten livelihoods and undermine community resilience, households devise methods to cope with and adapt to these changes. However, farmers continue to experience food insecurity. This study used both qualitative and quantitative research approaches to examine how households cope with and adapt to climate change variability in Chivi District, Zimbabwe. Results indicated that farmers in Chivi District use irrigation, gardening, cross border trading, conservation agriculture and small grain production to adapt to climate change and variability. Research also identified selling livestock, food for assets, remittances and off farm work as the main coping strategies that are utilized by farmers in the district for lack of seed and fertilizer, lack of information, unreliable water sources and lack of credit are hindering their adaptive capacity. The study therefore, recommends that all stakeholders should work together to ensure that communities have access to resources, information and inputs, and also ensure that communities engage in income generating activities so as to diversify livelihood strategies to reduce household vulnerability levels and improve their welfare