To use or not to use climate information: a Q methodology analysis on stakeholders' perceptions on climate information in order to deal with drought.

Recently worldwide awareness regarding droughts has increased, considering their frequency, harshness and length, given shifting climatic conditions and severe climate events.
Drought turns into catastrophe, when there is an impact on the population, the economy and the environment. In Uruguay drought is the climate event that has the greatest impact on livestock producers. Livestock production is historically the most important economic activity in Uruguay. It concentrates the majority of small and middle range farmers in the country. The process to adjustment in order to face drought in livestock production started 30 years ago, involving policy makers, government institutions and scientists. As suggested by the World Meteorological Organization measures like regional coordination of drought monitoring, prediction, early warning activities serves as an interface between the climate service providers and stakeholders. This interface becomes a target point to understand how stakeholders process climate information in order to respond to drought.

This paper uses Q methodology for analyzing stakeholders' subjectivity in order to examine the extent to which differently situated stakeholders agree or disagree about baseline constructions of climate available information to face drought. The results show points of divergence between the uses and access to climate information, as well as points of pragmatic optimism, apocalyptic views and non credibility. However, there is consensus in the importance of decision making to face the problem. The divergences between actors suggest that broader information and the methods used to inform and debate about drought management, are crucial to comprehending and addressing this issue.