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Farmers, officials and politicians have different perceptions of drought in the Dry Zone. This study attempts to investigate the different perceptions and desired adjustments of these three categories and their agreement and disagreement with each other. The study is based on : (i) direct interviewing of farmers using a pre-designed questionnaire; (ii) open (group) interviews with farmers; (iii) field observations; (iv) discussions with officials individually and collectively where necessary and (v) the use of available archival data including a large number of farmers' petitions to government officials.

Some of the major findings are : (a) the wide variation in perception among the members of each group as well as among the three different groups due to a wide range of reasons; (b) in respect of adjustments, farmers distinctly disagree with the officials and the politicians while the adjustments intended by officials and politicians are often similar; (c) that there are more than 26 ways of adjustments to drought attempted by the farmers whereas both politicians and officials have a very narrow range of adjustments that they expect the farmers to adopt and (d) the need to consider farmers' perception of and adjustment to drought in the development efforts spear-headed by the officials and politicians with the evolution of a suitable mechanism to achieve that end.