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## **Factors Influencing Climate Adaptation: Evidence from Smallholder Farmers Mphashe Local Municipality, South Africa**

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**ABSTRACT** Climate change and variability are major challenges in agricultural productivity as farming is climate sensitive. Most African farmers rely on rain-fed agriculture, and most of these farmers are found in rural areas. This study explores the adaptation strategies adopted by crop-producing smallholder farmers to mitigate the effects of climate variability. This study was conducted in Mphashe local municipality, where 207 farmers were interviewed using semi-structured questionnaires. The study used a multi-stage sampling procedure. According to the findings, 89.86 percent of farmers reported adapting to climate variability. The probit model results showed that farmers' choice of adoption is influenced by several socio-economic factors like a farmer's age, marital status, household income, education level, and access to extension. According to the study, extension services should be available to all types of farmers, including those who farm alone, because they are critical for adapting to climate variability, educating farmers about climate change, and providing them with information on expected climatic variations.