Seasonal forecasts are important in decision-making and planning, for example, in agriculture, water, and climate risk management. They allow stakeholders to take decisions in advance that convey financial savings, risk reduction, and better resource management by providing an early warning of high-impact climate scenarios. These forecasts help farmers choose the best crops at the optimal time to plant by anticipating available water (especially for prudent farmers) (Werner & Linés, 2024). Moreover, they enable strategic decisions like pre-harvest hedging, but adoption might be constrained by the perception of their inaccuracies and complexity (Hunt et al., 2020).

Seasonal forecasts play an important role to anticipate the onset of droughts to alleviate their potential impacts in semi-arid regions by acting proactively to prevent damages, for instance, through better reservoir operations to reduce losses ("Seasonal forecasts provide economic benefits for hydrological decision-making in semi-arid regions", 2022; Portele et al., 2021). Seasonal forecasts can also be linked to hydrological models to predict changes in water balance and improve decision-making, though their value can be constrained by discrepancies between the predicted and desired variables (Eyto et al., 2022; MacLeod et al., 2023).

These forecasts are increasingly applied in climate risk mitigation because they provide the tools to predict relevant extreme meteorological events on the day scale, providing the necessary window for decision-makers to take preventive action, albeit with varying success at different places (Kreienkamp & Geiger, 2023). Third, the economic value of seasonal forecasts has been demonstrated across a number of sectors (energy, water) due to the customized nature of forecasts that makes them more relevant to their users. (Goodess et al., 2022)

In conclusion,although seasonal forecasts have significant benefits, their effectiveness is related to their accuracy, relevance to user needs, and complexity, emphasizing on the need for improved communication and training to maximize their usefulness in the process of decision-making.

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