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**Climate Change, Agriculture,
Poverty and Livelihoods:
A Status Report**

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CLIMATE CHANGE, AGRICULTURE, POVERTY AND LIVELIHOODS: A STATUS REPORT

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Abstract

This paper assesses the impact of climate change on Indian agriculture covering a cross section of crops, seasons and regions based on existing literature. The study notes that the impact of climate change will vary across crops, regions and climate change scenarios. The evidences indicate a decrease in production of crops in different parts of India with an increase in temperature. A number of studies indicate a probability of 10 % to 40% loss in crop production in India with increases in temperature by 2080-2100. In areas located above 27° N latitude yields of irrigated and rainfed wheat are projected to rise in response to climate change whereas in all other locations yields are projected to decline by -2.3% to -23.9 %. Temperature rises of between 2° C to 3.5 ° C is projected to lead to a loss of 3-26 % in net agricultural revenues. Increasing climate sensitivity of Indian agriculture will lead to greater instability of India's food production which will also impact on poverty and livelihoods. How quickly Indian farmers are able to adjust their farming practices to adapt to climate change, and what policies or technologies will enable rapid adaptation to climate change are issues that merit attention.

Introduction

Climate change will have a profound impact on human and eco-systems during the coming decades through variations in global average temperature and rainfall according to the Fourth Assessment Report (FAR) of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC). Agriculture and allied sectors are highly sensitive to climate change. It will also affect livelihoods and human well-being. Consequently, the interaction between agricultural performance and weather, which has been an important area of research since the last few decades, has gained momentum due to the awareness of the adverse effects of climate change on agriculture and livelihood. In the context of developing nations such as India, where agriculture continues to support the livelihoods of more than two-thirds of the population, a study of the nature and impact of climate change on agriculture and people's livelihoods assumes importance.

Climate Variability: Indian Context

India is a large country with 15 agro-climatic zones, diverse seasons, crops and farming systems. For a majority of the people in India, agriculture is the main source of livelihood. Agriculture is also most vulnerable to climate change because it is inherently sensitive to climate variability. Climate change will have an impact on Indian agriculture in various direct and indirect ways besides affecting the lives and livelihood of millions of Indians.

Agriculture and allied activities, such as livestock and fisheries, constitute an important component of India's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) contributing nearly 25 per cent of the GDP and

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providing employment opportunities to two-thirds of the population. The South-west monsoon, which brings most of the region's precipitation dominates Indian climate and is critical for the availability of irrigation for agriculture. Agricultural productivity is sensitive to two broad classes of climate-induced effects — (1) direct effects from changes in temperature, precipitation, and carbon dioxide concentrations (2) indirect effects through changes in soil moisture and the distribution and frequency of infestation by pests and diseases.

Box-1

Opinion of Opinion Makers

Climate change may initially have small positive effects on a few rich countries in high latitudes but is likely to be very damaging when temperature increases by mid- to late-century under Business as Usual (BAU) scenarios. (Stern Review, 2007)

A wide array of adaptation options is available but more extensive adaptation than is currently occurring is required to reduce vulnerability to future climate change. There are barriers, limits and costs, but these are not fully understood. (IPCC, 2007)

The idea that developing countries like India and China must share the blame for heating up the earth and destabilising its climate, as espoused in a recent study published in the United States by the World Resources Institute in collaboration with the United Nations, is an excellent example of environmental colonialism. (Global Warming In an Unequal world, CSE, 1992)

The manner in which the global warming debate is being carried out is only sharpening and deepening the North-South divide. Given this newfound interest in the so-called Our Common Future and Future Generations, it is time for the Third World to ask the West, "Whose future generations are we seeking to protect, the Western World's or the Third World's"? (CSE, 1992)

Poverty reduction and sustainable development remain core global priorities. Yet climate change must urgently be addressed. Economic growth alone is unlikely to be fast or equitable enough to counter threats from climate change, particularly if it remains carbon-intensive and accelerates global warming. A climate-smart world is within our reach if we act now, together and differently than we have in the past. (World Development Report, 2010)

Furthermore, agriculture will be adversely affected not only by an increase or decrease in the overall amount of rainfall, but also by shifts in the timing of the rainfall. For instance, over the last few years, the Chattisgarh region received less than its share of pre-monsoon showers in May and June. These showers are important to ensure adequate moisture in fields being prepared for paddy cultivation. Agriculture will be worst affected in the coastal regions of Gujarat and Maharashtra, where agriculturally fertile areas are vulnerable to inundation and salinisation. Standing crops in these regions are also more likely to be damaged due to cyclonic activity. In Rajasthan, a rise in temperature by 2° C was estimated to reduce production of pearl millet by 10-15 per cent. Madhya Pradesh, where soyabean is grown on 77 per cent of all agricultural land, could ironically benefit from an increase in carbon dioxide in the atmosphere. For example, a study by Lal *et al* (1999) shows that, soyabean yields could go up by as much as 50 per cent if the concentration of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere doubles.

However, if this increase in carbon dioxide is accompanied by an increase in temperature, as expected, then soyabean yields could actually decrease. If the maximum and minimum temperatures go up by 1°C and 1.5°C respectively, the gain in yield comes down to 35 per cent. If maximum and minimum temperatures rise by 3°C and 3.5°C respectively, then soyabean yields will decrease. Changes in the soil, pests and weeds brought about by climate change will also affect agriculture in India. For instance, the amount of moisture in the soil will be affected by changes in factors such as precipitation, run-off and evaporation. Scientists predict that because of global warming, this already erratic weather system could become even more undependable. Semi-arid regions of western India are expected to receive higher than normal rainfall as temperatures soar while central India will experience a decrease of 10 to 20 per cent in winter rainfall by the 2050s (Rupakumar *et al*, 1992).

Kavi Kumar and Parikh (1998) showed that the economic impact would be significant even after accounting for farm-level adaptation. The loss in net revenue at the farm level is estimated to be between 9 and 25 per cent for a 2°C to 3.5°C rise in temperature. Sanghi, Mendelsohn and Dinar (1998) also attempted to incorporate adaptation options while estimating the agricultural impact. They calculated that a 2° C rise in mean temperature and a 7 per cent increase in mean precipitation would reduce net revenues by 12.3 per cent for the entire country. Agriculture in the coastal regions of Gujarat, Maharashtra and Karnataka is found to be the most negatively affected. Small losses are also indicated for the major foodgrain producing regions of Punjab, Haryana and western Uttar Pradesh. On the other hand, West Bengal, Orissa and Andhra Pradesh are predicted to benefit – to a small extent – from warming.

Objectives

From the above discussion we see that there multiple problems are associated with climate change and agriculture would be worst affected, which in turn, will affect the livelihood of the communities depending on agriculture.

Keeping in view the above, the objectives of the study are as follows:

Broad objective:

- To analyse the implications of climate change on Indian agriculture, poverty and livelihood

Specific Objectives:

1. To review the effects of climate change on Indian agricultural across crops, seasons, and regions
2. To review the effects of climate change on irrigated and non-irrigated agriculture
3. To assess the vulnerability of the Indian agricultural sector to climate change and its impact on livelihood and poverty.

Approach

The study analyses the available secondary information and literature on climate variability and its effects on the Indian agricultural sector and the livelihood of the people. Keeping in view the diverse effects of climate change, the present study reviews the literature across geographical locations, crops and seasons.

Understanding Climate Change

The increase in economic activities and change in lifestyle patterns has caused lot of environmental damage to the earth. It is observed that 'climate change' is the most serious environmental issue that the modern world is going to face in the 21st century. The earth's climate is frequently changing and leading to degradation of biodiversity, water and soil resources, desertification, coastal erosion, decrease in agricultural productivity etc. As per the IPCC, climate change refers to any change in climate over time, either due to natural variability or as a result of human activity (IPCC 2007b). The UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) refers to climate change as a change that is attributable directly or indirectly to human activity that alters the composition of the global atmosphere in addition to the natural climate variability observed over comparable periods of time (IPCC 2007b). Climate change mainly refers to a statistically significant variation in either the mean state of the climate persisting for an extended period, usually decades, or in its variability (GOI, 2008). Climate change occurs due to natural internal processes, external forces, persistent anthropogenic changes in the composition of the atmosphere or in land use (GOI, 2008). The world community faces many risks from climate change.

The concept of 'climate change' is becoming an important area of research not only in the natural sciences but also in the social sciences. The scientific evidence, including the Fourth Assessment Report (AR4) of the Inter-governmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) 2007, has asserted that it poses unprecedented challenges to human society and eco-systems in the 21st Century, particularly in the developing nations (i.e. global south – geographically situated at the tropical region; e.g. see McCarthy *et al.*, 2001; Parry *et al.*, 2009). The research, however, has been dominated by scientific discourse, especially by a group of climate scientists, since the early 19th Century (Box 2). It is, in general, based on the 'dose-response model and sensitivity analyses', and thereby focused on potential physical impact with respect to the spatio-temporal scale. Despite these noteworthy efforts in the scientific discourse, it is still not able to justify the issues related to climate policy. For example, what should be done to mitigate it? Whether to mitigate it or adapt? What is the trade-off between both with respect to economic and environmental sustainability? More importantly, the persistent 'uncertainty' over the emission of greenhouse gases (GHGs), the sinking capacity of the oceans, waste lands, forests, melting of ice in Greenland and the Himalayas (though there is a protracted debate over this) and the physical impact have restrained the scientific communities and policy makers from taking decisions in this context (Goulder and Pizer, 2006). Furthermore, since most of the dominant scientific predictions are macro perspectives (e.g. global as well as region-specific) and considering climate change as the only stress on society, it seems very difficult for a small nation, especially local stakeholders, to tackle a wide range of risks including that of climate change.

The impact of climate change will persist. It is estimated that climate change will affect the basic elements of life around the world like access to water, food production, healthcare and the environment. Millions of people could suffer from hunger, water shortage and coastal flooding, as the world gets warmer. The overall costs and risks of climate change are expected to be equivalent to losing at least 5 per cent of global GDP each year, if we do not act now. If a wider range of risks is taken into account, the estimated damage could rise to 20 per cent of GDP or more (Stern, 2007). There are certain regions, sectors, ecosystems and social groups, which will be, affected the most by climate change and the consequences of economic globalisation. Managing the impact of climate change, therefore, poses a challenge to governments and societies.

Kavi Kumar (2007) provides an overview of the available evidence of climate change on Indian agriculture covering impact, vulnerability and adaptation assessments. Kumar and Parikh (2001a) used an integrated modeling framework to assess the socio-economic impact of climate change on Indian agriculture. The changes in crop yield under various climate-change scenarios are incorporated into an applied general equilibrium model of the Indian economy to assess the effect on welfare. Kumar and Parikh (2001b) estimated the relationship between farm level net revenue and climate variables in India using district level data. The study also explores the influence of annual weather and crop prices on the climate response function.

Sathaye *et al.*, (2006) argue that from the perspective of a developing country like India, a sustainable development agenda will be the prudent way to address the concerns over climate change. Aggarwal (1990) analyses the coping capacity of the rural people, especially women, to the seasonal downturns in the agricultural production cycle and calamities such as drought and famine. It also discusses the effectiveness of the coping mechanisms adopted, the intra-household sharing of the burden of coping and the appropriate state and non-state interventions to strengthen the survival mechanisms adopted by the families.

Global warming and climate change are often interchangeably used and understood. However, these terms are not identical. Climate change includes both warming and cooling conditions while global warming pertains only to climatic changes related to increase in temperature (Grover, 2004). The climatic system is a complex interactive system consisting of the atmosphere, land surface, snow and ice, oceans and other bodies of water and living things. The atmospheric component of the climatic system most obviously characterises climate. It is often defined as 'average weather'. Climate is usually described in terms of the mean and variability of temperature, precipitation and wind over a period of time ranging from months to millions of years (IPCC, 2007a).

Box-2

Scientific Discourse

In the early 19th Century, the French mathematician Jean Baptiste Fourier (1827) floated the theory of the 'hothouse effect' of climate regulation by establishing atmosphere as a key determinant of global temperature (Spash, 2002: 12). John Tyndall (1861) and Svante Arrhenius (1896) – founder of the 'greenhouse effect' – made an attempt to take forward the research on climate change with their corresponding observations: CO₂ and water are radiative absorbers affecting climate and double the CO₂ leads to increase in the temperature by 5 to 6 degree Celsius (Cited in Spash, 2002: 12). In the early 20th Century, G S Callendar (1938) solved a set of equations linked to GHGs and climate change. He observed that the doubling of atmospheric concentration of CO₂ resulted in an increase of the mean global temperature by 2 degree Celsius with considerably more warming at the poles (c.f. Le Treut *et al.*, 2007: 105). Furthermore, in the latter half of the 20th Century, a substantial number of research institutes – especially in the US and EU and particularly with the initiation of the IPCC in 1988 (i.e. under the auspices of WMO and UNEP) – emerged in order to understand the scientific roots of climate change. Substantial scientific literature exists but the science is uncertain with regard to the prediction of the emission of GHGs and observation on the physical impact not only in macro but also in the micro-perspective, which confuses scientists as well as policy makers regarding response strategy to be adopted in future.

The atmosphere surrounding the earth is made up of nitrogen (78%), oxygen (21%) and the rest is made up of trace gases (so called because they are present in very small quantities) that include carbon dioxide, methane and nitrous oxide. These gases, also called greenhouse gases, act as a blanket, trap heat radiating from the earth and make the atmosphere warm. Beginning with the industrial revolution and natural causes the global atmospheric concentrations of these greenhouse gases have increased. The global increases in the concentration of carbon dioxide are due primarily to the use of fossil fuel and changes in land-use while those of methane and nitrous oxide are primarily due to agriculture. As a result, we are witnessing global warming.

The increasing GHGs resulted in global warming by 0.74°C over the past 100 years and 11 of the 12 warmest years were recorded between 1995 and 2006 (IPCC, 2007b). The IPCC projections on temperature predict an increase of 1.8 to 4.0°C by the end of this century (IPCC, 2007b). Some changes will have an impact on agriculture by affecting crops, soil, livestock, fisheries and pests directly and indirectly. Tropical countries are likely to be affected more than the countries in the temperate regions. The brunt of environmental changes on India is expected to be very high due to greater dependence on agriculture, limited natural resources, alarming increase in human and livestock population, changing patterns in land use and socio-economic factors that pose a great threat in meeting the growing food, fibre, fuel and fodder requirements. Global warming due to the greenhouse effect is expected to affect the hydrological cycle viz., precipitation, evapo-transpiration, soil moisture etc., which will pose new challenges for agriculture.

Global Scenario of Climate Change

1. Current Scenario

The global atmospheric concentration of carbon dioxide, a GHG largely responsible for global warming, increased from the pre-industrial value of about 280 ppm (particles per million) to 379 ppm in 2005. Similarly, the global atmospheric concentration of methane, nitrous oxides and other GHGs has also increased considerably. The increase in GHGs was 70 per cent between 1970 and 2004. Eleven of the last twelve years rank as the 12 warmest years since 1850. The mean temperature of the earth changed by 0.74°C between 1906 and 2005. Most of the observed increase in global average temperatures since the mid-20th century has been due to the observed increase in anthropogenic concentrations of GHGs. During the last 50 years, cold days and nights, and frost have become less frequent, while hot days and nights, and heat waves have become more frequent. The frequency of heavy precipitation events has increased over most land areas. Global sea level rose at an average rate of 1.8 mm per year between 1961 and 2003. This rate was faster between 1993 and 2003 about 3.1 mm per year. Mendelsohn and Dinar (1999) focused on the impact of climate change on the agricultural sector in developing nations such as India and Brazil. This study compared and contrasted results using three broad approaches: agronomic, agro-economic and Ricardian models.

2. Future Projections

The projected temperature increase by the end of this century is likely to be in the range of 2 to 4.5°C with a best estimate of about 3°C and is very unlikely to be less than 1.5°C. Values substantially higher than 4.5°C cannot be excluded. It is likely that future tropical cyclones will become more intense with larger peak wind speeds and heavier precipitation. For the next two decades, a 0.2°C increase in warming per decade is projected. Even if all emissions were stopped now, a further warming of about 0.1°C per decade would be expected. Himalayan glaciers and snow covers are projected to contract. It is very likely that hot extremes, heat waves and heavy precipitation events will continue to become more frequent. Increase in precipitation is very likely in high-latitudes while decrease is likely in most subtropical land regions going by recent trends. The projected rise in sea level by the end of this century is likely to be 0.18 to 0.59 meters. The average global surface ocean pH is projected to reduce between 0.14 and 0.35 units during the 21st Century.

Indian Scenario of Climate Change

1. Current Scenario

Analyses done by the Indian Meteorology Department and the Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology, Pune, generally show temperature, heat waves, droughts and floods, and sea level increasing while glaciers decrease. It is similar to indications of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) of the United Nations. The magnitude of the change varies in some cases. Across India, no trend was observed in monsoon rainfall during the last 100 years. However, some regional patterns were noted. Areas along the West coast, North Andhra Pradesh and North-west India reported an increase in monsoon rainfall. Some places across east Madhya Pradesh and adjoining areas, North-east India and

parts of Gujarat and Kerala (-6 to -8% of normal over 100 years) recorded a decreasing trend. Surface air temperature for the period 1901 – 2000 indicates a significant warming of 0.4°C over 100 years. The spatial distribution of changes in temperature indicated a significant warming trend along the West coast, Central India, interior Peninsula and Northeast India. However, a cooling trend was observed in the northwest and some parts of Southern India. Instrumental records over the past 130 years do not show any significant long-term trend in the frequency of large-scale droughts or floods in the summer monsoon season. The total frequency of cyclonic storms that form over the Bay of Bengal has remained almost constant over the period 1887 – 1997. There is evidence that the glaciers in the Himalayas are receding at a rapid pace.

2. Future Projections

It is projected that by the end of the 21st Century rainfall will increase by 15 – 31 per cent and the mean annual temperature will increase by 3° C to 6° C. The warming is more pronounced over land areas, with the maximum increase in Northern India. The warming is also projected to be relatively greater in the winter and post-monsoon seasons. The present study extensively reviewed the projections for the future and the impact of climate change on India's agriculture.

Impacts of Climate Change on Agriculture

- Although an increase in carbon dioxide is likely to be beneficial to several crops, associated increase in temperature and increased variability in rainfall would considerably affect food production. The recent IPCC report (IPCC 2007) and a few other global studies (Cf: Parry *et al*, 1994; Dinar *et al*, 1998) indicate a probability of 10 to 40% loss in crop production in India with increase in temperature by 2080 – 2100.
- A few Indian studies on this theme generally confirm an agricultural decline with climate change (Cf: Aggarwal and Kalra, 1994; Dinar *et al*, 1998; Kavi Kumar and Parikh, 2001a, 2001b; Kavi Kumar 2009). Recent studies done at the Indian Agricultural Research Institute indicate the possibility of a loss of 4 to 5 million tons in wheat production in future with every 1°C rise in temperature during the growing period (but no adaptation benefits) (Kalra *et al*, 2007). It also assumes that irrigation would be available in future at today's levels. Losses for other crops are still uncertain but they are expected to be relatively smaller, especially for *kharif* crops.
- It is, however, possible for farmers and other stakeholders to adapt to a limited extent and reduce the losses (possible adaptation options are described later in this document). Simple adaptations such as change in planting dates and crop varieties could help reduce the adverse effects of climate change to some extent. For example, the Indian Agricultural Research Institute study cited above indicates that loss in wheat production in future could be reduced from 4 – 5 million tons to 1 – 2 million tons if farmers adopted timely planting habits and changed to better adapted wheat varieties. This change of planting, however, would have to be examined from the cropping systems perspective.
- Increasing climatic variability associated with global warming, nevertheless, will result in considerable seasonal/annual fluctuations in food production (Mall *et al*, 2006). All agricultural

commodities even today are sensitive to such variability. Droughts, floods, tropical cyclones, heavy precipitation events, hot extremes and heat waves are known to impact agricultural production and farmers' livelihood negatively. The projected increase in these events will result in greater instability in food production and threaten the livelihood of the farmers.

- Increasing glacier melt in the Himalayas will affect availability of irrigation especially in the Indo-Gangetic plains, which, in turn, has large consequences on our food production.
- Global warming in the short-term is likely to favour agricultural production in the temperate regions (largely northern Europe, North America) and negatively impact crop production in tropical areas (South Asia, Africa). This will affect food prices and trade and, consequently, our food security.
- Small changes in temperature and rainfall could have a significant effect on the quality of cereals, fruits, aromatic and medicinal plants and result in changes in prices and trade patterns.
- Pathogens and insect populations are strongly dependent upon temperature and humidity. Increases in these parameters will change their population density resulting in loss in yield.
- Global warming could increase water, shelter and energy requirements of livestock to meet the projected increase in demand for milk. Climate change is likely to aggravate the heat stress in dairy animals and adversely affect their productive and reproductive capabilities. A preliminary estimate indicates that global warming is likely to lead to a loss of 1.6 million tonnes in milk production in India by 2020.
- Increasing sea and river water temperature is likely to affect fish breeding, migration and harvest. A rise in temperature as low as 1°C could have an important and rapid effect on the mortality rate and the geographical distribution of fish. The oil sardine fishery did not exist before 1976 in the northern latitudes and along the east coast as the resource was not available since the sea surface temperature (SST) was not congenial for it. With warming of sea surface, oil sardine is able to find the temperature in the northern latitudes and eastern longitudes suitable for survival and breeding, thereby extending the boundaries to larger coastal areas.

In India, various studies observed an increasing trend in temperature (Table 1). Table 1 gives the detail of studies that reveal that there is no significant trend in rainfall across India. However, some studies note regional variations in rainfall (Rupa Kumar *et al*, 1992; Kripalani *et al*, 1996; Singh *et al*, 2001 etc).

Table 1: Observed Climate Change during the 20th Century in India

| Region | Study | Temperature | Rainfall |
|--|--|--|--|
| All India | Hingane <i>et al.</i> , 1985 | Increase in 0.4 ⁰ C/100 years in the mean annual temp. | - |
| All India | Rupa Kumar <i>et al.</i> , 1994 | Increase in Max. temp. (0.60 C/100 years) Min. temp. trend less. General increase in the diurnal range of temp | - |
| Western Himalayas | Pant <i>et al.</i> , 1999 | Winter season, Srinagar, Mussoorie and Mukteswar show increasing trend (0.5 ⁰ C/100 yrs) Monsoon season, Srinagar, which is beyond the monsoon regime, shows significant increasing trend, whereas Mussoorie and Dehradun at the foothills of Himalaya show decreasing trend | No increasing or decreasing trend for last 100 yrs |
| Indo-Gangetic Plain Region (IGPR) | Singh and Sontakke, 2002 | Annual surface air temperature of the IGPR showed rising trend (0.53 ⁰ C/100 yrs, during 1875-1958) Decreasing trend (-0.93 ⁰ C/100 yrs during 1958-1997) | Summer monsoon rainfall over western IGPR shows increasing trend (170 mm/100 yrs) from 1900 while over Central IGPR it shows decreasing trend (5 mm/100 yrs) from 1939 and over eastern IGPR (50 mm/100 yrs) during 1900-1984 and increasing trend (480 mm/100 yrs) during 1984-1999. Westward shift in rainfall activities over the IGPR |
| All India | Mooley and Parthasarathy 1984; Thapliyal and Kulshrestha, 1991 | | Monsoon rainfall is trend-less and is mainly random in nature over a long period |
| NE Peninsula, NE India, NW Peninsula, West coast and Central peninsula | Rupa Kumar <i>et al.</i> , 1992 | | NE peninsula, NE India and NW peninsula show decreasing trend in the Indian summer monsoon rainfall (-6 to 8 % of normal/100 yrs) while increasing trend was noticed along the west coast and over central |

| | | | |
|--|--|--|---|
| | | | peninsula (+10 to 12 % of normal/100 yrs) |
| Western and Eastern Himalayas | Kripalani <i>et al.</i> , 1996 | | Western Himalayas get more snowfall than the Eastern Himalayas during winter. More rainfall in the Eastern Himalayas than in the Western Himalayas during the monsoon season |
| Rajasthan Desert | Pant and Hingne, 1998 (cited in Mall <i>et al.</i> , 2006) | | Slight increase in monsoon rainfall; in spite of large inter annual variation |
| Luni River basin (Arid West Rajasthan) | Singh <i>et al.</i> , 2001 | Rising trend at Barmer, Jodhpur, Ajmer and Pali Decreasing trend at Udaipur and Jwaibandh | Annual rainfall indicates increasing tendency at 19 stations (around Ajmer in upper part of the Luni basin Decreasing trend at the remaining 9 stations in lower Luni basin (Barmer) |

Source: Mall *et al.* (2007)

Table 2 gives the details of the studies on projected climate changes over India during the later part of the 21st Century. Most of the studies suggest changing pattern in rainfall and an increase in temperature during the different crop seasons or on annual basis.

Table 2: Projected Climate Variation Scenarios in India

| Author/Study Indian Context | Temperature | CO ₂ | Precipitation/ Monsoon | Specificity/Effect |
|--------------------------------|--|------------------------------------|---|--|
| co2now.org Aug 2009 | | 398.42 ppm Jun 2009 | | Original data file created by NOAA on Wed. June 10, 2009 (10:30:02) |
| IPCC, 2001 | 1.4⁰-3⁰ C (LES) 2.5⁰-5.8⁰ C (HES) | | | 1990 levels by 2100 |
| Bhaskaran 1995 | 1-4⁰ C in winter/ <i>Rabi</i> crop season | Increase in CO ₂ | 20% increase | Predicted more heavy rainfall days during summer monsoon or Kharif period and increased inter-annual variability |
| Lonergan 1998 (in IPCC) | 2.33⁰ C- 4.78⁰ C | Doubling of CO ₂ | Increase in the frequency of heavy rainfall | India's climate could become warmer under condition of atmospheric CO ₂ |

| | | | | |
|---------------------------------|---|--|--|---|
| Lal <i>et. al.</i> 1995 | Increase in annual mean Max. and Min. surface air temperatures of 0.7^o and 1.0^o C over land | | Will decline | In the 2040s with respect to the 1980s |
| Lal <i>et. al.</i> 2001 | Projected between 1-1.4^o C and 2.23-2.87^o C area-averaged annual mean warming by 2020-50 | Increase to 397-416 ppm by 2010s and to 605-755 ppm by 2070, | | In 2001, CO ₂ was 371 ppm Extreme rainfall events in a warmer atmosphere |
| Rupa Kumar and Asriti 2001 | 1.3^o C- 1.7^o C increase | | Increase of 13 % | |
| Rupa Kumar, 2002 | Increase | | Enhanced rainfall towards 2050 | GHG increase scenario Decrease in rainfall in J and K, HP, Bihar, Gujarat and Rajasthan |
| May, 2002 | | | Intensification of rainfall | Due to intensification of the atmospheric moisture |
| Stephenson <i>et al.</i> , 2001 | | | Weakening of the large scale aspect of the Indian summer monsoon | |
| Rupa Kumar <i>et al.</i> , 2003 | -Increase more after 1940s -South of 25 ^o N (cities like Udaipur, Khajuraho and Varanasi) max. temperature will increase by 2-4^o during 2050 -In Northern region the increase in Max. temp. by more than 4 ^o C - India min. temperature up to 4^o C | | Increase more after 1940s | Temp. more than 4^o C in southern peninsula, northeast India, and some parts of Punjab, Haryana and Bihar - overall decrease in rainy days - western and central India >15 days - north-east, Himalaya region, 5-10 days increase |

LES- Lower Emission Scenario; HES- Higher Emission Scenario.

Source: Various Studies cited in the table.

Most of the simulation studies have explained a decrease in duration and production of crops as temperature increased in different parts of India (Table 3). However, such reduction was generally offset by rise in CO₂. The magnitude of these varied across crops, regions and climate changes.

Table 3: Vulnerability of Crop Production

| Author/Study Indian Context | Crops/Regions | Temperature Scenario | CO ₂ Scenario | Specificity |
|-------------------------------|---|---|--|---|
| Saini and Nanda, 1986 | Wheat | With every 1 ^o C increase in mean temperature above 17-17.7 ^o during the terminal spikelet initiation to anthesis | | Decline of 600-650 grains m ² |
| Sinha and Swaminathan, 1991 | Rice Wheat Northern India and coastal regions | Tested With 0.5-2 ^o C increase in temperature | | -a 2 ^o C increase in mean temperature could decrease rice yield by about 0.75 ton/ha in high yield areas and 0.06 ton/ha in the low yield coastal regions -a 0.5 ^o C increase in winter temperature would reduce wheat crop duration by seven days and reduce yield by 0.45 ton/ha, and 10% reduction in wheat production in the high yield states of Northern India |
| Achanta, 1993 | Rice- irrigated yield -Uttarakhand | With increased temperature | With Doubled CO ₂ | Pantnagar-Uttarakhand-rice production would be positive in the absence of nutrient and water limitation |
| Aggarwal and Sinha, 1993 | Wheat at three levels of production (potential, irrigated and rain fed) - Northern India | Tested no rise in temperature to 2 ^o C temp. rise | 425 ppm | Wheat yield at all three levels of production (potential, irrigated and rain fed) increased significantly -Northern India, a 1 ^o C rise in mean temperature had no significant effect on potential yield but irrigated and rainfed yields increased in most places -an increase of 2 ^o C, reduces potential wheat yields at most places -the effect on irrigated and rainfed productivity varied with location -Evapotranspiration reduced in irrigated as well as rainfed environments |
| Gangadhar Rao and Sinha, 1994 | Wheat | Increase | | Wheat yield decreased due to the adverse effect of temperature during filling and maturity stages of the growth |
| Aggarwal and Kalra, 1994 | Wheat at three levels (potential, irrigated and rainfed) - Northern India, Central India, High latitudes, lower latitude, tropical, sub-tropical | Temperature of 0, 1 and 2 ^o C assumed | 425 ppm CO ₂ assumed | -at 425 ppm CO ₂ and no rise in temperature, grain yield at all levels of production increased significantly at all places -1 ^o C rise in mean temperature, no significant effect on potential yields, Irrigated yields increased in most places where current yields were greater than 3.5 t/ha. Significant Rainfed yields -2 ^o C rise, reduced potential yield at most places. Less magnitude at places with low potential productivity - sub-tropical region (above 23 ^o N), decrease of 1.5 to 5.8%) but in tropical locations the decrease was 17-18% - High latitudes (above 27 ^o N)-slightly increased - lower latitude -High decreased - No significant effect of climate change in Northern India but yields were reduced in Central India by 10-15% |

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|------------------------------------|---|--|---|--|
| Gangadhar Rao <i>et al.</i> , 1995 | Sorghum (Jowar) in three diverse Sorghum growing regions, i.e., Hyderabad, Akola and Solapur | Used 3 scenario of climate change | Rise of CO ₂ | In Hyderabad and Akola, yield declined in rainy season Sorghum -post rainy season sorghum at Solapur on stored soil water showed a marginal increase in yield -the positive effects of CO ₂ were neutralised by adverse effects of increase in temperature resulting in shortened crop growing season -the study analyses the effects of climate change depending upon the season in which it is grown |
| Mohandass <i>et al.</i> , 1995 | Rice | High temperature | increased CO ₂ | -predicted increase in rice production under the GCM (Global Circulation Model) scenario -this is due to increase in yield of main season crops where the fertilizing effect of the increased CO ₂ is able to compensate the crop for any detrimental effects of increased temperature -however large decreases were predicted for second season crops due to high temperature but overall impact on rice production is low as relatively low proportion of total rice produced in this season |
| Uprety <i>et al.</i> , 1996 | Brassica crop (an oilseed crop), in the Northern belt of the Indian subcontinent | Variation in temperature | Variation in CO ₂ | The production of Brassica crop is likely to increase and is likely to extend to some more relatively drier regions than where it is grown presently. |
| Hundal and Kaur, 1996 | Wheat, rice, maize and groundnut in Punjab using crop simulation model | Assumed temperature increase of 1, 2 and 3 ^o C from present day condition, keeping all other climate variables constant | increased CO ₂ | Reduce grain yield of studied crops (increase of 1, 2 and 3^o C) - Wheat: reduction by 8.1, 18.7 and 25.7% respectively - Rice: reduction by 5.4, 7.4 and 25.1% respectively - Maize: reduction by 10.4, 14.6 and 21.4 respectively - Groundnut seed yield: reduction by 8.7, 23.2 and 36.2% respectively -the result suggests increase in temperature and decrease in radiation level have negative impacts on growth and yield of cereals and oil seeds crop. The study also mentioned that increased CO₂ will favour growth and increase crop production , hence, minimizing the adverse effects of temperature rise in future |
| Lal <i>et al.</i> , 1998 | Vulnerability of wheat and rice crops -Northwest India -through sensitivity experiments | Rise in 2-3 ^o C temperature | Rise in CO ₂ | -Northwest India - Doubling CO₂ : Rice and wheat increased significantly (15% and 28% respectively) -however 3 ^o C temp. for wheat and 2 ^o C temp. for rice cancelled out the positive effects of increased CO ₂ |
| Auffhammer <i>et al.</i> , 2006 | Rice, India | | Atmospheric Brown clouds (ABC) | Impact: 3.94% during 1966-84 and 10.6% during 1985-98 Reduction of ABC and GHG, increase in rice-6.18% and 14.4% |
| Chatterjee, 1998 | Sorghum | Rise in 1 to 2 ^o C temperature | Assumed 50 ppm to 700 ppm CO ₂ | Observed increased temperature would decrease the Sorghum yields in present day condition -increase in temperature by 1 and 2 ^o C, Sorghum yields decrease by 7 to |

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|---------------------------|--------------------------|---|--|---|
| | | | | <p>12%</p> <p>-further temp. increase, drastically reduced the yields by 18 to 24%</p> <p>-there is no large interaction effect between yearly climatic variation and increase in temperature as the decline of production was proportional to the increase in temperature in most years.</p> <p>-increase in 50 ppm CO₂—only 0.5% increase in yield, but this was nullified when the temp. increased only by 0.08^o C.</p> <p>-the beneficial effect of 700 ppm CO₂ was nullified by an increase of only 0.9^o C temp.</p> |
| Mandal, 1998 | Chickpea Pigeonpea | Up to 2 ^o C increase | - the study tested 350-700 ppm CO ₂ | <p>Chickpea Observed temp. increase of up to 2^o C did not influence potential yield of chickpea. Pre-anthesis and total crop duration reduced by 10-12 days with 2^o C rise of temp.</p> <p>-irrigated yield increased with temp. rise up to 2^o C</p> <p>-crop duration reduced by only 4 days</p> <p>- Nitrogen uptake and total water use (as evapo-transpiration) were not significantly different up to 2^o C temp</p> <p>- rainfed crop yield was much lower but the effect of temperature rise on crop growth processes and yield were same as observed in irrigated crop</p> <p>-increase in CO₂-increased yield under potential, irrigated and rainfed conditions</p> <p>- the study tested 350-700 ppm CO₂ and found increase in production in three levels</p> <p>Pigeonpea 1^o C increase in temp has great impact on Pigeonpea production</p> |
| Lal <i>et. al.</i> , 1999 | Soybean Central India | 3 ^o C temperature 10% decline in rainfall | Doubling of CO ₂ | <p>Doubling of CO₂ will lead to 50% increase in Soybean yield in central India while 3^o C temp almost wipes out the positive effect of doubling of CO₂ by reducing the duration of crop and inducing early flowering and shortening the grain fill period</p> <p>-decline in daily rainfall amount by 10% restricts the grain yield to about 32%</p> <p>-therefore, in future, in spite of elevated CO₂, acute water shortage due to dry spell in monsoon could be a critical factor for the Soybean productivity</p> |

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|-------------------------------------|---|---|-----------------------------------|--|
| Sahoo, 1999 | Maize Irrigated and rainfed | Temperature rise of up to 4 ^o C | CO ₂ 350 to 700 ppm | <p>Rise in temperature decreased the maize yield in both irrigated and rainfed conditions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -CO₂ 350 ppm, yield decrease continuously with temp. rise till 4^o C where the yield decreased by about 30% over the present day condition -at CO₂ 700 ppm, maize yield increase by about 9% over the present day condition but rise in temp. decreases the yield (8% yield decrease per rise of 1^o C in temp) -The effect of elevated CO₂ is lower in the case of Maize as compared to wheat, chickpea and mustard crop -the beneficial effect of 700 ppm CO₂ was cancelled out by rise of only 0.6^o C temp. -IPCC scenario, (rise of 1.8^oC temp for India and 425 ppm CO₂ by the year 2030), potential maize yield would be severely affected by about 18% |
| Saseendran <i>et. al.</i> , 2000 | Rice Kerala Sensitivity experiment | Up to 5 ^o C temperature rise | CO ₂ 425 ppm | <p>Rise in CO₂ leads to increase in rice production in Kerala due to fertilisation effect and also enhances water use efficiency</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -tested up to 5^o C temp, there is a continuous decline in rice yield -for 1^o C temp increase there is decline in production of about 6% -in another experiment it was noticed that the physiological effect of ambient CO₂ at 425 ppm compensated for the yield losses due to increase in temperature up to 2^o C |
| Kumar and Parikh, 2001 | Farm level net revenue | 2 ^o C temperature and 7% increase in precipitation | | <p>To understand the climatic sensitivity of Indian agriculture, the study estimated the functional relationship between farm level net revenue and climate variable</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Increase in 2^o C temp. and 7% increase in precipitation are negative and about 8.4% of the total farm level net-revenue for India -Northern State like Haryana, Punjab, Western UP where wheat is dominant crop in winter experience most negative effects along with coastal districts of Tamil Nadu -However, the Eastern district of West Bengal and part of Bihar seem to benefit from the changes in future |

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|-------------------------------|---|--|--|---|
| Rathore <i>et. al.</i> 2001 | Rice Central, South and Northwest India | Tested climate change scenarios projected by Lal <i>et. al.</i> 1995 (surface air temperatures of 0.7^o and 1.0^o C over land) | | -middle of the 21 st Century in central and south India, rice production will increase -under climate change, Northwest rice production would decrease significantly under irrigated condition as a result of decrease in rainfall during monsoon season - reduction in crop duration may occur at all location in India due to increase in temp. associated with the build-up of GHGs in the atmosphere |
| Aggarwal and Mall, 2002 | Rice Northern, Southern, Western and Eastern India -Current level of management (150 Kg) N/ha-3 doses and frequent Irrigation | Changes in Temperature 1-4 ^o C rise | Changes in CO ₂ 450 ppm | without increase in CO₂ and Rise in temperature of 1-2 ^o C and, showed a decrease of 3-17 % in rice production in different regions - Extent of effect of temp rise on Rice production: Eastern and Western: Less affected Northern: Moderate Southern: Severely affected With CO₂ increase: production increased in all regions Doubling CO₂: 12-21 % increase in production in different regions -Beneficial effect of 450 ppm CO₂ was nullified by an increase of 1.9-2 ^o C in Northern and eastern regions and by 0.9-1 ^o C in Southern and Western regions - Increase of 1-4^o temp without increase in CO₂: 5-30 % decrease in grain yield in different regions -a 28-35 % increase in yields of rice as CO ₂ doubled -The beneficial effect of 450 ppm CO ₂ was nullified by an increase of 1.2-1.7 ^o C in Northern and Eastern regions and by 0.9-1 ^o C in Southern and Western regions |

Source: Various Studies cited in the table.

Climate Change Projections for India

In the literature, climate change projection has generally been done using the average of prediction of six General Circulation Models including HadCM3, CSIRO-Mk2, CGCM2, GFDL-R30, CCSR/NIES and ECHAM4/OPYC3 (Cline 2007).

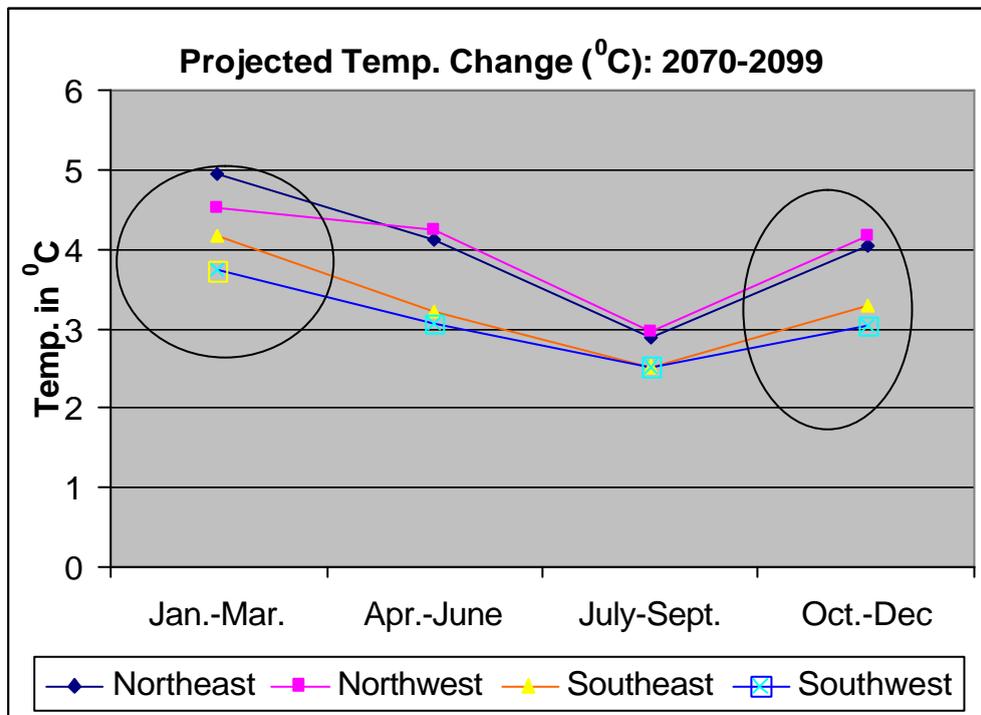
Table 4 gives the detail of temperature and precipitation changes across various regions and seasons for the period of 2070-2099 with reference to the base period 1960-1990. Figures 1 and 2 give the trends of temperature change and rainfall changes across four regions of India over the period 2070-2099.

Table 4: Projected Changes in Climate in India: 2070-2099

| | Region | Jan.-Mar. | Apr.-June | July-Sept. | Oct.-Dec |
|-------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|------------|----------|
| Temp. Change (°C) | Northeast | 4.95 | 4.11 | 2.88 | 4.05 |
| | Northwest | 4.53 | 4.25 | 2.96 | 4.16 |
| | Southeast | 4.16 | 3.21 | 2.53 | 3.29 |
| | Southwest | 3.74 | 3.07 | 2.52 | 3.04 |
| Preci. Change (%) | Northeast | -9.30 | 20.30 | 21.00 | 7.50 |
| | Northwest | 7.20 | 7.10 | 27.20 | 57.00 |
| | Southeast | -32.90 | 29.70 | 10.90 | 0.70 |
| | Southwest | 22.30 | 32.30 | 8.80 | 8.50 |

Source: Cline (2007), cited in Kavi Kumar (2009)

Figure 1: Projected Temperature Change in India (°C): 2070-2099

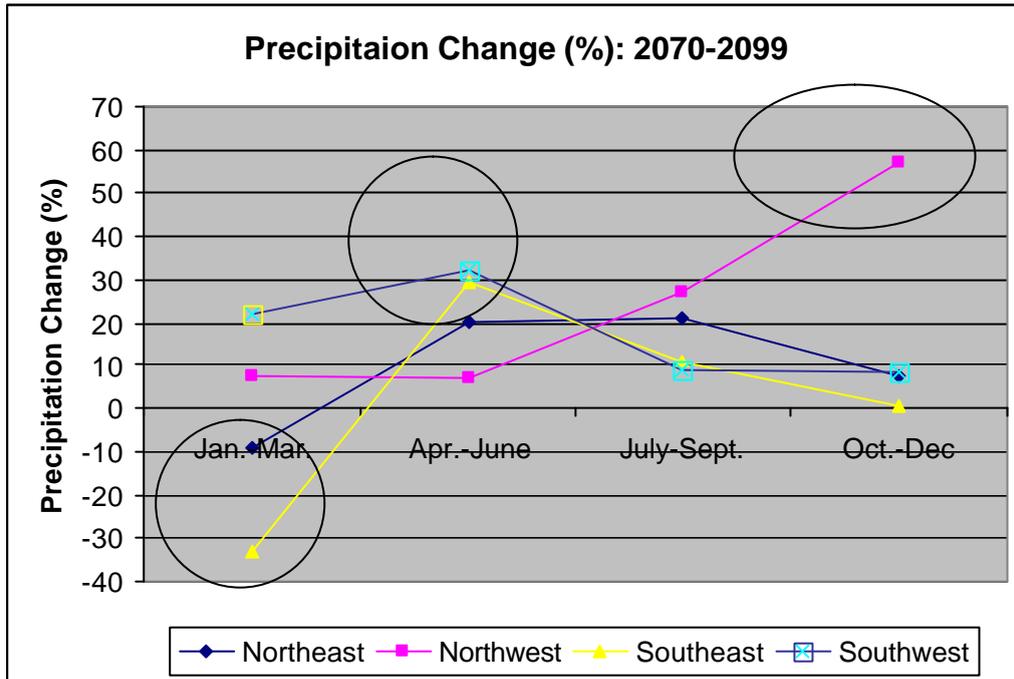


Source: Based on data in: Cline (2007)

It can be observed from Figure 1 that temperature increased (4 to 5° C) during January-March across all regions. As far as October-December months are concerned, the temperature also increased (3-4° C) across India. The figure also suggests that there are variations in increase in temperature across the regions. Northeast and Northwest temperature will be higher than the other regions though seasonal variability has been predicted. The projected results suggest that in all four regions of India the temperature is going to increase from more than 2° to 5° C over the years. The precipitation projection indicates wide variations across the regions over the years.

Figure 2 presents the details of the predicted precipitation changes across the regions of India. From figure 2, it is observable that the rate of precipitation will vary significantly from 2070 to 2099. The Southeastern regions of India will have more than -32 per cent decline in precipitation from January to March over the same years. The above figure suggests that during October-December the precipitation is projected to increase in the Northwestern regions of India in 2070-2099 (increase of 57 per cent of average).

Figure 2: Projected Precipitation Change in India (°C): 2070-2099



Source: Based on data in: Cline (2007)

Kumar (2009) estimated the net revenue change due to changes in climate variables (Table 5). The study estimated the impact for each period at the district level and then aggregated to derive the impact at the national level. In the paper three scenarios were used, namely, (1) increase of 2° C of temperature and increase of 7 per cent precipitation (2) increase of 3.5° C of temperature and increase of 14 per cent precipitation and (3) India specific scenario adopted from Cline (2007). The table indicates the all India level of estimation of impacts in each time period as a percentage of 1990 all India net revenue expressed in 1999-2000 prices. It can be observed that in each time period the percentage of net revenue loss has increased (See table 5 and figure 3). The worst result has been observed over the years in the second and third scenarios (over 85 % and 61 % of revenue loss respectively). This finding necessitates further probing to understand the impact of future climate change on India as the agricultural sector is extremely sensitive to climate variability. Kumar (2009) suggests this increasing effect of climate change on agriculture in spite of the possible advances made through technology and overall development of the country. Table 5 also indicates higher impact during the period from the mid-1980s to the late 1990s. During these periods, the overall production of

agriculture has been weakening. The India-specific scenario gives a different picture of the impact of climate change, e.g., during 1971-85 the negative impact declined and it increased during 1986-99.

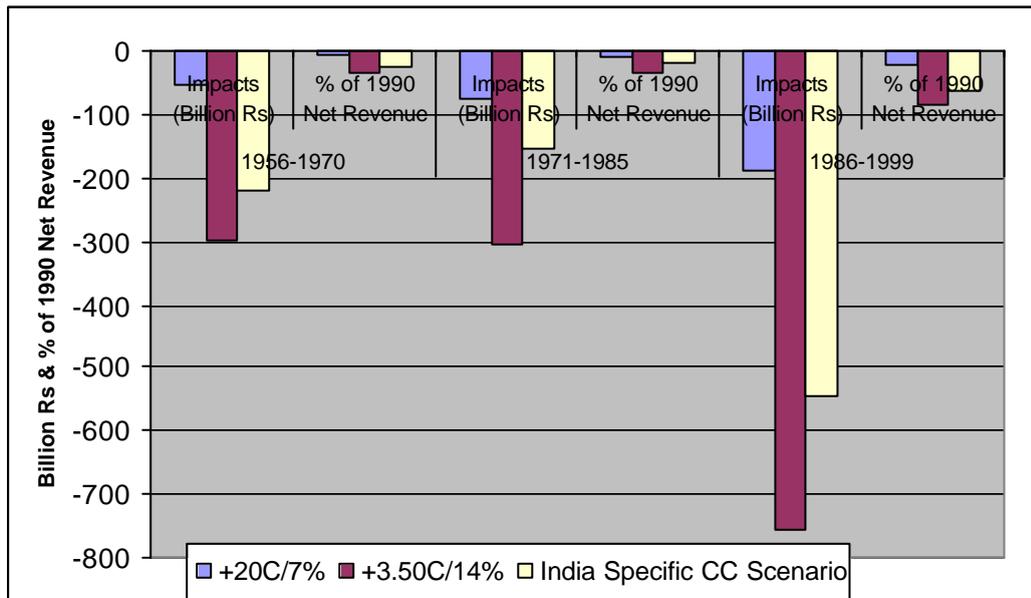
Table 5: Climate Change Impacts Over Time

| Scenario | 1956-1970 | | 1971-1985 | | 1986-1999 | |
|----------------------------|----------------------|-----------------------|----------------------|-----------------------|----------------------|-----------------------|
| | Impacts (Billion Rs) | % of 1990 Net Revenue | Impacts (Billion Rs) | % of 1990 Net Revenue | Impacts (Billion Rs) | % of 1990 Net Revenue |
| +2°C/7% | -53.70 | -6.1 | -76.8 | -8.7 | -188.7 | -21.3 |
| +3.5°C/14% | -297.4 | -33.6 | -303.4 | -34.3 | -754.9 | -85.3 |
| India Specific CC Scenario | -219.6 | -24.8 | -153.6 | -17.4 | -544.4 | -61.5 |

Note: Prices-1999-2000; Net Revenue in India in 1990 was Rs 885 Billion (1990-2000 prices). The first two scenario use hypothetical increase in temperature and precipitation

Source: Kavi Kumar (2009)

Figure 3: Impact of Climate Change on Revenue



Source: Kavi Kumar (2009)

Table 6 gives the details of implications of climate change on India's agricultural sectors covering a cross section of regions. Kumar (2009) suggested that the loss would be over Rs 80 to 195 billion. Kumar and Parikh (1997) found that farm level net revenue would decline by 9 to 25 per cent. Sanghi *et al* (1998) suggested that agricultural net revenue would fall by 12.3 per cent.

Table 6: Climate Change Implications on India's Agricultural Sector

| Sector/ Parameter | Assumptions | Impact | Source | Region |
|---|--|---|---|--|
| Aggregate Agriculture | +2°C/ 7% India specific scenario | Decline of Rs. -81.2 to -195.1 billion | Kumar (2009) | India |
| Aggregate Agriculture | Temperature Rise from 2.7 °C to 5.4 °C; Cross Section data used; and Local adaptation included | Loss up to US \$ 87 billion | Mendelsohn (2005) | India |
| Rice and wheat yield | A2, B2 scenario | Decline in yields | Sharma, Roy, Kumar <i>et al.</i> (2003) | India |
| Yields of Soyabean | Increase in temperature. By 2-4 °C; ± 20% to ± 40 % change | Decline in yield by 18% - 22% | Lal <i>et al.</i> , (1998) | India |
| GDP | | Drop of 1.8% -3.4% om GDP | Kumar and Parikh (1998) | India |
| Agricultural prices relative to non-agricultural prices | | Increase in agricultural prices by 7% - 18% | Kumar and Parikh (1998) | India |
| Farm level net revenue | Temperature Rise by 2–3.5 °C | Decline in net revenue by 9% - 25% | Kumar and Parikh (1998) | India |
| Farm level net revenue | Rise in temperature By 2 °C and an accompanying precipitation change of + 7%, with adaptation by farmers of cropping patterns and inputs | Fall in net revenue by 9% | Kumar and Parikh (1998) | India |
| Agricultural net revenue | 2 °C rise in mean temperature and a 7% increase in mean precipitation | Drop in net revenue by 12.3 % | Sanghi <i>et al.</i> (1998) | Gujarat, Maharashtra and Karnataka |
| Agriculture in coastal regions | | High risk | Sanghi <i>et al.</i> (1998) | India |
| Rice | Rise in temperature 2 °C | Decline in yield by 0.06-0.075 tonne/ha | Sinha and Swaminathan (1991) | Southern India |
| Rice | 1.5 °C rise +2 mm rainfall rise + 460 ppm CO ₂ | Increase in yield by 12% | Saseendran <i>et al.</i> (1999) | Southern India |
| Wheat | 2 °C rise in temperature | Decline in yield by 1.5%- 5.8% | Aggarwal and Kalra (1994) | Subtropical and tropical India in Punjab and Haryana |
| | 425 PPM CO ₂ | Decline in yield by 17%-18% | Kumar and Parikh (1998) | |
| | 2 °C rise+ 425 PPM CO ₂ | Decline in yield by 10% | Kumar and Parikh (1998) | |
| Maize | 2 °C rise + 425 PPM CO ₂ | Decline in yield by 7% -12% | Chatterjee (1998) | Northern India |
| Aggregate | 1.5-2.5 °C | Drop in yield GDP by 2% | Mendelsohn (1996) | India |

Source: Various Studies cited in the table

In India, the projected impact of climate change on agriculture varies across regions because India has immense climatic/geographic diversity. In the arid regions, where the agricultural crops face the heat stress, even small changes in temperature (increase) will have a devastating effect (decline) on agricultural production. However, the same rate of increase in temperature in cooler places such as near the Himalayas could have a positive effect on agricultural production (World Bank, 2009). Table 7 gives the details of the results obtained by various scholars using the Ricardian approach. This approach estimates the impact of climate change on agricultural land value. The Ricardian approach could provide valuable information on the economic effect of climate-induced agricultural changes. These studies

suggest that an increase in temperature of 2^o C to 3.5^o C would result in a 3-26 per cent loss of net agricultural revenue. Table 8 gives the detail of climate change impact on different crops as indicated by various studies. It can be observed that in general an increase of 2^o C in temperature would have a negative effect on crop production. Further, the World Bank (2009) projected that if rainfall is less, the negative impact is more pronounced. Lal *et al.*, (1998) by using one scenario (+2^o C in temperature and doubling of CO₂) predicted that there will be no change in rice production in North western India. Apart from this, the study used another scenario (+2^o C, doubling of CO₂, water shortage) and projected that rice production will reduce by 20 per cent in Northwestern India. For wheat crop, the study (Lal *et al.* 1998) used higher scenario (+3^o C, doubling CO₂) and found that there would not be any change in wheat production in Northwestern India. Lal *et al.* (1999) noted that in Madhya Pradesh soybean production would decline by up to 4 per cent with an increase of 3^o C in temperature, doubling of CO₂ and decline of 10 per cent in daily rainfall. However, in South Indian states such as Kerala, rice production is projected to decline by 6 per cent with 1.5^o C increase in temperature (Saseendran *et al.*, 2000). The above finding is contrary to the finding of the Lal *et al.*(1998) study although it was predicted for the Northwestern parts of India. The study also used a scenario of a doubling of CO₂. Interestingly, Aggarwal and Mall, 2002 (CERES-Rice model) suggest using IPCC scenario (Both optimistic and pessimistic – see table 7), that rice production in many parts of India (in 2010 and 2070) would increase by up to 26 per cent in optimistic and 9 per cent in pessimistic scenario. However, when they apply the ORYZAIN model, rice production increased under both scenarios. Nevertheless, the study by Kalra *et al.* (2007) suggests a decline in rice production of up to 30 per cent with an increase of 4^o C in temperature. The production of maize and *jowar* also will decline with an increase in temperature (Kalra *et al.*, 2007). The study by the World Bank (2006) suggests an increase in the production of rice, groundnut, *jowar*, sunflower and maize in two climatic change scenarios (see table 8). Nevertheless, in the second scenario where the study followed the same scenario with 10 per cent decline of monsoon precipitation, all the other crops except rice reported an increase in production.

**Table 7: Projected Impact of Climate Change on Selected Crops in India
(Using Ricardian Model)**

| Study | Temperature Change | % Change (Net Agricultural Revenue per ha.) |
|------------------------------------|--------------------|---|
| Sanghi, Mendelsohn and Dinar, 1998 | 2 ^o C | -3 to -6 |
| Kumar and Parikh, 1998 | 2 ^o C | -7 to -9 |
| Kumar and Parikh, 2001 | 2 ^o C | -8 |
| Kumar and Parikh, 1998 | 3.5 ^o C | -20 to -26 |
| Sanghi, Mendelsohn and Dinar, 1998 | 3.5 ^o C | -3 to -8 |

Source: World Bank (2009)

Auffhammer, Ramanathan and Vincent (2006) suggest that adverse climatic change due to atmospheric brown clouds (ABCs) and GHGs contributed to the decline in rice production. Their study estimated the impact of only ABCs on rice to be 3.94 per cent during 1966-84 and 10.6 per cent during 1985-1998.

Table 8: Agronomic Assessment for Crops in India

| Crop | Region | Study | Scenario | Yield Change (%) | Model |
|-----------|--------------------|---------------------------------|---|---|---------------|
| Rice | Northwest | Lal et al. 1998 | +2 ⁰ C, Doubling CO ₂ | 0 | CERES-Rice |
| Rice | Northwest | Lal et al. 1998 | +2 ⁰ C, Doubling CO ₂ , Water Shortage | -20 | CERES-Rice |
| Wheat | Northwest | Lal et al. 1998 | +3 ⁰ C, Doubling CO ₂ | 0 | CERES-Wheat |
| Soybean | Madhya Pradesh | Lal et al. 1999 | +3 ⁰ C, Doubling CO ₂ ; -10% daily rainfall | -4 to 0 | CROPGRO |
| Rice | Kerala | Saseendran et al, 2000 | +1.5 ⁰ C | -6 | CERES-Rice |
| Rice | Parts of all India | Aggarwal and Mall, 2002* | Optimistic IPCC scenarios; +0.1 ⁰ C, 416 ppm CO ₂ ; +0.4 ⁰ C, 755 ppm CO ₂ . Both at current crop management level** | +3.5 to +4.3 (2010) +13.8 to 22.3 (2070) | CERES-Rice |
| Rice | Parts of all India | Aggarwal and Mall, 2002* | Pessimistic IPCC scenarios; +0.3 ⁰ C, 397 ppm CO ₂ ; +0.2 ⁰ C, , 605 ppm CO ₂ . Both at current crop management level** | +2.3 to +1.9 (2010) +3.6 to +9 (2070) | CERES-Rice |
| Rice | Parts of all India | Aggarwal and Mall, 2002* | Optimistic IPCC scenario | +5.1 to 7.4 (2010) +16.6 to +25.7 (2070) | ORYZAIN |
| Rice | Parts of all India | Aggarwal and Mall, 2002* | Pessimistic IPCC scenario | +2.5 to +4.1 (2010) +6.1 to +16.8 (2070) | ORYZAIN |
| Rice | All India | Kalra et al., 2007: DEFRA Study | +1 ⁰ C; No change in CO ₂ | -5 to -8 | CERES-Rice |
| Rice | All India | Kalra et al., 2007: DEFRA Study | +2 ⁰ C; No change in CO ₂ | -10 to -16 | CERES-Rice |
| Rice | All India | Kalra et al., 2007: DEFRA Study | +4 ⁰ C | -21 to -30 | CERES-Rice |
| Maize | All India | Kalra et al., 2007: DEFRA Study | +1 ⁰ C to +4 ⁰ C; 350 ppm CO ₂ | -10 to -30 | CERES- Maize |
| Jowar | All India | Kalra et al., 2007: DEFRA Study | +1 ⁰ C +2 ⁰ C | -7 -12 | CERES-Sorghum |
| Rice | All India | World Bank, 2006 | Max. temp. +2°C; min. temp. +4°C; annual rainy days -5%; 550 ppm CO ₂ | -9 | EPIC |
| Groundnut | All India | World Bank, 2006 | Max. temp. +2°C; min. temp. +4°C; annual rainy days -5%; 550 ppm CO ₂ | +2 | EPIC |
| Jowar | All India | World Bank, 2006 | Max. temp. +2°C; min. temp. +4°C; annual rainy days -5%; 550 ppm CO ₂ | +3 | EPIC |
| Sunflower | All India | World Bank, 2006 | Max. temp. +2°C; min. temp. +4°C; annual rainy days -5%; 550 ppm CO ₂ | +10 | EPIC |

| | | | | | |
|-----------|-----------|------------------|--|----|------|
| Maize | All India | World Bank, 2006 | Max. temp. +2°C; min. temp. +4°C; annual rainy days -5%; 550 ppm CO ₂ | +3 | EPIC |
| Rice | All India | World Bank, 2006 | Max. temp. +2°C; min. temp. +4°C; annual rainy days -5%; 550 ppm CO ₂ ; cumulative monsoon rainfall (Jun-Sept) -10% | -8 | EPIC |
| Groundnut | All India | World Bank, 2006 | Max. temp. +2°C; min. temp. +4°C; annual rainy days -5%; 550 ppm CO ₂ ; cumulative monsoon rainfall (Jun-Sept) -10% | 0 | EPIC |
| Jowar | All India | World Bank, 2006 | Max. temp. +2°C; min. temp. +4°C; annual rainy days -5%; 550 ppm CO ₂ ; cumulative monsoon rainfall (Jun-Sept) -10% | 0 | EPIC |
| Sunflower | All India | World Bank, 2006 | Max. temp. +2°C; min. temp. +4°C; annual rainy days -5%; 550 ppm CO ₂ ; cumulative monsoon rainfall (Jun-Sept) -10% | +9 | EPIC |
| Maize | All India | World Bank, 2006 | Max. temp. +2°C; min. temp. +4°C; annual rainy days -5%; 550 ppm CO ₂ ; cumulative monsoon rainfall (Jun-Sept) -10% | 0 | EPIC |

* The margin of error can be as much as 32 per cent, depending on the uncertainty in climate change and other factors. Sensitivity analyses were run for increase in temperature, level of nutrients fed to the crop and variations in CO₂ levels. All this showed that yield would increase if temperature remained unchanged and CO₂ levels increased. However, with increase in temperature, the CO₂ effect is nullified for increase in temperature as low as 0.9° C.

** it assumes no change in current nutrient application and irrigation

Aggrawal and Kalra (1994) evaluated the mean simulated yield of wheat for current and changed climate (2° C rise and CO₂ level of 425 CO₂ ppm) in different latitudinal ranges (Table 9). Irrigated yields slightly increased for latitudes greater than 27° N but reduced at all other places. The decrease in yield was much higher in the lower latitude regions. Several locations, particularly where current rainfed yields were greater than 2 t/ha, showed a very significant increase in rain fed yields with climate change. These locations are mostly above 27° N; the mean increase here was 28.6 per cent. In locations between 25°N and 27° N although rainfed yields under current weather conditions were high, there was a significant decrease in yields with change in climate. These results were closely related to the effects of climate change on crop duration. Depending upon the magnitude of increase in

temperature, crop duration, particularly in the period up to anthesis, was reduced. In northern India, because of this reduction in the pre-anthesis duration, grain-?lling often shifted to the relatively cooler temperature of February, thus, enabling the crop to maintain reasonable grain-?lling duration in changed climate situation. There was no effect of climate change in Northern India but yields reduced in Central India by 10–15 per cent. This reduction in productivity due to climate change, unless accompanied with suitable research and policy interventions, may reduce wheat production in Central India (Kalra and Aggarwal, 1994; Aggarwal, 2000).

Table 9: Changes in Wheat Production in Response to Climate Change* in Different Regions of India (t/ha)

| Regions | Potential Yield | | Irrigated yield | | Rainfed yield | |
|----------------------|-----------------|----------|-----------------|----------|---------------|----------|
| | Current | % Change | Current | % Change | Current | % Change |
| > 27 ⁰ N | 6.66 | -3.9 | 4.89 | 3.7 | 2.95 | 28.6 |
| 25-27 ⁰ N | 5.84 | -1.5 | 4.78 | -4.4 | 3.34 | -7.2 |
| 23-25 ⁰ N | 5.86 | -5.6 | 4.18 | -10.8 | 1.17 | -19.6 |
| 20-23 ⁰ N | 4.18 | -18.4 | 2.29 | -18.3 | 0.51 | -11.8 |
| <20 ⁰ N | 3.69 | -17.3 | 2.43 | -21.4 | 0.97 | -23.9 |

*(425 ppm CO₂, 2⁰ C increase in mean temp.)

Source: Aggarwal and Kalra (1994)

Adaptation to Climatic Variability

Adaptation could be possible at various levels, e.g., farmers, economic agents and the macro level. For example, Reilly and Schimmelpfennig (1999) suggest that the relative speed of adoption of various measures (see table 10). Stern (2007) provides two types of adaptation measures for the short and long run, namely, autonomous and policy driven adaptation. Table 11 gives the details of these adaptation practices. Southeast Asian countries such as Indonesia have adopted changing crop combinations and integrated production management like doing pisciculture with rice cultivation and changing rice-rice combinations to rice-millet, rice-vegetable, etc. People are also changing food habits by shifting from rice to rice-wheat/millet combinations that help implement agricultural adaptation strategies.

Jodha (1989), using observations of adoption and technological response in post-independent Indian agriculture, estimated the response time to be 5-15 years for the productive life of farm assets, crop rotation cycles, and recovery from major disasters. **Broad Categories of Responses** - some of which could be beneficial regardless of how or whether climate changes - include:

- Improved training and general education of populations dependent on agriculture.
- Identification of the present vulnerabilities of agricultural systems.
- Agricultural research to develop new crop varieties.
- Food programmes and other social security programmes to provide insurance against supply changes.

- Transportation, distribution and market integration to provide the infrastructure to supply food during crop shortfalls.
- Removal of subsidies, which can, by limiting changes in prices, mask the climate change signal in the marketplace.

Table 10: Relative Speed of Adoption of Various Measures

| Adaptation Measure | Adjustment Time (years) |
|----------------------|-------------------------|
| Variety Adoption | 3-14 |
| Dams and Irrigation | 50-100 |
| Variety Development | 8-15 |
| Tillage Systems | 10-12 |
| Opening New Lands | 3-10 |
| Irrigation Equipment | 20-25 |
| Fertilizer Adoption | 10 |

Source: Reilly and Schimmelpfennig (1999)

Table 11: Adaptation in Practice

| Response to Climate Change | Autonomous Adaptation | Policy-driven Adaptation |
|----------------------------|---|--|
| Short-run | -Making short-run adjustment, e.g., changing crop planting dates -Spreading the loss, e.g., pooling risk through insurance | -Developing greater understanding of climate risks, e.g., researching risks and carrying out a vulnerability assessment -Improving emergency response, e.g., early warning systems |
| Long-run | -Investment in climate resilience if future effects relatively well understood and benefits easy to capture fully, e.g., localized irrigation on farm | -Investing to create or modify major infrastructure, e.g., larger reservoir storage, increased drainage capacity, higher sea walls -Avoiding the impacts, e.g., land use planning to restrict development in flood plains or in areas of increasing aridity |

Source: Stern (2007)

Understanding the Implications of Climate Change on Food Security and Livelihoods

Our present knowledge is very little, at least in quantitative terms, to understand the role of climate change on food security and livelihoods. In a country such as India, multiple stressors like economic, political and social conditions in addition to climatic factors influence food security. In spite of this, there has been no systematic methodology to operationalise vulnerability in the context of the multiple stressors.

There is the likelihood of a considerable impact of climatic variability on agricultural land-use and the nation's food security due to snow melt, availability of irrigation, frequency and intensity of inter- and intra- seasonal droughts and floods, soil organic transformation matters, soil erosion and

availability of energy as a consequence of global warming. The FAO (2001) defines food security as a "situation when all people, at all times, have physical, social and economic access to sufficient, safe and nutritious food that meet their dietary requirements and food preferences for an active and healthy life". There are four key dimensions that are related to food security, namely, availability, stability, access and utilisation. The FAO study (2002 and 2006) suggests that climate change will affect the four dimensions of food security, namely food availability (i.e., production and trade), access to food, stability of food supplies and food utilisation. The importance of the various dimensions and the overall impact of climate change on food security will differ across regions and over time and, most significantly, will depend on the overall socio-economic status that a country has achieved as the effects of climate change set in (Schmidhuber and Tubiello, 2007). Schmidhuber and Tubiello (2007) assessed that climatic change will adversely affect food security. Climate change may increase the dependency on imports, which in turn, will affect the growth process of the country. One can argue that, within the developing world, the adverse effect of climate change will be profound on the poor. The quantitative assessments (Schmidhuber and Tubiello, 2007) suggest that the socio-economic setting in which climate change is likely to evolve is more important than the impact that can be expected from the biophysical changes of climate variability.

Climatic variability is predicted to reduce net cereal production in South Asian countries by 4 to 10 per cent by the year 2100 under the most pessimistic scenario of the IPCC (Cruz and Harasawa *et al.*, 2007). Various studies have found a negative correlation between agricultural production and poverty rates. Datt and Ravallion (1998) suggest that between 1958 and 1994 increase in yield lowered poverty almost one for one in India. Eswaran *et al* (2008) reported that the increase in agricultural productivity was responsible for at least four-fifths of the 75 per cent growth in real agricultural wage in India. In a recent study Kotwal and Ramaswami *et al* (2009) suggest that agricultural productivity has to increase to improve the living standards of the rural poor in India.

IASC (2009) suggested key messages on food security in a changing climate scenario. They are:

- Climate change will act as a multiplier of existing threats to food security. By 2050, the risk of hunger is projected to increase by 10–20 per cent and child malnutrition is anticipated to be 20 per cent higher compared to a no-climate change scenario.
- The other issue of concern is achieving food security under a changing climate scenario. It requires substantial increase in food production and improved access to adequate and nutritious food on the one hand and the capacity to cope with the risks posed by climate change on the other hand.
- Community-based development processes need to be fostered to enable the poorest and most vulnerable to build sustainable and climate-resilient livelihoods and move out of chronic poverty and food insecurity.
- The humanitarian organisations must be prepared for more extreme weather events and protect the people facing food insecurity by strengthening their crisis response and prevention strategies.

As per the Fourth Assessment Report (FAR) of the IPCC, warming of the climate is now unequivocal and evident from the observations of increases in global average air and ocean temperatures, widespread melting of snow and ice and rising sea levels. Importantly, developing nations are adversely affected in comparison to the developed nations (Mendelsohn *et al.*, 2006; and Stern, 2006). For instance, during the 2000-04 on an average annual basis one in 19 people living in the developing world was affected by climate disasters (HDR, 2007). Flooding alone affected the lives of the 68 million people in East Asia and 40 million people in South Asia (HDR, 2007). In addition, monsoon floods and storms in South Asia during the 2007 season displaced more than 14 million people in India and 7 million people in Bangladesh, and more than 1000 people lost their lives across South Asia (HDR, 2007: 76).

These climatic disasters, therefore, make the livelihood of the people more susceptible, especially in India as they are already vulnerable to the conventional problems like poverty and food insecurity etc. It is argued that India is particularly vulnerable to predicted climate changes because of its high population density, low adaptive capacity, several unique and valuable ecosystems (coral reef, large deltaic region with rich biodiversity) and vast low-altitude agricultural activities (Roy, 2007). India has to maintain the sustainability of its ecosystems to meet the food and non-food needs of a growing population. India is home to the largest number of hungry and deprived people in the world – to be precise 360 million undernourished and 300 million poor people. Sustaining the supply of food itself is emerging as a critical issue. Growth in food grain production has been slow if not decreasing, over the last few decades. During 1996-2008, it increased by just 1.2 per cent per annum: from 199 to 230 million tons, as against an annual rate of growth of 3.5 per cent achieved during the 1980s (Roy, 2007). The net food grain availability declined from 510 grams per day per capita in 1991 to 443 grams in 2007. It affects the poor the most as they have cannot afford the more expensive fruits, vegetables, poultry and meat products. They need food but do not have the purchasing power. This situation is more pronounced in central and eastern India (Roy, 2007)

Another big change observed during the last three decades is the dominant use of groundwater as opposed to surface and sub-soil (through shallow wells). Groundwater has become the main source of irrigation. Surface irrigation systems already created are lying wasted because canals or other systems are hardly maintained. The inefficiency of the large water irrigation systems has forced the people to exploit groundwater. Thus, the bulk of Indian agriculture not only remains rain-fed but also depends on groundwater rather than surface water. This is worrisome in the current context of increasingly variable rainfall.

The existing problems of poor farmers, if not addressed in time, will become more acute due to climate change induced by global warming. The prediction so far suggests an upward trend in mean monthly temperature and average rainfall. However, the prediction indicates a downward trend in the number of wet days in a year. The impact of climate change would be seen in terms of increased sub-regional variations and more extreme rain events. In a country that gets rain for less than 100 hours in a year (a year has 8,760 hours), this would be disastrous. A recent World Bank report (World Bank, 2008) studied two drought prone regions in Andhra Pradesh and Maharashtra and one in Orissa for impact of climate change. It found that climate change could have the following serious impacts: (i) in

Andhra Pradesh dry-land farmers may see their incomes plunge by 20 per cent; (ii) in Maharashtra, sugarcane yields may fall dramatically by 25-30 per cent; and (iii) in Orissa, flooding will rise dramatically leading to a drop in rice yields by as much as 12 per cent in some districts.

Agriculture and allied activities constitute the single largest component of India's economy, contributing nearly 27 per cent of the total GDP while agricultural exports account for 13–18 per cent of the total annual exports of the country. However, given the fact that 62 per cent of the cropped area is still dependent on rainfall, Indian agriculture continues to be fundamentally dependent on the weather. The impact of climate change on agriculture is serious in India. About 75 per cent of the population lives in rural areas and agricultural performance is closely related to the prevalence of poverty. The focus is on the two main cereal crops – rice and wheat – in terms of the effect of climate change on crop yields, overall food production and welfare.

Conclusion

As the scientific consensus that significant climate change, in particular increased temperatures and precipitation, is very likely to occur during the 21st century gathers momentum, economic research has attempted to quantify the possible implications of climate change on society and agriculture. The vulnerability to climate change may be greater in developing countries such as India, where agriculture typically plays a larger economic role. This study reviews the evidence on the impact of climate change on agriculture in India, where poverty and agricultural performance are related. Our review finds that climate change is likely to reduce agricultural yields significantly and the damage could be severe unless the adaptation to higher temperatures is rapid and complete.

The evidence presented in this review paper suggests that the impact of climate change impacts is increasing over time indicating the increasing sensitivity of Indian agriculture. In India, the projected impact of climate change on agriculture varies across the regions because India has immense climatic/geographic diversity. The study argues that understanding the impact of climate change on agriculture in environmentally and economically vulnerable regions of India will require better understanding of the long-term path of innovation, land use and the dynamic behaviour of managed ecosystems. This finding poses an important question for future research, for the welfare of Indian agriculture, how quickly will Indian farmers be able to adjust their farming practices to adapt to the changing climate and what policies or technologies will enable rapid adaptation to climate change.

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