



Food Secure Climate Resilient Agriculture for South Asia



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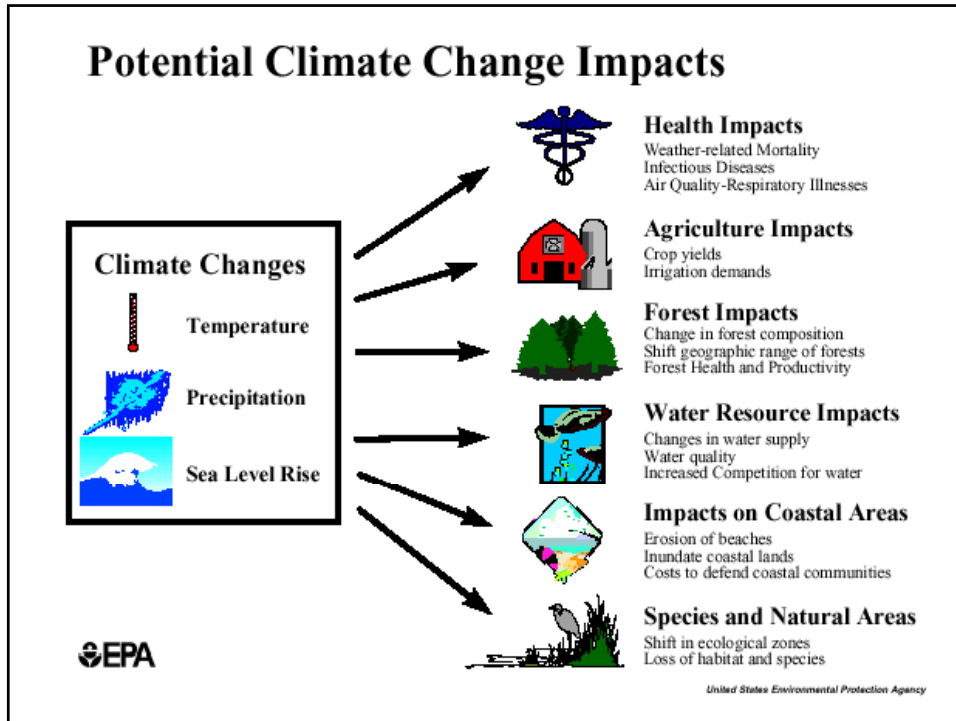
The ppts are based on inputs of Harjeet Singh and Aditi Kapoor....



Sectoral Challenges...

- South Asia is ranked as the second most undernourished, malnourished and food insecure region in the world
- South Asia is home to over 1/5th of the world's population
- Has 38% of world's agricultural land and 2/3rd of world's irrigated area
- Asia will account for nearly half of the world's malnourished population, of which 2/3rd will be from South Asia
- Declines of 4% in maize and 2-3% in wheat 1980-2008 – driving a 6.4% increase in global market prices for maize and wheat (additional \$50bn per annum)





**Countering Climate Impacts
in Agriculture**

Opportunities

- Potential increase in resources for adaptation
- Recognition of indigenous knowledge
- Move towards linking modern science and technology, indigenous knowledge
- Enhanced emphasis on early warning and risk reduction
- Concept of Sustainable agriculture being revisited and promoted
- Renewed focus on increased public investment in agriculture sector
- SAARC food bank
- Agriculture emerging as a key sector in adaptation strategies



Threats

- Crop loss due to increasing disasters and climate variability
- Increased migration and burden on women
- More food imports and increasing food price
- Market led industrial agriculture model being promoted
- Increased land grabbing due to industrial agriculture biofuels and soil carbon capture
- Farmers losing sovereignty over seeds
- Smallholders voices and concerns are missing in agriculture policies across South Asia
- Private sector eyeing for big share of resources from Green Climate Fund



Agriculture at Crossroad...

- decreases in cereal production
- losses are likely to be high in rain-fed wheat in South and East Asia
- risk of drought and water resource scarcity increasing
- e.g. 0.5° C rise in winter temperature would reduce wheat yield by 0.45 tones per hectare in India.

Adaptation

- 22% Carbon can be Sequestered in Soil
- 0.5 to 1.5 t of GHG / hect
- Markets have mitigative potential by 'Agriculture'

Mitigation



Food Secure (???)

Climate Resilient Regime



- For nutritious food
- Through public investment
- By/for Smallholders
- Through ecological
- Adaptation

✓ Equity Challenge
 ✓ Production Challenge
 ✓ Resilience Challenge

Carbon Neutral Regime



- For Biofuels
- Through Private Investors
- By Progressive
- Through intensive practices
- Intensive use of fertilizers and pesticides
- Mitigation - Soil Carbon

✗ Equity Challenge
 ✓ Production Challenge
 ✗ Resilience Challenge



Agriculture in SAARC Countries

- Vulnerability studies focus on climate variability/disaster risk; not impact on crops yet
- Some studies on impact on agriculture – Bangladesh, India
- Agriculture integral to NAPAs but no ‘additional resources’ for adaptation – business as usual
- Focus on climate-resilient GM crops/R&D but no bottoms-up adaptation/traditional knowledge

Gender-blind



Recommendations: National / Regional-1

- Incorporate adaptation strategies into all national and regional policies and programmes related to food security and agriculture.
- Put specific mechanism in place to ensure that such policies support communities’ efforts to realise the right to food within the context of climate change
- Ensure most vulnerable groups are not only able to benefit from such policies, but are involved in the development, implementation and monitoring and evaluation of the policies.
- Increase the resilience of small-holder farmers by enhancing their capacity to practice sustainable agriculture and by developing safety nets for climate risk management.



Recommendations: National / Regional-2

- Enhance public spending on agriculture and orient it towards improving agricultural infrastructure, inputs, irrigation services, market linkages, secure land rights and national agricultural extension services supporting small-holder farmers especially women farmers
- Strengthen the role of local authorities and civil society in developing, implementing and monitoring adaptation measures from local to national level
- Effective operationalisation of regional food bank and seed reserves



Recommendations: International

- **substantial new and additional resources for climate change adaptation.**
- **Funding for adaptation strategies must promote sustainable agricultural techniques that allow communities to combat hunger and realise their right to food.**
- **Recognise agriculture, particularly smallholder farming, as a sector that is particularly vulnerable to climate change**
- **Policies must support women's efforts to claim their rights over land and other natural resources**



Recommendations: International

- **Developed countries - accounting of the emissions associated with agricultural activities, including bioenergy production and use.**
- **For developing country agriculture the priority should be adaptation, rather than mitigation,**
- **Parties must provide resources for promoting biodiverse and resilient agriculture and appropriate technology development and transfer.**



Thank You

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