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 but in South and Southeast Asia
- risk of food and water resources scarcity increasing
- e.g. 0.5°C rise in winter temperature would reduce wheat yield by 0.45 tones per hectare in India.
- 22% Carbon can be Sequestrated in Soil
- 0.5 to 1.5 t of GHG / yr / hect
- Markets to drive mitigation by ‘Agriculture’

Food Secure (???)

**Climate Resilient Regime**
- For nutritious food
- Through public investment
- By/for Small Farmers
- Through energy conserving practices
- Equitable, production, and Resilience Challenges
- For adaptation

**Carbon Neutral Regime**
- For Biofuels
- Through Private Investors
- By Progressive Farmers
- Through excessive usage of fertilizers and pesticides
- Equitable Challenge, Production Challenge, Resilience Challenge
- Mitigation - Soil Carbon
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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