

Cross Cutting Concern and Issues

There is recognition that climate change has global implications and therefore a global challenge. It is also widely recognized that the impact of climate change will be very severely felt on poorer countries and marginalized sections in the countryside.

Even without climatic change, environmental impact of development processes fueled by our quest for economic growth, there is considerable threat to food security and livelihoods. The effects of climate change will exacerbate the adverse implications, further.

While emphasizing the greater role and responsibilities of rich and developed nations to work for and spare substantial resources towards the mitigative measures including technology development and its transfer into public domain, i.e. keep such technologies away from IPR, there is recognition that developing countries can not afford to be complacent . There is an urgency to look into issues and implications of climate change in developing countries and poorer regions and be prepared to face the challenges.

1. There is dearth of credible knowledge and evidence of the impact of climate change. There is a need to study, assess and predict the likely impact and implications in specific terms on South Asia and on the poorest and marginalized in particular at micro-level.
2. Can we map the areas and the likely forms of climate change impact on different regions with South Asia Region, identify regional / local indicators to monitor and assess the impacts on a continuing basis.
3. Having identified the areas and regions likely to be impacted, identify areas for research to evolve appropriate mitigative measures incorporating local / traditional knowledge in a sustainable manner. The essence is to evolve localized and decentralized solutions. There is an urgent need to accelerate research towards addressing complexities in mitigations and more particularly adaptation.
4. Efforts at advocacy to influence the governments both in the north and south and more particularly in the south to effect

changes in policy, institutions and implementation mechanism to meet the challenges arising out of climate change have to be intensified. The emerging model of policy and development strategies should be in tune with the climatic model.

5. Simultaneous efforts toward proactive thought and behaviour and for targeted sensitizations and awareness building programmes are needed. This is particularly important for CSO and grass root organizations to enable them understand and appreciate the meaning and implications of climate change. There is, therefore, need to design suitable capacity building programmes.
6. It is an imperative that we engage national and international donor / aid / funding organizations and private sector in support of mitigative measures and especially in extension efforts for the spread of adaptive mechanisms judiciously using the grass root organizations.
7. The local and traditional knowledge, blending the modern with traditional, best practices across the globe need to be documented. Knowledge sharing and dissemination can be effectively achieved through the use of ICT. The grass root organizations should have easy access to such a knowledge sharing arrangement. Role of media is also crucial. While there is immense potential for ICT in knowledge sharing, the capacities to access such knowledge at the grass root level need to be strengthened.
8. Bringing together primary, secondary and tertiary stakeholders – farmers, marginalized, CSOs, academia, research institutions, media donors, governments etc. cannot be delayed any further to evolve policies and solutions and taking them forward. This should evolve into an enduring and meaningful partnership facilitating a continuing dialogue.
9. Through coordination and cooperation across ministries, there is a need to evolve more crisis coping and risk reduction products like crop insurance, insurance against disaster and strengthening and improving access to Common Property Resources (CPR), more particularly for the marginalized; evolving community based food security systems is also an urgent need.
10. **Role of mass media:** Traditional and mainstream media should be very effectively combined to pass on messages and

build awareness is an area that needs attention. Media should be sensitized and trained to report both negative and positive impacts of climate change as well as mitigative measures.