



M.P. Institute of Social Science Research

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National Seminar

on

Climatic Change, Weather Variability and its Impact on Human Life: Challenges and Strategies in Contemporary India

(Date: 2-3 February, 2017)

The Context:

Climatic change and its wide spread adverse fallouts has been one of the widely debated concern of the present century. Climate change is a long term phenomena, however, weather variability which has been triggered by global warming is a cause of immediate concern, both at a macro and micro level. The concern is not just environmental but has to be understood and discussed on a number of socio-economic and health related fronts. India is highly vulnerable to weather variability due to its heterogeneous climatic regimes, long coast line, high dependence on monsoon, and diversified socio-economic profile of her population. In India the immediate impact of global warming is being clearly observed in terms of change in the monsoon months, increase in the intensity and frequency of heavy rainfall, increased intensity of cyclonic storms and increase in the intensity of floods and droughts, increased dry and wet and hot and cold spells and shifting of the seasonal regime. The impact of weather fluctuation may be observable in the country in many ways. The largest impact is being felt on the agricultural sector as most of the farming area is still rain-fed and totally dependent on monsoon. Besides monsoon regime, unusual temperature variations and events like hailstorms and strong winds damage the crops and adversely affect the production. Unusual longer cloudy weather is associated with pest attack that increases the expenditure on pesticides with associated health hazards and damage to soil. The fluctuation in agricultural production is correlated with the availability of fodder which has a direct bearing on dairying, while the temperature variation of sea water adversely affects fish production. Vagaries of monsoon have a large scale impact in terms of loss of both life and property due to disasters of floods and droughts. The greatest impact on day to day urban life is in terms of water supply which is totally dependent of water storage. Drought situation persisting for continuous period of two or more years has been found to be an important cause of farmer's suicide in the country. Weather fluctuations are also related with higher physical stress causing many health related problems. Due to shifting of weather regimes there also mismatch in some of the cultural festivities which were traditionally timed with agricultural cycles.

However, vulnerabilities and capacity of adaptation to weather variability are not uniform across different classes of the society. The marginalised class with a very low level of coping mechanism is most vulnerable to the vagaries of weather, and among the poor too, women, children and aged are the most affected ones. Therefore, for designing any coping strategy an integrated approach is required to understand inter-sectoral linkage of various forms of physical and socio-economic vulnerabilities. In the contemporary situation, there is a lack of proper awareness and readiness to adopt environment and climate-friendly strategies at the societal and personal level to minimize the loss.

Besides various efforts made by the government for predicting and managing disasters related with climate and weather, together with provisions of insurance schemes and financial assistance packages, a number of traditional and newly evolved loss minimizing technologies are available to mitigate weather related fluctuations and disasters which are more pro-poor. There is a need to discuss and design a programme for their

popularization, especially among the more vulnerable class. Initiatives have been taken by civil society and a number of NGO's and activists groups have successfully launched and executed environment and climate friendly loss minimization options suited to local conditions. However, in an atmosphere of craving for maximization of profit under the market economy based paradigm, these efforts have been limited to some localities and could not penetrate to larger group of small and marginal farmers who could really benefit from these loss minimization eco-friendly alternatives to avert weather related hazards.

Keeping into view the above issues in background Madhya Pradesh Institute of Social Science Research, Ujjain organising a National Seminar on "***Climatic Change, Weather Variability and its Impact on Human Life: Challenges and Strategies in Contemporary India***" during 2-3, February, 2017 sponsored by Indian Council of Social Science Research, New Delhi.

Themes of the Seminar:

- Present and predictable future scenario of climate change and related weather variability in India.
- Weather variability and it's long and short term ecological, socio-economic and health related issues in India.
- Impact of weather variability and related disasters of floods and droughts on people with different vulnerability levels, especially the disadvantaged section of the society.
- Impact of weather related fluctuations and adversities on the economy of the country in general, and on agriculture and allied sectors in particular.
- Vagaries of monsoon and related water storage and supply related issues of urban and rural life.
- Role and efficacy of government policies, programmes and institutions in predicting and mitigating weather related adversities in contemporary India.
- Affectivity of crop insurance schemes and other economic packages in reducing the suffering of the weaker sections of the society affected by the adversities of weather.
- Traditional techniques and initiatives of the civil society towards providing low cost and loss minimizing eco and climate friendly options.

MPISSR invites you to participate in the National Seminar on ***Climatic Change, Weather Variability and its Impact on Human Life: Challenges and Strategies in Contemporary India***. MPISSR will reimburse travel cost and will arrange local hospitality to the invited delegates.

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