CLIMATE CHANGE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT: THE CHALLENGE FOR AGRICULTURAL SUSTAINABILITY

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ABSTRACT

India, one of the largest agrarian economies in the world, is deeply at risk from climate change, and could see economic losses of up to 8.7% of its gross domestic product (GDP) by 2100 if the world fails to respond to a host of climate threats, says a new Asian Development Bank (ADB) climate and economics report for South Asia.

India is highly vulnerable to climatic changes making the farming community more sensitive. Where the rich farmers have means to cope up with the changes, small and marginal farmers are the ones who face the brunt and have lesser adaptive capacity.

Agriculture provides employment and livelihood opportunities to most of India's rural population and changes in temperature and rainfall, and an increase in floods and droughts linked to climate change, would have a devastating impact on people's food security, incomes, and lives.

Climate change refers to the variation in the Earth’s global climate or in regional climate over time. It describes changes in the state of the atmosphere over time scales ranging from decades to millions of years In the above setting, this paper made an attempt to briefly discuss the contribution of agriculture towards climate change and critically examine the impact of climate change on food production in India and finally advocates for eco-friendly technologies through strengthening Institutional setup for sustainable agriculture and rural development.

Key Words: Climate change, Sustainable, Agriculture, Rural development, Government