

Climate Risk and Food Security Analysis

In the present century, climate change is regarded as one of the most severe global threats, due to its potential impact on life, the environment and the economy. The negative effects of climate change are usually witnessed by the less developed countries and the most vulnerable of society, as they often lack the capacities and resources to adapt to the changing climate. The *Climate Risk and Food Security Analysis Report* sheds light on the relationship between food security and climate variability in Pakistan. It highlights the relationship between food security and climate variability, attempts to understand the impact of climate change on designated agro-ecological zones, and recommends a set of key policies to build adaptive capacity and reduce climate-related food insecurity. Since the 1960s, mean temperatures in Pakistan have steadily increased by 0.35°C, at an average rate of 0.07°C per decade. During this time, the northern areas of the country have become more susceptible to torrential rains, while the coastal areas and arid plains have experienced decreasing trends in rainfall patterns. The changing rainfall patterns, along with the changes in temperature, are having a drastic impact on food crops, contributing to food insecurity, particularly affecting the vulnerable populations of Pakistan. Rural livelihoods that are dependent on farming are severely affected by droughts and flashfloods, especially in the regions of Sindh and Southern Punjab. People living in the mountainous regions of Gilgit-Baltistan, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Azad Jammu and Kashmir are also prone to flooding, affecting their coping capacities as well as livelihoods. Climatic vulnerabilities, therefore, have a catastrophic impact on livelihoods and food security, as well as on peace and stability. Economic and social stability in a region can only be achieved if people have adequate coping capacities and amenities of life. In order to ensure this, social, environmental and economic components must be in harmony with one another. In this regard, climate change mitigation and adaptation must be given due consideration. Some important adaptation measures include climate-smart agriculture, livelihood diversification, initiatives to manage natural resources, the creation of climate-resilient assets, and other related risk reduction and resilience-building activities. This would help enhance the coping capacity of people at the community level, reducing or even averting the associated risks and impacts of climate change. This panel will address the following questions:

- Given the relationship between climate change and food security, what are the changes expected in Pakistan in the coming years?
- Considering the present scenario of climate change, what policy interventions should be proposed for climate change mitigation?
- Where would funding for such interventions come from?
- Would there be partners involved?

Panel Organisers:

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