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Title: CLIMATE CHANGE VULNERABILITY ASSESSMENT, COPING TECHNOLOGIES AND MEDIA PREFERENCE OF THE FARMERS OF KANKE BLOCK UNDER RANCHI DISTRICT OF JHARKHAND STATE

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Abstract: Climate change means major changes in temperature, rainfall, snow or wind pattern etc. lasting for decades or longer. It is taking place since the formation of atmosphere. But during the last few decades, the change is becoming a matter of concern for human being due to its intensity and pace. To cope with situation, proper assessment of vulnerability to climate change and suitable technologies for adaptation are of prime importance. Hence, it was thought prudent to conduct a study on "Climate Change Vulnerability Assessment, Coping Technologies and Media Preference of the Farmers of Kanke block under Ranchi district of Jharkhand state" with the specific objective viz. to assess the vulnerability of farmers to climate change, to identify and document available research and indigenous technologies which facilitate adaptation to climate change and to study media preference of the farmers in ex-post-facto research design. The study was conducted in the purposely selected Kanke block under Ranchi district. Three villages viz. Rendo, Pithouriya and Sangrampur were selected on the criteria of agricultural development, social participation, awareness towards developmental programmes and vicinity to the agro meteorological observatory. Thirty farmers were selected randomly from each of the selected villages making the sample size of 90 respondents. The selected variables were: climate-related, climate change vulnerability, socio-economic and technological. The variables were measured through indices already developed or developed under the study. Climate-related data were considered for 30 years and for the purpose of comparison two decades i.e. 1985-1994 and 2005-2014 were selected. The results revealed that number of days with more than 40 °C during summer season has increased from first decade to second decade. Similarly the number of days with less than 5 °C during winter season has also increased. Likewise, number of days with peak maximum, peak minimum temperature, average maximum temperature and average minimum temperature has also been showing an increasing trend. Number of dry spell has been increasing whereas total rainfall and rainfall period have been decreasing. With regard to socio-economic variables, the findings indicated that majority of the respondents belonged to scheduled tribe, middle-age group and educated up to primary level. Majority of the respondents were found in the category of marginal farmers and vegetable crop was reported as their major enterprise. A substantially high percentage of the respondents were aware, felt and agreed that climate had been changing and affecting their income. Migration had been adopted by the respondents as a coping mechanism. Majority of the respondents were covered under financial inclusion but crop and livestock insurance were not encouraging. Climate change impacts were found more visible during recent years. Scheduled tribe community was found to have slightly higher community vulnerability. The sector-wise vulnerability indicated that field crop was the most vulnerable sector followed by vegetable crop and livestock. The overall score values reflected that cyclonic disturbance was the most important climate hazard followed by dry spell, heat waves, and hailstorm. There are ample scientific recommendations on crop variety and management. Farmers too were found to have their own ITKs to predict rainfall, water harvesting and insect pest management. Overall, majority of the respondents desired information on package of practices and market information on weekly basis, weather information on daily basis and welfare information on monthly basis. Mobile emerged as the most preferred media followed by newspaper, television, radio and web portal. Climate change is beyond the control of people and so adaptation is the only solution. Hence, it is imperative that the adaptive capacity of the farmers should be increased with the synergy between agricultural research, agricultural extension, insurance and institutional support so that agriculture could continue as profitable enterprise even in the situation of climate change.

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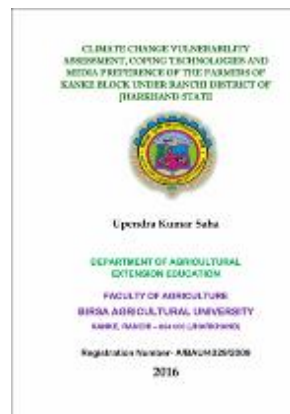
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