

# The Impact of Climate Change on Agriculture and Rural Development

The impact of global warming of anthropogenic origin is an increasingly potent threat to agriculture globally and to the livelihoods and well-being of those engaged in agricultural and related activities. It will also endanger the food and nutrition security of all countries and regions. Adaptation to the impact of global warming, taking note of the potential range of future global temperature increase, is a critical issue for agriculture today.

An understanding of adaptation in agriculture requires not only analysis of the technological issues involved, but also of social, economic and political contexts, especially in the less-developed countries. Given the extensive contribution of small producers to agricultural production, the vulnerability of their lives and livelihoods, and their urgent developmental needs, adaptation measures must also be equitable, protecting and enhancing their livelihood choices and providing increase in incomes, consumption levels, asset and wealth creation and overall well-being.

Another challenge to agriculture in the global South, including in India, is the push for a policy shift in agriculture that prioritises climate change mitigation over the need to increase agricultural production and productivity. The bioresources of the global South are sought to be positioned as the key global carbon sink for the world, and the source of energy through biofuel crops, without considering the importance of adaptation for food and nutrition security. Mitigation is also sought to be pushed through by means of market-based policies, increasingly favouring carbon trading in agriculture. The conference will explore the future of food and nutrition security and the measures to safeguard it, particularly in the global South in the context of climate change.

**The Foundation invites papers on adaptation and its impact on production and inequality (including on food and nutrition security, the adaptation challenge for small producers, and impact on rural workers); and on the scale and scope of mitigation in agriculture (including tradeoffs and distributional consequences of mitigation).**