



CHANGING PATTERNS OF CLIMATE AND LIVELIHOODS IN ASSAM – KEY FINDINGS



Climate change has been a universal phenomenon and across globe, people are experiencing its impact on livelihoods, food security, nutrition and health. North East India being a biodiversity hotspot, the climate change plays out differently than usual, affecting its flora, fauna and people alike.

Assam is an agrarian state and the livelihoods of the rural people are directly dependent on climate sensitive natural resources like land, water and forests. It is seen that extreme weather events have slowed down crop growth, and affected irrigation, soil quality, and the ecosystem on which agriculture depends. Changing patterns of climate has huge impacts on agriculture and food security leading to challenges including food productivity and reduced food availability.

Rural and urban poor are disproportionately affected by climate change. Women are among the first to face the direct consequences of climate change, due to their dependence upon and close relationship with the environment and its resources. They are more vulnerable to climate change impacts, given that they play a critical role in natural resources management within their households and communities. Non-farming activities are becoming central to rural livelihoods and increasing numbers of young people are moving away from farming. Additionally, women and young people also lack access to and control of resources and assets such as land and finance, due to structural barriers.

The objective of the survey was

- To assess the understanding of climate change in the communities
- To look at the changing patterns of rural livelihood with special focus on farming and its correlation with climate change in the last 10 years.



The background of the page is a photograph of a rural landscape. In the foreground, there is a field of tall, golden-brown grass or reeds. In the background, there are several tall, thin trees with green foliage against a clear blue sky. The overall scene is bright and sunny.

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