

Impact of Climate Change and Remedies



Draught

The adverse effect of draught can be managed as under:

- If rain is prolonged up to 8 to 10 days no effect on crop
- If rain is prolonged beyond 15 days, irrigation becomes essential
- In absence of irrigation facility, take out the alternate row of crop.



Heat Waves

- Heat waves burn the crops.
- Agro forestry, mix cropping, alternate cropping can help to some extent. Irrigate the land at short interval.
- The protective safety fence of shivery for Banana and Papaya trees and planting of 5 to 6 lines of Sorghum around summer maize can help a lot.
- Timely information about weather forecasting can help in taking preventive steps.



Cyclone

Warnings of cyclone, heavy rains, heat and cold waves are made available by Indian Meteorological Department, Government of India. The farmer must keep himself informed about it through various communication links. Planting trees like Mangroves and Bamboos prevent soil erosion and save crops from high wind velocity and floods.



Cold Waves

- The cold waves and un-seasonal rain affect horticulture crops.
- The heap of waste grass can be burnt to create warmer effect.



Air Pollution

Vegetation and agricultural greenery absorb the CO₂ from the atmosphere through the unique natural photosynthesis process. Climate smart agriculture reduces air pollution caused by CO₂ and in exchange gets Oxygen released.



Water Pollution

The climate smart agriculture also includes innovative technology of recycling of dirty water caused by industrial processes and converts it into reusable clean water. Thus, water pollution is reduced to a substantial extent. Moreover, it also emphasizes the economic use of scarce water resources in a smart manner.



Flood

The climate smart agriculture emphasizes on the timely information available from weather forecasting mechanism. It will enable all concerned about timely proactive steps. The Disaster Management Authority gives timely warning. Farmers will have to remain alert to prevent loss of family members, properties animals and standing crops.



Earthquake



Tsunami



Forest Fire



Impact on Agriculture

The irregular rain, off-season rain and increased heat affect the agriculture adversely. Excess rainfall, excess cold and excess heat reduce and destroy agro produce. The climate smart agriculture resorting to latest technology and its planned extension services save the agriculture and also maintain the land productivity on a sustainable basis.



Impact on Marine Life

The marine life is adversely affected by the polluted water released by industrial processes in rivers and seas, which destroy the marine life. The culture ponds be made insects-free and fresh waters be replaced. The heat waves and cold waves compel the migration of fishes. The fishermen be informed about this, so that they can manage their fish farming accordingly.



Impact on Livestock

Excessive heat disturbs milk productivity, growth and life of livestock. Adverse impact of climate change on vegetation and agriculture adversely affect the availability of fodder- green as well as dry. Cattle and poultry need to be provided shelter in time of drought, heat or cold waves.



Impact on Human Beings

The recurrences of flood, tsunami, earthquake, droughts, forest fire etc. directly affect the human habitation and lives. The devastating effects resulting into loss of lives and properties, standing crop and livestock, can be saved to a considerable extent through preventive and precautionary action plan.

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Agro forestry

Agro forestry serves as a safety measure for some of the natural calamities like cyclone, natural cooling under heat waves etc. Agro forestry conserves micro nutrients, prevents soil erosion. Thus, it maintains and enhances the productivity of land. It brings the fallow and barren land to active use. Agro forestry shades are conducive to the growth of some crops which are to be kept away from direct sun-rays. It also contributes to cattle farming. The photosynthesis by agro forestry /vegetation helps in reducing the CO₂ level and mitigates unfavourable impacts of climate change. It provides an extra income source in case of failure of main crops.



Mix Cropping

One of the important characteristics of the bio-mass is that they become complementary to each other for their survival and growth. Mix crop is a glaring example of such phenomenon. Some illustrative unique mix cropping as under proves advantageous:

- Cotton and pulses
- Pigeon-pea and Maize
- Ground-nut and sunflower
- Soyabin and sunflower
- Castor and green gram

The mix crop is advantageous to farmers because it reduces the weeds and increases total farm produce. It reduces pests and the micro-insects. It increases the productivity and fertility of land. If one crop fails, the other crop provides income to the farmers.



Net House

High-tech green house as “Protected Farming” reduces the effect of heat, cold or rain and contributes to better and high value horticulture and agro produce. It is more suitable to high value horticulture produce like fruits, vegetables and flowers. It enables the farmers to get long term financial rewards from one time high-cost investments. Alongwith the conventional high-tech farming like cut-flower, jerbera, capsicum, the newer crops like cashew nuts, shaffrony, cucumber, arvi, ginger etc. provide high returns. Government subsidies are available for these types of agricultural activities.



Solar and Wind Energy

Solar and wind energy are natural sources of energy. It can be generated anywhere including remote rural areas eliminating the transmission losses. It does not generate air pollution like thermal fuel. Solar energy is used for lighting, water lifting, water heating, crop dehydration, computer, and refrigerator.

Unlike thermal power, it reduces the Co₂ generation and the resultant global warming. It is an eternal source and fear of scarcity of fuel like oil or coal is not there. It avails the power at local level and thus can help in improving the agricultural production and productivity at local level at low cost. Government subsidy is available.



Check Dam

Check dam is a simple technique of accumulating the flowing water in a reservoir and to use it during non-monsoon days. It is a part of watershed programme and the unique schemes of Public – Pvt. Partnership (PPP). Check dams are very important in rainfed areas. They help to conserve the moisture of the soil and improve the agricultural productivity. It prevents the soil erosion caused by flowing water. It brings up the water level of wells and replenishes the water drawn from the tube wells. It helps in using the fallow, saline and barren lands. It makes local population aware about the importance of water, its accumulation and the use of water in critical days. The local leadership can play an important role in popularizing this concept. Government subsidies are available.



Drip Irrigation

Drip irrigation enables the use of scarce water resources effectively because the water is flown through holes in a plastic pipe directly to roots thus transitory water absorption is reduced and it also reduces soil salinity in saline areas.

Moreover, it monitors the water supply as per requirements. Soluble fertilizers and pesticides can be added in water to feed the plants directly. It improves profitability and productivity. Government subsidy is available.



Warehousing

Warehousing facilitates the storing of the perishable agro-produce. It helps in maintaining the self-life by providing required temperature.

It reduces the wastages caused by unfavorable climatic conditions and insects. It helps in assuring food security for human and animals. It helps in maintaining the self-life of perishable product.

It helps the farmers to fetch better price through marketing in off- season. Government subsidy is available.

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Gir Cow



Kankreji Cow

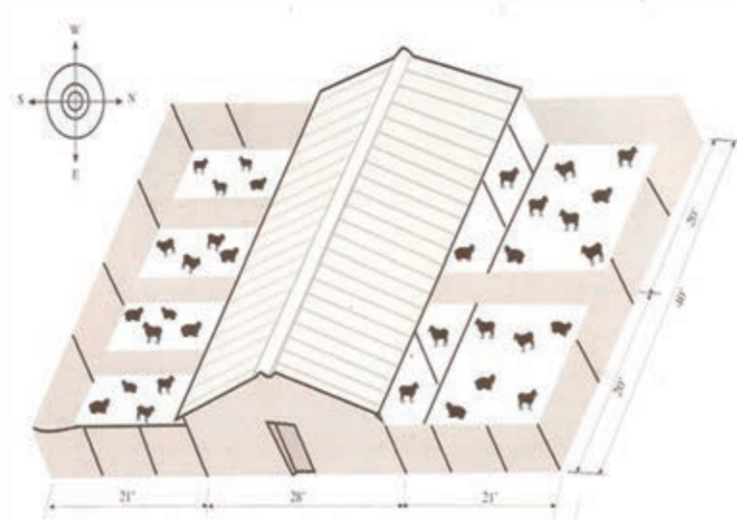


Jafrabadi Buffalo

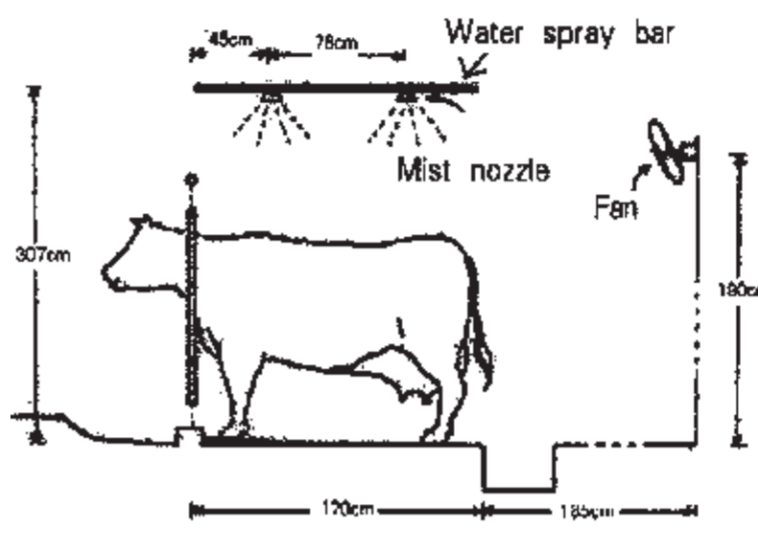


Mehsani buffalo

Original or local breeds are climate resilient and capable of bearing heat stresses and cold waves. These breeds possess area specific resistance power. So, while buying them, this has to be kept in view. They are sturdy and have very good stamina and can walk through long distances for grazing. The milk production can be increased by adopting proper cattle feed and its mix. Milk and ghee of these cows enjoy premium price.



Cattle Shelter Management



Bio-gas plant

Cattle should be housed in appropriate shelter. Such shelter helps to maintain milk yield even during heat waves or cold waves and enhances yield during normal season. The shelter may be housed in covered area. Cattle may be provided clean drinking water as it increases milk productivity. Fans, foggers and sprinklers may be added for cooling during heat waves.

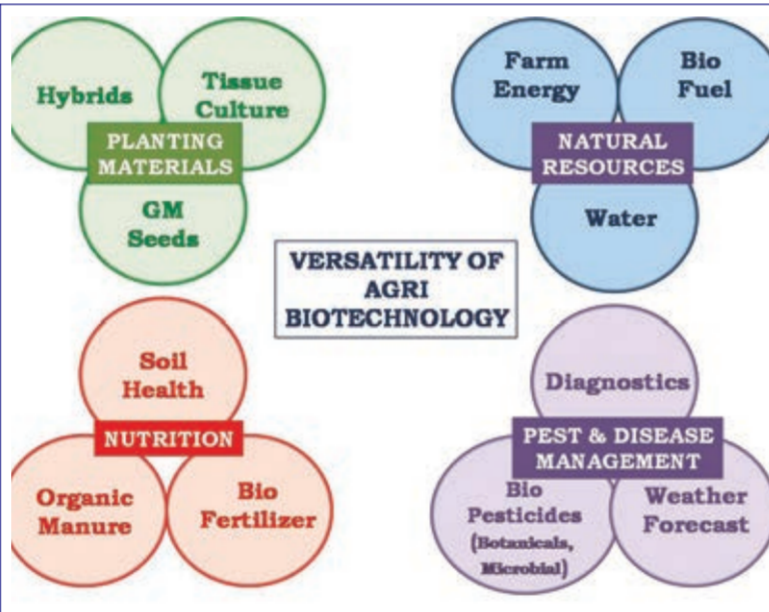
The cattle shed should face East- West with gates and windows in North – South direction. The middle part of shed be kept 15' high and the ends be kept at 10' high and upper part must have air exhaust arrangements. The slope of the floor be towards drain and wood-saw-waste be spreaded over it on regular basis. For each cattle 3m X 1.5m space be provided. Around the shed, the neem (Azadirachta indica), banyan (Ficus bengalensis) trees be planted, which help in cooling the average climate. In case of those animal holders who cannot afford shed or have no land – need to keep buffaloes in community ponds and cows under the trees – preferably Neem Tree, Banyan Tree. They can also take advantage of NAREGA and RKVY to construct community sheds in common Grazing Areas (Gauchar)

Community Biogas Plant is a cooperative endeavour which uses dung for decentralized domestic gas generation for cooking. The residue slurry of bio-gas plant is used as valuable organic manure. It can be converted in vermi compost which can be used in farms or can be sold in packed bags. This helps in mitigation of methane gas. Government subsidies are available for installing community and individual bio-gas plant.



Organic Farming

Organic food and vegetables with high nutritive contents have high value as health products. Organic farming reduces the cost of production through replacing the costly chemical fertilizers. It reduces the green house gas generation. The organic products fetch premium price. The land fertility and micro nutrients are sustained for longer time. Organic farming has dual advantages a) It fosters market demand with premium pricing and b) It helps in sustaining the soil health. But while taking up production, farmer need to keep in view (i) Market chain – for product and (ii) Soil health – whether it is suitable as otherwise it takes long time to become viable.



Bio-technology

Application of biological research on agriculture - Genetically Modified (GM) seeds, hybrid seeds, tissue culture, bio-fertilizer, bio-pesticides improve crop productivity and are climate resilient. Tissue culture provides healthy plants through seedling process with identical size and attributes. It improves farm productivity. It reduces mortality and can be planted once rains arrive and are very good solution for delayed rain. The GM Seeds like BT Cotton – increase the yield and reduce cost by minimal use of pesticides and reduce Green House Gases.



Women Farmer

Women have been working on farm and cattle management along with the household responsibilities. Increasingly they are replacing men who go to work outside and all farming decisions are taken by them. They are new farmers and need to be guided by door-step approach. Moreover, avenues of self-employment can be provided to woman through encouraging Self Help Groups (SHGs) for conducting micro economic activities. The encouragement of micro savings helps in controlling the addiction and bad habits of male members. Women farmers also add value to agro produce through cleaning, sorting, grading etc., making of pickles, papad etc. They take up handicraft – tailoring also which provide additional source of income.



Youth

The rural youth, especially the sons of the land holders – farmers with educational background have started taking interest in high-tech agriculture. They have become the instruments for accepting agriculture as a professional enterprise. Such shift contributes towards entrepreneurship development by taking up micro enterprises. The educated youth with scientific farming can also contribute in extension activities for replacing the traditional farming in their respective areas.