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Climate Change Hazard to Rain-fed Agriculture in India

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Objectives

- Identify sources of vulnerability to rainfed agriculture & estimation of extent of vulnerable regions at State, AESR & District levels in India
- Trend in variations in SPI, NDVI & LGP in vulnerable regions
- Typology of agriculturally vulnerability in India
- Identify strategies to mitigate, adapt and improve resilience of rainfed farming

Use of NDVI to study Agricultural Vulnerability



• NDVI derived from 2-band information (Red & Near-infra Red) of MSS imagery is contrast –stretch ratio calculated from Red & NIR bands from LANDSAT – TM; AVHRR; IRS-1B/1C/1D/P6 satellite based sensors LISS-2, LISS-3 / LISS-4; and MODIS besides others.

• NDVI derived from AVHRR & MODIS data with Red reflectance in Band 1 & NIR reflectance in Band 2 was calculated as follows: band 2-band 1 / band 2 + band 1.

• Land Use & Land Cover (LULC) study helps in identifying NDVI variations in agriculture, forest & open scrubland.

• Correlating rainfall pattern with NDVI time-series data indicates areas vulnerable to Climate Change .

• Use of NDVI is particularly advantageous in sub-tropical regions in Asia & Africa where dependence of agriculture is high & climate data is scarce. This helps in drawing strategies to manage & adapt to weather aberrations.

Dataset Used

NOAA- AVHRR dataset: Data was downloaded from Global Land Cover Facility (GLCF) website www.landcover.org (http://www.glcf.umd.edu/data/gimms/) as 15-day Maximum-Value Composite





TERRA – MODIS dataset

Land Cover Classification
Tree Cover Continuous
Fields
Burned Areas in Russia

MODIS (250m) NDVI composite products freely available from Land Processes - Distributed Active Archive Centre (LPDAAC) website of USGS http://mrtweb.cr.usqs.gov/ wherein Indian sub-continent is covered in 13 tiles. Data is available from February 2000 onwards.



SPI Grid Tile



IMD provides daily rainfall data of >100years for many stations from archives. Daily girded rainfall data for 1901-2007 for 1384 stations used by Rajeevan et al 2008). Girded rainfall data on regular grid of 10 x 10 was used to calculate SPI.











Shavariarpettai, Ramanathapuram, Tamilnadu Feb. 2013







Temporal variations in MODIS-NDVI (2001-2011)















- Variations was least in zones having 90-120 days LGP.
- Pixel resolution affected identification of Start of Season & End- of Season of LGP. (AVHRR indicated 135 days of LGP while MODIS indicated 160 days of LGP based on NDVI .



•Similarly AESR 4.4 (Central India Plateau), 8.2 (Central Karnataka), 8.3(TN Uplands), 13.1 (Northern Bihar), 16.3 (Aruanchal Pradesh) experienced increase in LGP from 90 to 120 days.

- Decline in NDVI during 1982-2000 with an increase during 2001-2010.
- Reduction in LGP Green-up phase during *Rabi* season was significant.





TERRA). NOAA-AVHRR indicated 29 mha as vulnerable to it. This translates to 20.4 to 33.1% of Net Sown Area in the country as under risk.





Typology based on prevalent bioclimate in the region



• 30 vulnerable districts located in arid region, 80 districts in semi-arid, 10 in hot dry sub-humid & 2 in hot moist sub- humid bio-climate (MI).









Typology of Agricultural Vulnerability based on LGP variability





• 80 districts with >50% Net Sown Area (NSA) indicated decrease in LGP (6 in arid, 70 in semiarid & 4 in sub-humid), accounting for 0.83 mha under paddy, 0.26 mha under cotton & sugarcane & 0.48 mha under oilseeds.



MODIS & AVHRR datasets indicated similar trend in 68 districts in semi-arid & arid regions. 54 districts had dissimilar trend.



• 31 districts with >50% NSA indicated increase in LGP (23 in arid & 8 in semi-arid), accounting for 0.64 mha under pearl millet, pulses and groundnut.



AVHRR NDVI dataset indicated decrease in upperlimit of LGP 44 districts, increase in 70 districts & no change in 8 districts. MODIS NDVI indicated decrease in 4, increase in 65 & same in 53 districts



• 11 districts with >50% NSA indicated no change in LGP (1 in arid, 2 in semi-arid & 8 in sub-humid).



Change in lower-limit of LGP based on AVHRR- NDVI indicated decrease in 92, increase in 28, & no change in 2 districts. MODIS-NDVI indicated a decline in 53, increase in 60 districts& no change in 9.

Conclusions



•NOAA – AVHRR (8km, 15 days) time- series NDVI composite data (1981-2006) was found suitable for state/ AESR –level study. TERRA-MODIS (250m 16-day) NDVI composite was suitable for district -level study, although available since 2000.

•To extend district-level analysis, AVHRR (1-km) resolution data required. This would involve study of 56,917 scenes to cover whole of India from 1982 till 2012.

•Study helped to estimate extent of agricultural vulnerability in India. Over 74 mha in 26 AESR in 12 states in India would be adversely affected by climate change which would require strategies for risk management & crop contingency planning in rainfed areas.

•122 districts in 12 states including 10 districts with <50% net sown area and 112 with >50% net sown area would be affected by climate change.

• There was a difference in extent of vulnerable region identified using AVHRR (8km, 15 days) and MODIS (250m, 16 days) NDVI composite data products. While AVHRR indicated 29mha NSA, MODIS indicated 47mha NSA as vulnerable. Difference was essentially due to variation in ground resolution of both datasets.

• Methodology was developed to derive LGP from NDVI datasets. Threshold Value (TV) for Start of Season (SOS) & End Of Season(EOS) were derived for each AESR based on NDVI of three normal years.

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- Study of LGP variations indicated a decline in moist semi-arid Gangetic Plains, sub-humid Central India, southern Plateau and Coastal region that forms an important agricultural region. While LGP derived from AVHRR and MODIS datasets were similar, it varied in case of arid ecosystems in Rajasthan and Gujarat.
- Cropping systems based on paddy, maize, soybean and cotton faced climate hazard while ecosystems with large buffalos and cattle population could face fodder shortage. Land use in typical vulnerable district was analysed to identify strategies for improving adaptive capacity of farmer.
- Trend in SPI indicated a decline in rainfall in large parts in India.
- Decline in NDVI was seen during first 2 decades with an increase in previous decade. Study of NDVI variations in snow-clad Himalayas was not undertaken.









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National Initiative on Climate Resilient Agriculture



Spatial Vulnerability Assessment using Satellite based NDVI for Rainfed Agriculture in India



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Asia Geospatial Excellence Award

Assessing Agricultural Vulnerability using Satellite Data to Improve Adaptive Capacity of Rainfed Farmers in India

> Award conferred on 25 Nov 2014 at Jakarta, Indonesia at Asia Geospatial Forum

