Livelihood diversification as an adaptation strategy

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Climate impacts on livelihoods of the poor

- "High confidence" that slow onset and extreme climate-related hazards directly affect the poor through adverse impacts on livelihoods.
- Lost agricultural income drives disproportionate impacts among poor households globally. Also, loss of common pool resources like forests, fisheries
- Warming trends, droughts pose greatest risks to livelihood resources, particularly crops and human health (important for livelihoods and well-being).
- Emerging shift from crop to livestock as a buffer activity to recover from crop losses. Viability in the long term not yet assessed.
- Livelihood impacts concentrated in South Asia, Africa, North America. Third of total sampled evidence on livelihood impacts was observed in just three countries—Bangladesh, India and Nepal.

Summary of confidence on the observed impacts of 23 climate hazards on nine key livelihood resources on which the poor depend most



Low

Medium

INTERNAL. This information is accessible to ADB Management and staff. It may be shared outside ADB with appropriate

Confidence on the observed impacts

Lower

Highe

No time for incrementalism

Transformational change is necessary

- Enabling policy and institutional environment
- Climate-resilient practices and technologies
- Increased investments, including from private sector
- Reshape supply chains, food retail, marketing and procurement
- Digital agriculture to revolutionize agriculture and supply chains
- Empower local governments, producer and consumer organizations, women, youth and marginalized groups to promote local action, strengthen negotiating power and increase access to resources



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Nature of responses

- Timely. Responses within a matter of days and weeks (anticipatory social protection, local funds, etc).
- Targeted. Focus on the worst affected communities and groups.
- Sustainable. Long-lasting results leading to self-sufficiency of the affected communities and their resource base, not short-term result reliant on external support
- Integrated. Engagement of various actors (vulnerable communities, government agencies, local and international NGOs, media)



Specific measures

- Increasing market integration. Access to credit, technology, infrastructure; risk reducing options; tenure reforms; farming organisations, cooperatives
- Climate informed shifts in the farming system. New technologies; training; credit
- Small-scale entrepreneurship, particularly for landless. New innovative farming systems, microcredit, training
- Adaptive social safety nets for those least integrated into markets
- Exiting/reducing agriculture in the livelihood portfolio. Policies to support future livelihoods; develop secondary and tertiary industries in rural area; education, specific skills



Related GCA activities

• Digital climate advisory services

- Locally led planning and institutionalized capacity strengthening. Climate resilient migrant friendly cities
- Youth jobs, entrepreneurship, leadership



Migration

- Climate change is accelerating livelihood transitions from rural agricultural production to urban wages. Increased reliance on temporary, seasonal or permanent migration, urban wage labour and remittances.
- Rural-to-urban livelihood transitions under climate change accelerating rural and urban stratification of wealth. Households where family member cannot migrate become more impoverished. Those less able to bear the costs of urban migration are also forced to migrate.
- More men seek employment opportunities away from home. Women are required to acquire new capacities to manage new challenges, including increasing vulnerability to climate change.



Loss and damage and livelihoods

- Loss of livelihoods and income sources
- •Food insecurity
- Malnutrition and permanent impacts to health and labour productivity
- OLoss of life
- OLoss of homelands





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