

## Climate Change and Water Crisis - Global Concerns

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### SUMMARY

Climate change has pressed India's climate towards extremes disrupting the quantity and frequency of rainfall. Climate change is becoming a major global concern around the world. It has caused a great devastation in many areas of India during last years. The water resources in many areas are depleting at higher rate, would affect not only agriculture but also societal balance overall. Considering the present scenario of climate change, world need to pay more attention to resolve the issue in this decade. Employing modern water conservation and management methods and irrigation techniques could help to minimize the risk of drinking water and agriculture requirements.

### INTRODUCTION

World Water Day was celebrated worldwide on 22<sup>nd</sup> March. This year in 2020 it was organised with the theme 'Climate and Water' to emphasize how climate and water are indivisibly linked with each other. It has delivered brief understanding on the impacts of climate change on water. We are aware that water is vital source of all the living beings on mother earth. Life will not be possible without water. It comprises as an important component for food, shelter and clothing.

Today, the world is a facing a many threats by both biotic and abiotic stresses. The challenges posed by extreme climate events are causing damage to natural resources and human too. Issues like Water stress, floods, droughts and lack of clean water are increasing at alarming level. Impacts of such issues have caused threat to livelihood opportunities and imposed migration in some places. It must be utmost priority to improve our forecasting and management practices related to climate and water. The effects of unpredictable weather are causing availability of water, distribution of rainfall, river flow, groundwater, and snowmelt. Water necessity has increased with rise in population of the world. The extraction of water from aquifers is growing quicker which is a wakeup call for policy makers and water experts. As per joint committee report of World Health Organization and UNICEF (2019), about 2.2 billion people around world are facing scarcity of safe water. The water scarcity crisis is not unique to India. Globally, over 880 million people—about one in every nine people in the world—do not have access to clean water within 6 km of their homes (Dagupta, 2019). Hence employing measures to overcome water crisis is primary goal of different nations.

### Climate Change

Climate change is impacting deleteriously on agriculture, health, industry and trade of different commodities. United Nations climate change conference held in December 2019 at Madrid (Spain) left without any strong action or move regarding climate change concerns. Now, everyone is eyeing on 26<sup>th</sup> Conference of Parties (COP) to be held at Scotland during November 2020. If we succeed in limiting temperature rise by 1.5 °C than pre industrial levels, it will reduce climate induced water stress by 50 per cent (IPCC, 2018). United Nations sustainable Development Goals aims to achieve the water and sanitation needs to be reach by 2030. We need to change our lifestyles to avoid wastage of food and water resources. Climate

change is global concern and can be mitigated by adapting sustainable measures. It is essential to warn everyone regarding current status of water in the world but mere fear will not work. Everyone has to take a small step i.e. avoid wastage of water because every drop counts. This could be a step towards overcoming water crisis issues. Water and sanitation facilities must reach to every corners of the world ensuring that no one will be left from rights of having safe water.

### **Agriculture and Water**

Irrigated agriculture plays a key role in food production. The governments, water managers, engineers and farmers need to modernize their irrigation systems so that they are more productive and less damaging for the environment. For many rural people, water is often the primary production factor that needs to be secured. In coming days, Climate change will lead to more common and intense weather extreme events like droughts and floods, with devastating impacts on food production systems. In this concern, sound water management will be an essential for building agriculture against such increased risks. Increased population, urban development projects, agriculture production and climate change is in need of high water requirements across the country.

Keeping the current scenario in mind, policy makers and people must step up to employ novel practices with technological support like:

1. Educating and spreading awareness about water and its uses in daily life.
2. Establishing water catchment and rain water harvesting structures.
3. Waste water treatments and its utilization for due purpose.
4. Improving agriculture through micro-irrigation technologies.
5. Development of watersheds where sustainable water sources are lacking.
6. Implementation of water conservation technologies.
7. Need brainstorming on industrial water uses e.g. Bottled water.
8. Maintain water quality for better human life and biodiversity.

### **CONCLUSION**

Water is major stakeholder which is vital source of life. Considering its utmost importance in sustaining biological life on earth, water should be at the center of Climate change policy. Water is major concern widely discussed by policy makers of different nations. To cope up with water crisis in upcoming days everyone has a role to play. It is serious message of nature that we should increase more green belts around and use sustainable methods to reduce the risk of global climate change and water crisis.

### **REFERENCES**

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