

Climate Change- Weather Health Indices As Tools and Services in Agriculture

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Farmers are the back-bone of India and the entire nation depends on them for food requirements. However, when the farmers lose confidence in their noble profession and resort to extreme steps like suicides, surmounting of this tragedy will be a daunting task for policy makers. In India 11, 772 farmers committed suicides. Of which the state wide incidents include, Maharastra - 3146 (26.72%); Andhra Pradesh- 2014 (17.10%); Madhya Pradesh- 1090 (9.25%); Karnataka 1403 (11.19%) and other states - 4119 (38.02%). At the same time one of the major challenges the human kind facing is to provide an equitable standard of living for the current and future generations: adequate food, water, energy, safety, shelter and a healthy environment. Human induced climate change and increasing climate variability as well as other global environmental issues such as land degradation, loss of biological diversity, increasing pollution of the atmosphere and fresh water and stratospheric ozone depletion threaten human ability to meet these needs. Therefore, the science of climate change and variability and their likely impacts on agriculture assumed significance.