Global Impacts of Climate Change: Food Insecurity

SWIPE TO READ

1

Climate change is a global issue, the effects of which are expected to increase exponentially across the globe in the coming decades. If we remain on our current path, climate change will eventually come to influence every aspect of our lives. This series by EOS Eco-Energy aims to help spread awareness about future threats and provide a brief explanation on a few of the global impacts of climate change.

2

Food insecurity is just one of the many ways climate change will come to affect our lives.
The effects of food insecurity will vary greatly across the globe, with certain regions affected at different rates and times.
Climate change will limit agricultural seasons and production in many areas of the world. It will also drastically change where and how food sources can be produced, as many environments will change. Climate change will also affect accessibility of food in a multitude of ways.

3

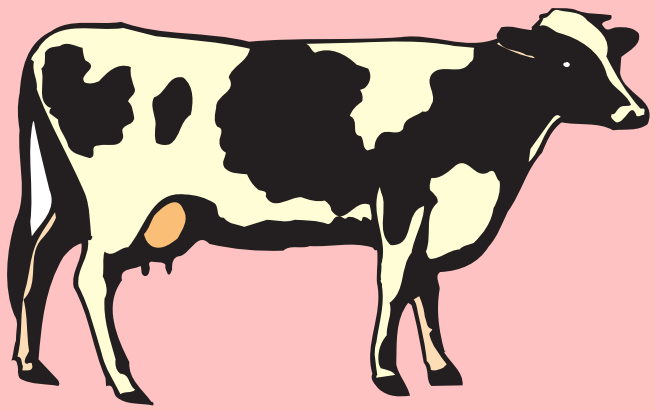
Climate change will affect our ability to produce food crops, as well as limit our ability to farm and sustain livestock. Climate change has already begun to affect crops around the world. In Bangladesh and Vietnam, saltwater flooding due to changes in weather patterns has already ruined billions of dollars worth of rice crops. These crops are essential for the financial future of the farmers and the states. Rice is also an essential food crop in the region.

4

Rising sea levels and increased risk of floods both pose a significant threat to many coastal crops. Vietnam exports 15% of the world's total rice exports (Concern Worldwide, 2022). Approximately half of Vietnam's rice production is centred in the Mekong Delta, an area of swamps, marshes and islands that rely on the Mekong river. Rising temperatures, changes in weather patterns and other issues caused by climate change have already begun to affect river flow, causing unpredictable conditions. Even a minor flood in the area can have massive repercussions on food security (Concern Worldwide, 2022).

5

Climate change can also affect livestock yield, both directly and indirectly. Animal health and productivity are both greatly influenced by environmental factors. In sub-Saharan Africa, livestock farmers struggle with animal loss due to the effects of climate change (FAO, 2015). Due to issues such as draughts and heatwaves, as well as declining foraging and feed crop yields, livestock farmers in the region now commonly deal with between a 20-60% loss of their livestock (FAO, 2015).



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Fisheries and aquaculture in both fresh and salt water will also be greatly affected by climate change. Climate change, and the factors that create and further climate change, can cause physical and chemical changes to aquatic environments. This can be detrimental for farmed and wild aquatic life. Both physical and chemical changes to aquatic environments and water ways can also affect farming, as well as human and animal habitats.

7

The increasing challenge to grow food poses many issues around the world. Beyond the increased risk of malnutrition and starvation, the decline of the agriculture and farming industries will lead to extreme job loss and economic instability. The loss of industry will cause loss of income for many individuals and families, which in turn will lead to a reduced capacity to spend on health, and health and will further impact the global economy. Due to reduced industry and food supplies, along with declining worker productivity, large-scale economic structures will falter. Food insecurity will cause market disruptions and crashes, reduced agricultural development, food price volatility and inaccessibility to global markets, especially for the poorest countries and populations. Food insecurity is an issue we will all face as the effects of climate change begin to worsen.

8

Individuals can make a difference when it comes to food security. By planting your own food forests or gardens, you can help eliminate tonnes of carbon emissions from food transportation. They use less water than commercial agriculture , help to restore the soil, sequester carbon, improve biodiversity and much more! You can also help by supporting local farmers and businesses, wasting less food, and lessening your consumption of meat and dairy.

Sources

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Information collected by EOS Eco-Energy 2022 summer intern, Emilie Botma