

Category	: International Rice Research Conference
Select Theme	: Climate change and environmental sustainability
Endorsement email	:
Keyword 1	: Mitigation of climate change
Keyword 2	: Adaptation to climate change
Keyword 3	: Water scarcity
Title of Entry	: Climate change and Rice Farming: Farmers Perception and Adaptation Strategies
Presenting author	: P.Muthuraman
Presenting author email	: headttiirr@gmail.com
Co author 1	: S.N. Meera
Co author 2	: S.Arun Kumar
Co author 3	: P.Jeyakuar
Co author 4	: Brajendra
Co author 5	: P.C.Latha
Co author 6	:
Co author 7	:
Co author 8	:
Co author 9	:
Co author 10	:
Co author 11	:
Co author 12	:
Co author 13	:
Co author 14	:
Affiliation presenting author	: ICAR- Indian institute of Rice Research, Hyderabad, India
Affiliation 1	: ICAR- Indian institute of Rice Research, Hyderabad, India
Affiliation 2	: ICAR- Indian institute of Rice Research, Hyderabad, India

Affiliation 3	: ICAR- Indian institute of Rice Research, Hyderabad, India
Affiliation 4	: ICAR- Indian institute of Rice Research, Hyderabad, India
Affiliation 5	: ICAR- Indian institute of Rice Research, Hyderabad, India
Affiliation 6	:
Affiliation 7	:
Affiliation 8	:
Affiliation 9	:
Affiliation 10	:
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Select only one type of presentation	: 15 minute oral presentation
Abstract	: This study was conducted in the Cauvery delta region of Tamil Nadu, India. The main sources of data were from both primary and secondary sources. An ex-post facto survey design was used. An interview schedule was used to elicit information from 200 farmers. Eight villages representing four taluks and two districts namely Thanjavur and Tiruvarur were selected. The sample districts and villages were witnessing the climate change pressure tremendously for almost one and half decade and the impact is very severe on the rice farmers. The selected sample farmers were above 40 years old. The study revealed that the farmers irrespective of the operational landholding size have experienced climate change in the last two decades (96%). Almost all the farmers have expressed that they have not cultivated both the kuruvai (June-July) and Early samba (August) rice due to climate change and no water in the river Cauvery. As much as 42% of the farmers even witnessed terminal droughts even in the samba season (Sep-Oct) leading to poor yield and at times total crop failure. Due to climate change the ground water source was thoroughly exploited by immersing bore wells (64%), the aquifers started depleting in the delta and sea water started intruding. Now inland salinity is a major challenge faced by farmers. The farmers perceive the threat of climate change through the prism of fluctuation in rainfall (90%), decreasing quantum of rainfall (82%), decreasing rainy days (77%), occurrence of drought very frequently (69%), low rice yield (46%), stunted growth of rice crop (33%), and some of the government interventions to provide livelihood (53%). The prevalent adaptation measures followed by rice farmers to mitigate the climate change are 1. cultivation of early maturing varieties (78%), 2. early planting (65%), 3. direct sowing (73%), 4. usage of wells and pumps for irrigation (66%), 5. cultivation less farm area (51%), 6. alternative crop cultivation (49%), 7. direct rice cultivation (27%), 8. agricultural insurance (18%) and 9. stop farming (11%)

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