



NDYS in Action, Newsletter

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The VOICE of YOUTH is NEEDED!

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Topics

Climate Change and disaster reduction

Low rain percentage dried many fields in Afghanistan.

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Below average rainfall has hit food production in eastern and northeastern Afghanistan where some rain-fed fields have dried out, officials and farmers said.

"I planted wheat on my land but it has failed due to lack of rain," said Hamidullah, the owner of eight hectares in Chaparhar District in the eastern province of Nangarhar.

Enayatullah, a farmer in Nangarhar's Sor Rod District, said: "I spent 70,000 Afghanis [US\$1,450] on wheat and onion seeds but my fields have dried out."



This is the view of many fields nowadays.

Provincial agriculture officials said "drought" has been reported in 12 of the province's 23 districts, mostly in areas where farmers are reliant on rain, rather than irrigation.

About 20,000 hectares of farmland is drought-affected, said Muhsil Khan, an agriculture official, adding that Sor Rod, Chaparhar, Rodat, Achin, Spinghar and Goshta were the worst hit.

Drought-affected farmers in Nangarhar said they needed food aid, and assistance to irrigate their land. However, the drought-like conditions are not limited to Nangarhar.

"Despite periods of rain and snow during March and early April, precipitation deficits remain substantial across the northeast parts of the country," Famine Early Warning Systems Network (FEWS NET), an affiliate of the US Agency for International Development, said in a 14 April report.

FEWS NET predicted a "mid-level drought" in northeastern areas. The Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock (MAIL) said it had sent assessment teams to the region and would present its analysis in May. Rain-fed agriculture accounts for about 30 percent of Afghanistan's annual cereal production (estimated at over six million tons in 2009).

"A lot of the rain-fed fields are in the south and west of the country while in the east vegetables are the main agricultural products," said Majid Qarar, MAIL's spokesman, adding that a possible drought in the northeast would not have severe food security implications for the country.

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Wheat is the main staple for most Afghans. MAIL officials anticipate a good harvest this year - mainly in the south, west and north.

But despite this, and a record harvest last year, over seven million people were food insecure and helped by the UN World Food Program.

An April-June medium-term food security outlook map by FEWS NET shows that - apart from the southern province of Helmand - all the other 33 provinces will be moderately or highly food insecure. Source: www.irinnews.org

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Heavy rains increase in Papua New Guinea.

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Fishermen fear more heavy storms because their lives are at risk.

Storms are set to intensify in Papua New Guinea (PNG), specialists warn, as the Pacific island nation grapples with the effects of climate change.

The country is already highly prone to natural disasters - including earthquakes, volcanic eruptions, tsunamis, cyclones, river and coastal flooding, landslides, and drought.

“As ocean surface temperatures rise, storms will increase in intensity. This is the driving factor,” Bradley Opdyke, a scientist with the Department of Earth and Marine Sciences at the Australian National University, told IRIN from Canberra.

“At these temperatures, like those found seasonally around the island of PNG, the likelihood of intense storms does increase.”

At risk are low-lying coastal areas and many coral atolls, with nearly 500,000 people in 2,000 coastal villages vulnerable to weather extremes and inundation, a recent report by the World Bank and the South Pacific Applied Geo-science Commission stated.

“Combined with a sea-level rise, increasing storm intensity raises the risk of coastal storm surge, inundation, and storm damage generally,” James Renwick, a Wellington-based scientist with the New Zealand National Institute of Water & Atmospheric Research, said.

Of PNG’s 6.3 million inhabitants, 80 percent live in rural subsistence communities and have traditionally been susceptible to extremes of climate (rains and drought) related to the El Niño, but are often unaware of the risks.

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At the end of 2009, eight men from Mahur Island in the country's northeast went missing while fishing. Two months later, their boat was found drifting near the island nation of Nauru, with seven severely malnourished survivors on board, two of whom later died.

"People becoming lost at sea is becoming more usual," Nick, one of the survivors, told IRIN. "Reading the weather is harder, and tides have also changed, but we have to fish and travel by boat."

According to the National Agricultural Research Institute (NARI) general knowledge in PNG of climate change effects is poor, particularly in rural areas.

Low recognition of hazards and climate change leaves many unable to assess risks properly, with even the country's National Weather Service now feeling that its monitoring network has fallen below a credible level, the World Bank report states.

The World Meteorological Organization says that if 21st century warming occurs as projected, the maximum wind speed of tropical cyclones will likely increase by between 2 and 11 percent on average worldwide, while rainfall rates will increase approximately 20 percent within 100km of a storm centre.

Source: www.irinnews.org



Comments: It is not the big surprise that non developed countries are suffering climate change the most, but the way these effects get faster and faster! Economy goes down, chaos raves... we are running out of time.

As we can see we have another case "death versus job". Climate change takes many workers by surprise, and this can cost them their own lives. These situations are very tense and many people fear about their future. Hope all them can resist and continue going on save and safe.



"Communication saves lives!"

■ For more information please contact ■

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