Centre on Integrated Rural Development for Asia and the Pacific (CIRDAP)

CIRDAP

International Online Training Program

Climate Risks and Risk-Sensitive Planning for Sustainable & Resilient Agri-food Systems in Asia and the Pacific

February 24-26, 2026

Background and Rationale

Asia and the Pacific region has been identified as the most disaster-prone regions in the world, regularly experiencing both sudden and slow-onset disasters such as cyclones, floods, droughts, heatwaves, and landslides. With deadly heatwaves to catastrophic floods, Asia Pacific countries confront climate change not as a distant threat but as a stark and unfolding reality.

Rising temperatures and the increasing frequency of extreme events are already leading to measurable declines in agricultural productivity in CIRDAP member countries. Projections suggest yield reductions of 2.5 to 10 percent by the 2020s, escalating up to 30 percent by the 2050s, compared to 1990 levels (FAO, 2025). Staple crops such as rice are particularly at risk, with Viet Nam expected to see a 19 percent decline and Thailand a 7 percent decline by 2028. These impacts directly threaten food security, rural livelihoods, and sustainable development across the region.

Climate-induced disasters also have severe human and social costs. One estimate shows that on average, 43,000 people in Asia and the Pacific region lose their lives annually to storms, floods, and landslides. In 2020 alone, 21.9 million people were displaced by climate variability and disasters - representing more than half of global displacement that year.

The catastrophic floods in Pakistan in 2022 submerged nearly one-third of the country, affecting more than 33 million people, destroying crops, homes, and infrastructure. Similarly, deadly floods and landslides in Bangladesh, India, and Nepal during 2019-2024, alongside repeated tropical storms in India and Viet Nam, underscore the recurring and ferocious nature of these shocks.

These overlapping risks- climate variability, market volatility, pest outbreaks, and socio-economic vulnerabilities- underscore the need for integrated, risk-sensitive planning that goes beyond the rescue and recovery schemes for emergencies. While immediate crisis response is essential, equally critical are the proactive measures taken before disasters occur to reduce their impact.

Strengthening local and regional capacities for climate risk assessment, emergency preparedness, and integrating disaster mitigation measures in development planning is vital for creating resilient communities that can withstand future shocks. By integrating climate science, policy frameworks, and community-based resilience strategies into agri-food systems, rural development stakeholders can better prepare to safeguard livelihoods and ecosystems in the face of increasing climate uncertainty. This holistic approach is essential for the long-term sustainability of agriculture and food systems in Asia and the Pacific.

This training program is designed for strengthening the capacity of policymakers, researchers, and practitioners to design and implement climate risk-informed and resilient development programmes through knowledge exchange, skill development, and collaborative action.

Objectives

- To enhance understanding of climate risk assessment tools and methodologies for agri-food systems.
- To build skills in risk-sensitive planning and policy integration for agriculture, fisheries, and food value chains.
- To share best practices and innovations in climate risk management from across the region
- To foster regional cooperation for ongoing collaboration and knowledge sharing.

Target Participants

- Government officials from Agriculture, Local/Rural Development, Environment, and Planning Ministries
- Researchers and academicians in climate, agriculture, and food systems
- Representatives from farmer organizations, cooperatives, and agribusinesses
- Development practitioners and NGOs working on climate resilience

CIRDAP MOU Partners and Experts can attend and nominate the participants
Participants will receive certificate of attandance from CIRDAP

Training Approach

The program will adopt a blended and interactive virtual format designed to maximize participant engagement and practical learning outcomes. It will combine:

- **Expert-led sessions.**
- **Case studies from Asia-Pacific countries.**
- **Peer-to-peer learning and group work.**
- **Continuous engagement features.**

Expected Outcomes

- Participants will be equipped with practical tools for climate risk assessment and planning.
- They will prepare draft action plans for integrating risk-sensitive approaches into national & local agri-food policies.
- A regional network for climate-resilient agricultural and rural development will be strengthened.

Registration

For free registration please fill up the form: https://forms.gle/cVTZLB4KNzuq8jYF6

Last date of registration: 20 February 2026

Contact

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Training Sessions

Day 1: Introduction to Climate Risks and Risk Informed Development Planning	
Time Slot	**Session Title and Focus**
9:00-10:30	Fundamentals of Climate Risks and Vulnerabilities of Rural Communities (Expert's deliberation and Q&A) Dr. Uttam Babu
10:30-10:45	Health Break
10:45-12:15	Introduction to and Significance of Risk-Informed Programming in Agriculture and Rural Development (Expert's deliberation and Q&A) Dr. Pashupati
Day 2: Climate Risk Assessment and Frameworks for Embedding Risk Mitigation Measures in Development Policies and Practices	
9:00-10:30	Climate Risks Assessment Tools and Approaches- Demonstration and Guided Application (Expert's deliberation with relevant case studies) Dr. Grinson
10:30-10:45	Health Break
10:45-12:15	Embedding Mitigation in Agricultural/Rural Development Policies/Programs- Frameworks and Strategies (Expert's deliberation and Q&A) Dr. Yamuna
Day 3: Action Planning	
9:00-10:30	Innovation & Best Practices of Risk Sensitive Programming in Agrifood Systems (Expert-led showcase with embedded case examples) Dr. Sudip
10:30-10:45	Health Break
10:45-12:15	Action Planning - Integrating risk-sensitive approaches into national and local policies (Participants' exercise and present at plenary, Expert facilitate the process) Dr. Uttam Babu

COURSE COORDINATOR

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