

Impact assessment of climate variability on environment and rural livelihood: Implications for extension systems

Marzieh Keshavarz

Assistant Professor, Department of Agriculture, Payame Noor University, Iran
keshavarzmarzieh@pnu.ac.ir

Climate variability has led to environmental degradation. It has also threatened the livelihood of households which heavily depend on natural resource based economy. While natural hazards' management and environmental sustainability are concerned globally, there is still a knowledge gap about climate variability impacts on natural environment and rural livelihoods. This survey research is therefore an attempt to identify the impacts of climate variability on environment and rural livelihoods and propose solutions to sustain the environment. A multistage stratified random sampling technique was used to collect data from 274 farmers of Fars province. Results indicated that climate variability has considerable effects on regulating, provisioning and supporting services of environment. Also, income loss, food insecurity and reduction of agricultural productivity were the harsh consequences of climate variability. Since environmental sustainability demands for strong interactivity between people and environment, some recommendations are provided for extension systems in order to achieve sustainability

Key Words: Climate variability, Environment, Rural livelihood, Extension system, Fars province.