Open Ad Hoc Discussion 2

VALENCIA
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Climate, Agriculture, and Technologies

Moderators

Prof. Dr. Jaime Lloret, Universitat Politècnica de València, Spain

Prof. Dr. Pedro Gonçalves, Escola Superior de Tecnologia e Gestão de Águeda and Instituto de Telecomunicações, Portugal

Dr. Mahmood Ahmad, RIZQ/YUNUS WEFnex Hub AIT, Thailand

Prof. Dr. Petre Dini, IARIA USA/EU

Integration of Climate Smart Practices

Adaptation and Mitigation: It's crucial to adopt agricultural practices that not only mitigate the effects of climate change by reducing greenhouse gas emissions but also help agriculture adapt to changing climatic conditions. This includes practices like cover cropping, reduced tillage, and agroforestry.

Localized Solutions: Different regions require tailored approaches based on their specific climate conditions and agricultural needs. Technologies that support localized data acquisition and analysis can guide decision-making.

Advancement in Precision Agriculture

Technology Use: The deployment of precision agriculture technologies (e.g., IoT sensors, drones, AI-driven analytics) has demonstrated significant improvements in resource use efficiency, particularly in water and fertilizer use, which are critical under changing climatic conditions.

Data-Driven Decisions: Continuous monitoring and data collection on weather, soil, and crops help optimize agricultural inputs and practices, reducing waste and environmental impact.

Role of Sustainable Technologies

Renewable Energy: Incorporating renewable energy sources in agricultural operations can reduce the carbon footprint of the sector. Solar-powered irrigation systems are an example where technology helps in making agriculture more sustainable.

Biotechnology: Genetic improvements in crops that lead to greater resilience to pests, diseases, and extreme weather are vital in maintaining productivity as climate patterns change.

Ecosystem Services and Biodiversity

Diverse Cropping Systems: Promoting biodiversity through polycultures and crop rotations can enhance ecosystem services such as pollination, pest control, and soil fertility, leading to more resilient agricultural systems.

Natural Infrastructure: Investments in natural infrastructure like wetlands restoration and buffer zones can mitigate flood risks and enhance water quality, providing long-term benefits to agricultural lands.

Water Management Innovations

Efficient Irrigation: Technologies that allow for precise irrigation (e.g., drip irrigation controlled by soil moisture sensors) help conserve water and adapt to varying rainfall patterns driven by climate change.

Water Harvesting and Storage: Building capacity for water harvesting and storage is essential to manage water resources sustainably, particularly in arid regions or places facing increased drought frequency.

Climate Change Impact Assessments

Vulnerability and Risk Analysis: Regular assessments of how climate change affects local and regional agriculture are necessary to prepare and respond effectively. Technologies like geographic information systems (GIS) and modeling software are critical tools in these analyses.

Community and Stakeholder Engagement

Inclusive Planning: Engaging local communities, farmers, scientists, and policymakers in the planning and implementation of technology solutions ensures that these interventions are appropriate and effective.

Education and Training: Building capacity through education and training programs about sustainable practices and technologies is vital for long-term success.

Policy Support and Investment

Supportive Policy Frameworks: Creating policies that encourage the adoption of sustainable agricultural technologies and practices is essential. This includes subsidies, grants, and regulatory support.

Research and Development Funding: Continued investment in research is crucial to develop new technologies and improve existing ones to better address the interplay between climate, agriculture, and technology.

Themes

Localized solutions in climate-smart agriculture are tailored to the specific environmental, social, and economic conditions of a region:

> Drought-Resistant Crop Varieties in Sub-Saharan Africa

> Flood-Tolerant Rice in Southeast Asia

> Agroforestry in Central America

> Water Harvesting Techniques in the Middle East

> Heat-Tolerant Cattle Breeds in Australia

> Integrated Pest Management (IPM) in Europe

> Organic Farming in North America

> Solar-Powered Irrigation in India