

# Managing climate risks and adapting to climate change in the agriculture sector in Nepal



# CONTENTS

iii	Acknowledgements
v	Abstract
x	Executive summary
xiv	Acronyms
1	<b>1. INTRODUCTION</b>
5	<b>2. CLIMATE VARIABILITY AND CHANGE</b>
5	2.1 Climate and climate variability
6	2.2 Climate trends in the Himalayan region and Nepal
9	2.3 Future climate change projections
13	2.4 Uncertainties in climate change projections and adaptation planning
15	<b>3. VULNERABILITY AND THE IMPACTS OF CLIMATE VARIABILITY AND CHANGE</b>
15	3.1 Agriculture and its vulnerability
15	3.1.1 Hydro-meteorological hazards
16	3.1.2 Land use and land cover
17	3.1.3 Dependence on agriculture and low diversity of income sources
18	3.1.4 Production variability
18	3.1.5 Agricultural infrastructure and inputs
19	3.2 Vulnerability of agriculture-dependent livelihoods
19	3.2.1 Livelihood groups and their activities
20	3.2.2 Livelihood assets and access
21	3.2.3 Vulnerability factors at the community level
23	3.3 Impacts of climate variability and change on agriculture
23	3.3.1 Local perceptions of impacts
25	3.3.2 Gender dimensions of the local perceptions of climate impacts
25	3.3.3 Crops and cropping systems
28	3.3.4 Livestock and dairy production
31	3.3.5 Food security
32	3.3.6 Land degradation
34	3.4 Recent extreme climate events and impacts

37	<b>4. INSTITUTIONAL CONTEXT FOR MANAGING CLIMATE RISKS AND ADVANCING ADAPTATION</b>
37	4.1 Institutional innovations to advance adaptation
38	4.2 Institutions for managing climate risks and adaptation
38	4.2.1 Community-level institutions
41	4.2.2 Community participation in local institutions
41	4.2.3 District-level institutions
42	4.2.4 National-level institutions
44	4.3 Enabling institutions for managing climate risks and adaptation
44	4.3.1 Strengthening the technical capacity of institutions
47	4.3.2 Strengthening research and development linkages
49	4.3.3 Support systems for service delivery
50	4.4 <i>Arrangements for the implementation of relevant programmes and projects</i>
50	4.4.1 Proposed institutional mechanisms
51	4.4.2 Improving coordination mechanisms
53	<b>5. DATA AND INFORMATION FOR MANAGING CLIMATE RISKS AND ADAPTATION IN AGRICULTURE</b>
53	5.1 Data and information requirements
55	5.2 Existing data and information systems
55	5.2.1 Hazards, vulnerability and risks
56	5.2.2 Food security monitoring
57	5.2.3 Weather and climate services
57	5.3 Improvement of data and information for climate risk management and adaptation
61	5.4 Climate and crop forecasting
61	5.4.1 Localized weather and climate information services
64	5.4.2 Crop yield forecasting
65	<b>6. CLIMATE RISK MANAGEMENT AND ADAPTATION PRACTICES</b>
65	6.1 Current coping practices and adaptation priorities
69	6.2 Climate risk management and adaptation practices – some examples
69	6.2.1 Proactive and demand-responsive seed systems
77	6.2.2 Management of high-/low-temperature stress
82	6.2.3 Crop diversification based on agro-ecological zones
83	6.2.4 Integrated approach to landslide risk reduction

85	6.2.5 Alternative management practices
86	6.2.6 Managing climate risks in livestock sector
87	<b>6.3 Resource conservation and management to advance adaptation</b>
87	6.3.1 Rainwater harvesting and recycling
90	6.3.2 Improvement of irrigation services
91	6.3.3 Improvement of degraded land
95	6.3.4 On-farm conservation and management of agricultural biodiversity
95	6.3.5 Improved crops and varieties for managing climate risks
98	6.3.6 Multi-storey cropping and agroforestry systems
99	6.3.7 Conservation practices in rice–wheat systems
102	<b>6.4 Improvements in the livestock sector</b>
104	<b>6.5 Sustainable use of forest resources: community forestry</b>
106	<b>6.6 Alternative energy sources for households: biogas</b>
107	<b>6.7 Improving supply chain linkages</b>
109	<b>7. MAINSTREAMING CLIMATE RISK MANAGEMENT AND ADAPTATION IN POLICIES, PLANS, STRATEGIES AND PROGRAMMES</b>
109	7.1 Agriculture and food security plans, strategies and policies
113	7.2 Disaster risk management policies, plans and strategies
116	7.3 Climate change policies, plans and strategies
120	7.4 Key issues and opportunities for mainstreaming
124	7.5 Programmes and projects relevant to managing climate risks and adaptation
126	7.6 Development of a Priority Framework for Action (PFA)
129	<b>8. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS</b>
135	<b>REFERENCES</b>