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Taking Action against Climate Change in Ethiopia and South Africa

*It is not the strongest of the species that survives,
nor the most intelligent, but the one most
responsive to change.* — Charles Darwin

While the negative effects of climate change have been studied for many years, international attention has recently begun to focus on the major challenges it poses to rural livelihoods and food security. There is now consensus that at least some impacts of a warmer world are irreversible, meaning that adaptation—especially in the most vulnerable regions of the world such as rural Africa—must begin swiftly.

IFPRI's Environment and Production Technology Division is working to provide policymakers and researchers in Ethiopia and South Africa with tools to better understand, analyze, and form policy decisions that will support their adaptation strategies to global change. The division's research indicates that while farmers in the case-study river basins of both countries are acutely aware of long-term changes in temperature and precipitation and the potential adverse impacts on food production and livelihoods, only about half have made actual adjustments in their farming practices.

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Conference Supplement
INTERVIEW: Katherine Sierra,
Chair of the CGIAR



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Cutting Poverty: Learning from the Leaders

A few developing countries have succeeded in quickly and dramatically reducing the share of their populations living in poverty. What lessons do these countries' experiences offer the rest of the developing world?

The year 2007 marks the halfway point toward the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), which were adopted in 2000 and have a deadline of 2015. The MDGs are predicated on the hope that countries can cut poverty deeply and quickly. But can they? After seven years, many developing countries are not on

track to meet the goal of halving poverty by 2015. Is it just too difficult to cut poverty by that much in such a short span of time?

In fact, some countries have done it. China reduced the share of its population living in poverty from 53 percent to 8 percent over the course of 20 years, and a number of Asian countries have made

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