

Editorial

Extreme Weather Conditions and Diseases

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Editor

Extreme weather conditions like rising temperatures, sudden heat wave and irregular pattern of rains are main factors behind spread of such diseases, they say.

The major socio-communal areas being affected by climate change include human health, civic services, water-related infrastructure and hydropower generation.

These special conditions have created a global interdependence, which has imbalanced the nexus among the factors, including water, food and energy supplies to the communities around the globe.

In Pakistan, increasing hot climate, changing patterns of snowmelt, rise in sea level and precipitation are exerting enormous impact on natural resources.

Global warming and climate change issues were causing fast glacial melting in Pakistan's Northern Areas which, he added, could cause a 60 percent shortage in water, affecting energy and agriculture security.

According to the 2018 Global Climate Risk Index report, Pakistan is amongst the top 10 countries affected the most by climate change.

According to the Environmentalist, environmental hazards were seriously affecting Pakistan's deltaic area, which is likely to expose more than 2.5 million people to water scarcity, rising sea level effects and food insecurity.

That communities residing at up the sea level are under the threat of glacial take outburst floods (GLOFs), which also is a major threat being faced by Pakistan currently.

Presently, glacial melting was among major global warming induced risks Pakistan was grappled with. To rise in temperatures, Pak coastal regions mangroves are vanishing rapidly and the saline-water forests are on the verge of extinction.

That glacial streams, which all eventually feed 3,500 kilometer long mighty Indian River, clearly indicate that the country's glaciers were melting rapidly.

Temperatures in most of the mountainous valleys never used to go beyond 30 degree celsius during summers, but those are surpassing 40 degree celsius nowadays.

Climate change had posed serious challenges to Pakistan's social, economic and ecological systems, where vast population still depend on predominantly agriculture-based rural economies.

Rural areas in Pakistan were particularly hard hit by the climate change. Steadily rising temperatures were posing a serious risk to country's efforts for achieving sustainable food security. We should make more investments in the remote and barren areas to increase the forest cover and involve institutions and students more in plantation drives. Climate suitability of crops needs to be considered before planning cultivation to obtain optimum yields.

Farming community was persuaded to use modern methods of cultivation in the areas which were prone to climate change. Increased application of biotechnology innovations can allow farming of carbon absorbing crops and seeds.

In fact, global warming throughout the world is being caused by emission of greenhouse gases, as these are the major constituent, playing a vital role in creation of global warming.

The composition of greenhouse gases, said that almost 72% of carbon dioxide (CO₂), 18% of methane and 9% of nitro-oxide consist of totally omitted greenhouse gases in the air. Global Change Impact Studies Centre (GCISC) sources said the centre was providing recommendations to the government to help launch more tree plantation campaigns and address the climate change and global warming challenges, affecting country's development.

The ministry had directed the provinces to take steps to cope with the impact of climate change, particularly the agriculture and livestock sectors.