

An integrated approach to building climate resilience in the agriculture sector

The impact of climate change on agriculture is far-reaching. It goes beyond reduced yields and crop losses caused by extreme weather events such as floods, droughts and hailstorms. More extensively, climate change-induced catastrophes – which are becoming ever more frequent – can lead to the destruction of processing and transport infrastructure and even supplies of seed for the next growing season.

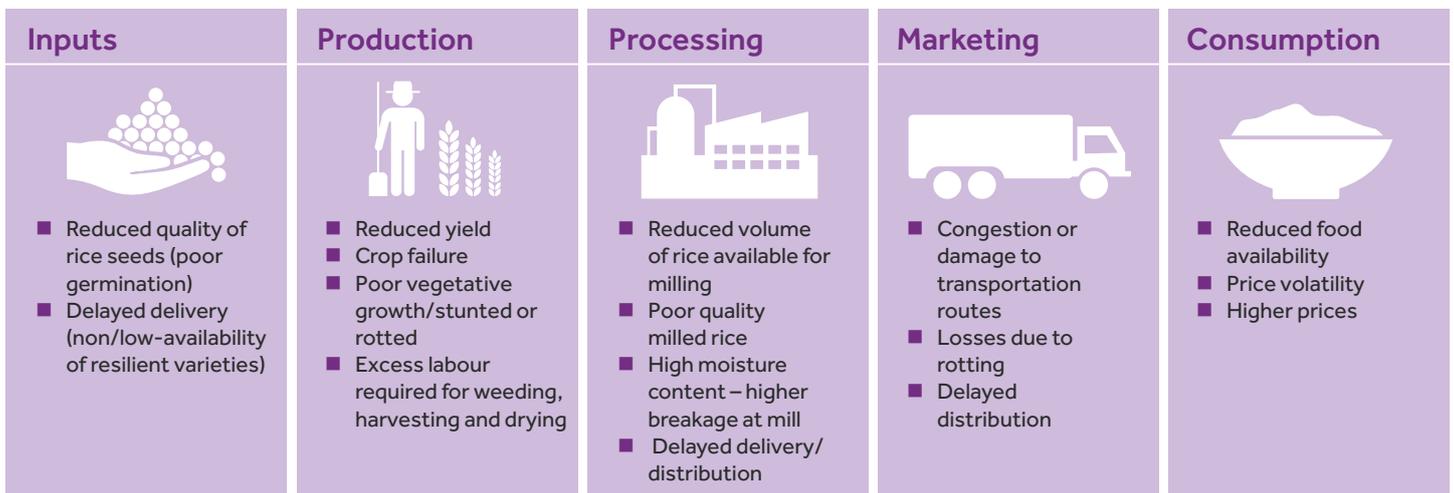
A typical example of this broader impact on agriculture is the impact of climate change on hydroelectricity. Reduced rainfall caused by climate change may limit hydroelectricity

production, thereby restricting capacity for agro-processing and leading to higher production, processing and marketing prices. This creates distributional impacts not only at the farm level but across a broad array of agro-processing sectors and industries.

Value chain deterioration, such as that shown in Figure 1, has the potential to compromise efforts towards development, food security and livelihood objectives from local to national levels. One way of tackling these multiple problems is to use a value chain approach.

A value chain approach supports integrated climate risk management through better connection of producers to markets and increased economic returns to small farmers. Thus it is an approach not just for building climate resilience, but for providing more effective support for agriculture generally. A value chain approach recognises the interdependency of actors involved in all stages of a value chain – from production to consumption – and guards against climate change risks that threaten any part of this chain. It acknowledges that when it comes to responding to the impacts of climate change, it is impossible to provide effective support unless the whole value chain is taken into account.

Figure 1: Impact of climate extremes on the value chain for rice



ACT Policy Notes provide a brief overview of a climate change topic. More information can be found on the ACT website: www.actiononclimate.today

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