



**A CASE STUDY :**

# Farmers' perception on climate change - for better policy making and mitigating risks in apple farming : A case study of Himachal Pradesh

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**SUMMARY :** Apple farming is an important activity and profession of farmer communities in the Himalayan states of India. At present, the traditional apple farming is under stress due to changes in climate. The present study was undertaken in an Indian Himalayan state, Himachal Pradesh, with the major aim of studying perceptions of farmers on the effects of climate change on apple farming along the altitudinal gradient. Through questionnaire survey, the perceptions of farmers were recorded at low hills ( $\leq 2500$  m), mid-hills (2500-3000 m) and upper hills ( $\geq 3000$  m) amsl as a whole. At all elevation ranges the majority of farmers reported that there were concerned about the drastic climatic changes and their impact on the apple farming. At mid hills apple diseases and at low hills pest attack on apple crops are considered as the indicators of climate change. The change in land use practices was attributed to climate change and in many areas the land under apple farming was replaced for production of coarse grains, seasonal vegetables and other horticulture species. Scientific investigation claiming changes in Indian Himalayan climate corroborates perceptions of farmers, as examined during the present study.

**KEY WORDS :**

Climate change,  
Farmers' perception,  
Policy making

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