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## CRI to address climate change impacts in Sri Lanka

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**Details** Published on Thursday, 18 July 2013 15:04 Hits: 197

The Coconut Research Institute is organizing an "International Conference on Climate Change Impacts and Adaptations for Food and Environmental Security" in partnership with the Ministry of Environment and Renewable Energy, and the Regional Office of the World Agroforestry Centre, New Delhi, India, from 30th to 31st July 2013.

Climate change includes increases in global surface temperature (global warming), changes in rainfall patterns, making rainfall less predictable, changing the character of seasons and increasing the likelihood or severity of extreme events such as cyclones, floods and droughts. The changes in climate may be due to natural causes, or uncontrollable development activities. The impacts of climate change touch on all the resources that people depend on.

In Sri Lanka climate change effects are already being witnessed. The variability of seasonal rainfall is being increasingly felt, more on agriculture and irrigation. Therefore it is important to build the adaptive capacity and reduce vulnerability of the natural resources and the communities. A combination of community based knowledge and scientifically backed technical strengths are the key to development of effective adaptation strategies. It is imperative to sustainably intensify agricultural production to meet the needs of the growing population while reducing greenhouse gas emissions and other negative environmental impacts on agriculture.

According to Prof. H.P.M. Gunasena, Chairman of the Coconut Research Board, the objective of this international conference is to highlight the key messages for addressing the impact of climate change in Sri Lanka to the policy makers, climate change experts, researchers and the general public to help to cope up with the disasters that climate change may bring. The conference will provide a forum for discussion on the current status and future directions of climate change research methodologies, significant findings and their impacts. In this conference authoritative statements on the current status of climate change worldwide will be presented by international development agencies such as the Asian Development Bank, World Bank, Food and Agriculture Organization, United Nations Development Programme, [International Water Management Institute](#) and the World Agroforestry Centre. Special addresses on research methodology, finding and implications will be presented by climate change experts from the United Kingdom, Kenya, India and local researchers from the universities and research institutes.

The outcomes of this conference will be of considerable importance to Sri Lanka to develop a national framework and implementation strategies that respond to larger scale implications of climate change on natural resources. It will help the country to make sustainable, climate-friendly agriculture, and develop programmes and policies to assist populations and sectors that are most vulnerable to climate change.

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