

## **Sustainable Development & Climate Change**

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### **Abstract**

Sustainable development' is "development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the needs of future generations to meet their own needs". Sustainable development has three principal dimensions: economic growth, social equity and protection of the environment. Underlying the economic dimension is the principle that society's wellbeing would have to be maximized and poverty eradicated through the optimal and efficient use of natural resources. The social aspect refers to the relationship between nature and human beings, uplifting the welfare of people, improving access to basic health and education services, fulfill food security needs and respect for human rights. The environmental dimension, on the other hand, is concerned with the conservation and enhancement of the physical and biological resource base and ecosystems.

One of the most pressing issues of the 21st century looks set to be climate change. The rising levels of CO<sub>2</sub> and other greenhouse gases in our atmosphere have raised serious concerns about the stability of our climate. Global Climate Change is probably the greatest environmental challenge facing the world this century. Although often referred to as 'global warming', Global Climate Change is more about serious disruptions of the world weather and climate patterns, including impacts on rainfall, extreme weather events and rising sea level, rather than just moderate temperature increases. The effects for agriculture are serious. Crops are exposed to quite different conditions from those that suit them best, and productivity can be gravely affected. Although changes in some places can be favourable for production, in general climate change brings more risks for farmers, who have to adapt their methods to new conditions. The supply of raw materials for food businesses can be disrupted, and the quality and price adversely

affected. Global warming poses a huge threat to agriculture in the arid and semi-arid tropics. Likely impacts will be increased frequency and intensity of drought and new patterns of pests and diseases. Pressures on already scarce water resources will be increased in many poor countries.

**Keywords:** Sustainable Development, Climate Change & Global warming.