

ACASA

ATLAS OF CLIMATE ADAPTATION
IN SOUTH ASIAN AGRICULTURE

Meet Our Advisory Panel

About ACASA

Among the 193 countries worldwide, South Asian countries rank in the top quarter in terms of the exposure and vulnerability to the climatic risks. Considering this, with support from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation (BMGF), the Borlaug Institute for South Asia (BISA) is working with national agriculture research systems in South Asia to develop the Atlas of Climate Adaptation in South Asian Agriculture (ACASA). This comprehensive Atlas aims to provide granular-scale information for South Asian countries by integrating various spatially explicit data sets. It offers a unique set of tools that can facilitate improved investment targeting and priority setting, and support stakeholders' decision-making and investments in agricultural technologies, climate information services, and policies.

About the Advisory Panel

The advisory panel established under ACASA will identify potential users, use cases in different countries, and guide and review Atlas' progress. The constituted panel will have the scientific advisory committee (SAC) and South Asia's country team leaders, who will be instrumental in hosting and adapting the Atlas.



Scientific Advisory Committee

SAC will guide the program implementation team and partners on science, methodology, tools, techniques, databases, partnerships, and other related issues. SAC will meet twice a year, mostly virtually, with at least one or two physical meetings for detailed discussions on progress of ACASA.



Following is the list of SAC members:



DR. PRAMOD JOSHI

Ex-Director- International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI), India

Dr. Pramod K. Joshi has previously held the positions of the director of the National Academy of Agricultural Research Management, Hyderabad, India, and the Director of the National Centre for Agricultural Economics and Policy Research, New Delhi. His areas of research include technology policy, market, and institutional economics. He has been the recipient of many awards such as Dr. MS Randhawa Memorial Award of the National Academy of Agricultural Sciences. He is presently the President of the Agricultural Economics Research Association-India and was also a member of the core group of the Indian government's "Right to Food" National Human Rights Commission. Read more about Dr. Joshi's publications and books [here](#).

PROF. LEIGH ANDERSON

Evans School of Public Policy and Governance, University of Washington, Seattle

Leigh Anderson joined the Evans School faculty in 1997. Her current research focuses on rural poverty and agriculture and works on a range of topics focused on agricultural measurement and evaluation, and risk and inclusion, in sub-Saharan Africa and South Asia. Anderson previously taught or was a visiting researcher at the University of California at Berkeley, Lahore University of Management Sciences in Pakistan, Renmin University of China in Beijing, and the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization in Rome. Tap further into Anderson's key publications [here](#).



PROF. MIRANDA MEUWISSEN

Professor of Risk Management and Resilience, Wageningen University, Netherlands

Besides attending the topics of risk management and resilience in agri-food supply chains, Meuwissen is also the coordinator of 4TU-Redesign (REthinking the food system together, DESIGNing a high-tech and data-driven food system of the future). From 2017-21, she has been the coordinator for H2020 SURE-Farm: Towards sustainable and resilient EU farming systems. Previously, she has been the Associate Professor for business economics at Wageningen University; Senior Researcher for the Institute for Risk Management in Agriculture; and holds a PhD in insurance as a risk management tool for European agriculture. Read more about Meuwissen's select publications [here](#).



MS. MICHIKO KATAGAMI

Principal Natural Resources and Agriculture Specialist, Asia Development Bank (ADB), Manila

Michiko has been working on food security, agriculture and rural development issues with sovereign and non-sovereign investment and research teams for more than 20 years in Asia and the Pacific. She currently works on projects to develop inclusive and resource-efficient agribusiness value chains, support sustainable protein value chain growth, deploy technology solutions for smallholder agriculture, upscale climate smart agriculture and leverage green finance in ADB's developing member countries. Prior to joining ADB she worked for UNDP, Mitsubishi Trust & Banking Co., and S.G. Warburg Securities. Read more about Michiko's thoughts [here](#).





PROF. V. GEETHALAKSHMI

Vice Chancellor, Tamil Nādu Agriculture University, India

Dr. Geethalakshmi Vellingiri, is a specialist in Agricultural Meteorology and an internationally acclaimed climatologist, serving in Tamil Nadu Agricultural University, India. She has established research collaborations with 40 premiere Institutions across five continents in the Globe and have pioneered the development of eight management technologies. She has been conferred with “Fellow of Agrometeorology” award by the Association of Agrometeorology. She has also contributed technically for developing the Tamil Nadu State Action Plan on Climate Change. Read more about Geethalakshmi’s exemplary record of publications [here](#).



DR. ALEX RUANE

Co-Director, Climate Impacts Group, NASA Goddard Institute for Space Studies (GISS)

Besides his association with NASA GISS, Dr. Ruane is also an adjunct Associate Research Scientist at the Columbia University Center for Climate Systems Research in New York City. His research uses a variety of climate and impacts assessment models to examine the influence of climate variability and change on a variety of sectors including agriculture, water resources, urban areas, infrastructure, energy, and human health, leading to the development of adaptation strategies and decision support tools for stakeholders and policy makers who need to understand vulnerabilities and uncertainties to successfully manage risk. Read more about Dr. Ruane’s research interests and current projects [here](#).



DR. TESS RUSSO

Senior Program Officer, Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation (BMGF), Seattle

Currently the senior program officer at BMGF, Seattle, Dr. Russo previously has been the portfolio lead and a research scientist with the Global Food. She was the former Assistant Professor at Penn State University, and her key areas of research includes water-climate-food relationships, agricultural and water management, agrochemical solute transport, and hydroclimatic trends. Dr. Russo earned her Postdoctoral fellow at the Earth Institute, Columbia University, and has conducted research on hydrologic system response to environmental change in her formative career years. Read more about Dr. Russo’s distinguished publications [here](#).



DR. PRAMOD AGGARWAL

Project Leader, ACASA; Regional Program Leader, BISA-CIMMYT, Delhi

Pramod Aggarwal leads the South Asia Regional Program for the CGIAR Research Program on Climate Change, Agriculture and Food Security (CCAFS). He earned his post-doctoral degree at the International Rice Research Institute, Philippines, and holds two doctoral degrees from the University of Indore and from Wageningen University-Netherlands. He was awarded Academy of Sciences for the Developing World’s Ernesto Illy Trieste Science Prize in 2009 and his professional research focuses on crop growth models for tropical environments, impact assessment of climatic variability and climate change on crops, and adaptation strategies and mitigation options, among other topics. Read more about Dr. Aggarwal’s select publications [here](#).



Country Team Leaders

Partner country team leaders from respective South Asian countries will be closely working with SAC and play a pivotal role in country-specific hosting and adaptation options of Atlas. The key partner country team leaders from South Asia are:



MR. HASAN MD. HAMIDUR RAHMAN

Director, Computer and GIS Unit, Bangladesh Agricultural Research Council (BARC), Bangladesh

Mr. Rahman has over 15 years of experience as an IT professional in various software companies and government organisations. He has led numerous national and international capacity-building workshops, seminars, and conferences. He has mastered the training in ArcGIS 10.0 from ESRI, Singapore. His key subject areas are system analysis and design, OOP, database design, and parallel algorithm. Read about Mr. Rahman's research insights [here](#).

DR. CA RAMA RAO

Principal Scientist, Central Research Institute for Dryland Agriculture, India Council of Agricultural Research (CRIDA-ICAR), Hyderabad, India

Dr. Rao holds a post-doctorate in agriculture economics and has featured in more than 100 research publications. His key areas of research are economic analysis, econometric analysis, SPSS, SAS, agricultural economics, and climate change. Read more about Dr. Rao's research insights [here](#).



MR. AMAR BAHADUR PUN MAGAR

Senior Scientist/Chief, National Agricultural Environment Research Centre, Nepal Agricultural Research Council (NARC), Nepal

Amar Bahadur Pun Magar currently as a senior scientist holds an expertise in horticultural research. He is actively involved in projects such as the fruit drop management of mandarin orange, collection and evaluation of tropical fruit genotypes, propagation studies and off-season vegetable production husbandry in Nepal. Read more about Mr. Magar's research insights [here](#).



DR. H.K. KADUPITIYA

Director, Natural Resources Management Center (NRMC), Department of Agriculture, Sri Lanka

Dr. Kadupitiya has been the research officer at Sri Lanka's agriculture service. He was the faculty of GIS and Earth observation (ITC) at the University of Twente. He earned his postdoctoral in GIS and remote sensing from the Indian Agricultural Research Institute (IARI). His key research areas are land use, remote sensing and GIS, and hyperspectral remote sensing. Read more about Dr. Kadupitiya's research insights [here](#).

