Climate change is one of the most pressing problems facing humanity and our planet. The School of Industrial Fisheries, Cochin University of Science and Technology, Kochi and Department of Fisheries, Government of Kerala, in association with various ministries of the State of Kerala and Union Government of India are jointly organising an International Conference on Impact of Climate Change on Hydrological Cycle, Ecosystem, Fisheries and Food Security (ClimFishCon2020) from 11th to 14th February 2020, at Kochi, India. The Conference will (i) provide a unique academic and scientific platform to discuss our understanding and research achievements in the field of climate change and its consequences and risks in terms of changing hydrological cycles and perturbations that have taken place in oceans and other aquatic ecosystems; (ii) explore the factors underlying the changes in weather patterns and the consequential risk from deluge and extreme drought conditions; and (iii) facilitate the synthesis of information on how climate-related changes will influence oceans, marine and inland ecosystems, hydrological cycles, fisheries and aquaculture, coastal communities and society at large. In this connection, special events such as (i) Stakeholders Conclave (Fishers, Aqua farmers, Processors and Exporters) (ii) Workshop on Weather Changes - Deluge and Severe Drought and (iii) Workshop on Impact of Climate Change on Coastal Wetlands would be organised.

Special Event 1: Stakeholders’ Conclave

Significance of the Conclave

Climate change is having profound impacts on fishery aquaculture and post harvest-dependent communities and the ecosystems they depend on, especially in tropical regions. Climate change is transforming the context in which the world’s 56 million fishers and fish farmers live and work, posing a major threat to their livelihoods and socio economics. Climate change drivers are causing and are expected to continue to cause potentially significant shifts in primary production, changes in species interactions, shifts in species distribution and abundance. In turn, these changes are impacting the socio-economic status of the fisheries and aquaculture sector in many parts of the world and the poverty and food insecurity of areas dependent on fish and fishery products, as well as the governance and management of the sector and wider society. The speed and intensity of environmental change are accelerating, outpacing the ability of both human and aquatic systems to adapt. The concept of adaptation highlights the notion that instead of trying to control nature, society needs to learn to live with the impacts and uncertainties through learning, experimentation and change. The Conclave is expected to bring together a representative cross section of the stakeholders including fishers, aqua farmers, processors and exporters, who are interested in sharing their experiences about the threats to their livelihoods, socio economics and food insecurity due to climate changes and the adaptation actions being taken in different types and scales of fisheries, aquaculture, pre-processing and processing sectors. The selected stakeholders from each sector will present their experiences on the above aspects which will be followed by interaction by the participants.

Who should participate?

Fishers, aqua farmers, processors and exporters and interested academicians, scientists, researchers, administrators, policy makers and NGOs who are concerned about impact of climate change, adaptation and mitigation approaches.

Expected deliverables:

The Conclave will dwell on the implications of climate change in concerned sectors of stakeholders; discuss available mitigation and adaptation approaches and the way forward.
Special Event 2: Workshop on Impact of Climate Change on Coastal Wetlands

Significance of the Workshop

The Workshop will draw attention to the vital role of wetlands as a natural solution to cope with climate change. Wetlands associated with floodplains, rivers and lakes function like sponges, absorbing and storing excess rainfall and reducing flood surges. During dry seasons, wetlands release stored water, delaying the onset of droughts and minimizing water shortages.

Who should participate?

Academics, scientists, researchers, students, entrepreneurs, administrators, policy makers, fishers, aqua farmers, NGOs and other stakeholders who identify the role of wetland and its importance in coping with the climate change would benefit from this Workshop.

Workshop content and expected deliverables:

The Workshop will focus on (i) the role of wetlands in coping with climate change; (ii) wetland values and services; (iii) carbon trading in wetlands; and (iv) protection of life and livelihood of coastal communities.

3. Workshop on Weather Changes - Deluge and Severe Drought

Significance of the Workshop

Climate Change and the Water Cycle are directly related. Water is an integral part of the climate system, and changes of the water cycle are expected to happen in nearer future. Climate change will increase hydrologic variability, resulting in extreme weather events such as droughts, floods, and major storms. Deluges and severe drought events are becoming increasingly common, as a consequence of climate change, affecting the ecology and threatening the survival and well-being of communities. Understanding of the direct and indirect impacts, processes involved and mitigative approaches which are need of the hour, will be addressed in the Workshop.

Who should participate?

The workshop will be multi-disciplinary (from natural to social sciences) and welcome the participation from academics, practitioners (international, government or non-governmental organizations). Academics, scientists, researchers, students, entrepreneurs, administrators, policy makers, fishers, aqua farmers, NGOs and other stakeholders who are keen on a deeper understanding on relationship of climate change to natural disasters should attend this Workshop.

Workshop content and expected deliverables:

The Workshop will focus on (i) the factors underlying crisis such as natural disasters, massive flooding followed by severe drought; (ii) links between climate change and drought, extreme heat, precipitation and cyclones; and (iii) vulnerability to disasters, preparedness and management. The workshop will include short presentations and group discussions. Specific outcomes will include a manuscript that is based on the discussion and findings of the workshop, and a proposal to further discuss the research and policy agenda identified from this workshop.

How to participate:

Registration link: https://www.climfishcon.org/register.php

All regular registrants of the Conference will have access to the Workshops and Stakeholders' Conclave. Others may avail Part Registration, for the required event(s), as below:
Part Registration (Workshop/ Stake holders Conclave; Cost per item): International participants - US $ 50; National Participant - INR 2000; National student participant - INR 1000; National stakeholders representing fishing and aquaculture sectors - INR 1000.

Bank details for payment of Registration fee: Account Name : CLIMFISHCON 2020; Account Number: 0000038418776295; Bank Name : State Bank of India; IFSC Code : SBIN0008614; Branch: Broadway Branch, Ernakulam.

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