

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT OF KOKAN REGION AGAINST THE BACKDROP OF CLIMATE CHANGE

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Abstract

The Konkan region is one of the richest in biodiversity in the entire state. If development plans are drawn up to endanger this ancient biodiversity, the time may come for the Konkan to face a major natural disaster in the near future. Such fears have been expressed by some senior environmentalists, Konkan has beautiful natural geographical area, mountains, river creeks, 720 km of coastline. The lives of millions of families have started with all these companions. And so with proper planning according to the geographical conditions of the Konkan, various businesses can be a sustainable development in the Konkan.

Climate change is one of the major causes for heavy rainfall, floods, nature and cyclones in the last five years. The concept of climate change based farming is inevitable now that the traditional farming methods in Konkan have been changed. Such findings are based on the opinion of some farmers in Thane, Palghar, Raigad, Ratnangiri and Sindhurdurg districts of Konkan. Also, this concept has been presented from the interviews of some experts.

Extreme levels of damage to agriculture and horticulture have been caused by cyclones and floods. The nature of change has brought time to think not only of Konkan but of the whole world.



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Introduction

Humans are ultimately responsible for climate change. The people of Konkan are once again trying to stand firm against the loss of agriculture and loss of mango, cashew and betel nut. Of course, it also needs government assistance. The dream of making Konkan California was the dream of many eminent leaders. They can do that even today. But for that, time bound planning is required keeping in view the safe and sustainable development of Konkan.

Rice production, which is the major kharif crop in Konkan, has been affected in the last few years. The main reason for this is that the area under paddy is declining. The main reason for the decline in paddy cultivation is the unmaintained maintenance of sea protection dams in the Konkan. The Department of Salinity Survey and Investigation did not plan for the construction of new protective dams and did not even repair the existing sea protection dams. Such barren lands were about 65,000 hectares.

Discussion

About 40 per cent of these lands have been successfully replanted with saline control measures. The Panvel-1,2,3,4 variety of paddy which produces more paddy in this saline land has been developed by Konkan Agricultural University and made available to the farmers since 1984. From this, paddy crop has started coming to this saline land area. Its productivity is also 35 to 40 quintals per hectare and farmers are getting good yield from it.

Considering the lands in Konkan. Konkan has a large amount of forest lands and all these lands fall under the category of paddy. As a result, these lands have remained fallow for many years. All these lands can be forested. Bamboo planting, which has the potential to prevent rainy landslides, can take place here. At the same time, if these farmers are encouraged to engage in agri-tourism, it will be of great benefit to them. Karjat in Raigad district, Shekhar Bhadsavale has created an ideal agro-tourism project through his 'SagunaBagh' project.

If only Hapus Mango from Konkan is taken into consideration, it gives billions of rupees to the country and thousands of families make a living from it. But now, in the face of climate change, traditional mango cultivation will not be appropriate. Like mango, locust, purple, cashew, coconut,

Planning should be done to set up processing industry by taking space in such places.

The Konkan has a large number of seas, rivers and backwaters. These natural water resources are a source of income and can be used for fish farming, jitada, prawn and crab farming projects.

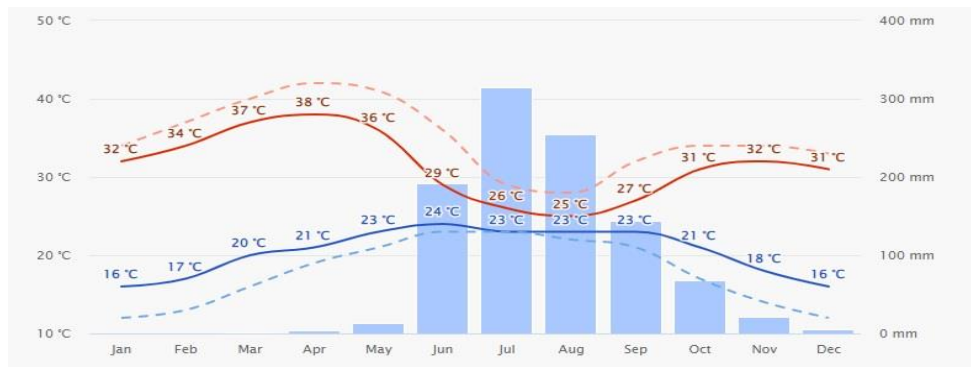
The state co-operation department should also do the planning. Financial assistance from nationalized banks through Central Marine Products Department (MPEDA) may be available for such projects on co-operative basis of fishermen in Konkan. The village of Shahapur Dherand in Kharepat in Alibag taluka of Raigad district is known as Jitada Village.

In this village, everyone has their own fish pond near their house. The characteristic fish of Jitada is produced here. The fish production of this village has now been taken care of at the central level and the records of the fish ponds of the farmers of this village have been recorded on the Satbara. Jitada fish will also get GI rating in the near future. In addition, as per the plan of MPEDA, a scheme of financial assistance to these lake holders through banks is taking shape. From these two villages, AlibagJitada is now preparing to go not only in the state but also abroad in the country.

It is also easy for other fish farmers in Konkan to grow their traditional business commercially in this way. Medicinal plants of unusual ayurvedic usefulness are a great treasure in the biodiversity rich Konkan forests. In recent times natural ayurvedic treatment methods for health treatment are being widely adopted. There are about 3200 Ayurvedic plants like Gulvel, Asparagus, Adulsa, Aloe vera, Black Turmeric etc. in the forest of Konkan. In addition to their natural conservation and commercial cultivation, it has a large market in the world. It can go beyond the traditional business and make huge profits on a commercial level. That requires independent planning.

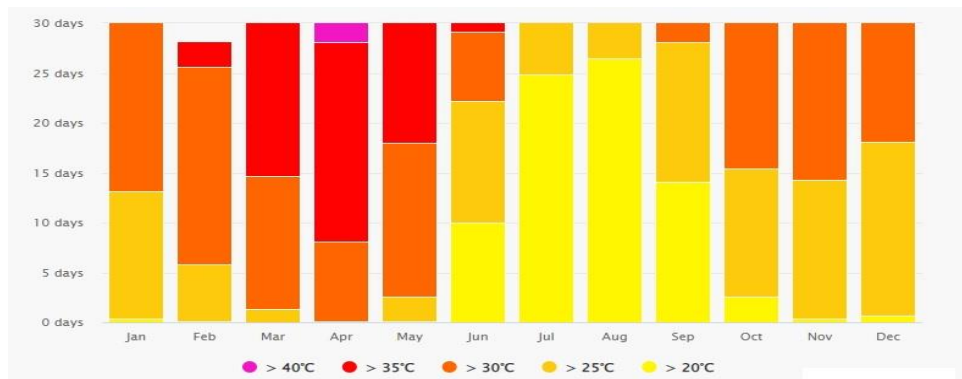
Climate change does not feature prominently within the environmental or economic policy agenda of developing countries, yet evidence shows that some of the most adverse effects of climate change will be in developing countries, where populations are most vulnerable and least likely to easily adapt to climate change. It is also probable that climate change could exacerbate current inequities due to the uneven distribution of damage costs, in addition to the cost of mitigation and adaptation efforts. From a developing country perspective, it is essential that global agreements evolve on the basis of considerations of fairness and that developing countries participate actively in shaping and implementing the next steps toward mitigation and adaptation (Munasinghe and Swart, 2000). Broad participation in mitigation efforts opens the possibility to limit damage costs. In contrast, slow progress in mitigating global GHG emissions implies that climate impacts will constrain the potential for economic development in some of the poorest of developing countries.

Average temperatures and precipitation



So the above graph shows temperature precipitation. An exploration of linkages between climate change and sustainable development from a “Kokan region perspective” must start by considering local and regional circumstances and policy contexts.

Maximum temperatures



Conclusion

Possibilities for such synergies include combining strategies *N. Beg et al. / Climate Policy 2 (2002) 129–144 143* to fight desertification and preserve biodiversity, as well as to combat climate change. Adequate financial incentives are critical to ensure attention in developing countries to global environmental issues, as is recognition by all that climate change will inevitably influence development.

In order to maximise the potential for synergy, increased institutional capacity and awareness building measures will also be needed. Integration—across ministries, between the private and public sector, through international conventions—is vital. Possibilities for such synergies include combining strategies *N. Beg et al. / Climate Policy 2 (2002) 129–144 143* to fight desertification and preserve biodiversity, as well as to combat climate change. Adequate financial incentives are critical to ensure attention in kokan regionis a global environmental issues, as is recognition by all that climate change will inevitably influence development

Suggestions

Following are some of the plans for sustainable development of the Konkan region in the face of climate change

- 1) Elaborating a framework for thinking about climate change within the broader context of sustainable development.
- 2) Exploring why developing countries should care about climate change.
- 3) Identifying and exploiting synergies for win–win policies and addressing trade-offs.
- 4) strengthening institutions to address climate change in an integrated way—across and within institutions governing the global environment, across national ministries, across sectors and different levels of government; and
- 5) Extending the international regime to address climate change.

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