

Contribution of Agricultural Activities towards Climate Change in Mississippi State

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During the last several years, the chemical composition of the atmosphere through the built up of green house gases, primarily carbon dioxide, methane and nitrous oxide continues to intensify at an alarming proportion. While the gravity of trend has been predicted to change the earth's climate, very little exists in the literature about the role of agricultural activities in fuelling climate the growing incidence of climate change. To some degree, agricultural activities contribute directly to emissions of green house gases thorough variety of processes. The major source of methane emissions attributed to agricultural activities comes from rice cultivation and livestock farming. The periodic monitoring of methane gas emissions from these agricultural activities is indispensable in the formulation of policies and decision support tools for mitigating the impacts of green houses gas. The state of Mississippi which ranks fourth in rice cultivation and export among rice producing areas in the United States provides valuable opportunity to assess the trend. The study uses primary and secondary data in the analysis of the contribution farming activities to climate change with emphasis on assessment of methane emissions from the rice cultivation in the state of Mississippi. The determination of the relation between the levels of methane gas concentration and various variables related to rice production can help in visualizing the present scenario. Changes in emissions over time will be estimated by treating emissions as a function of variables (such as rice harvested areas, yields, price per unit and value of the production) for the state of Mississippi.

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