

# Challenges and Strategies for Adapting Climate Change in Rural Development

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## SUMMARY

In the face of projected changes in climate, there can be no long-term sustainability in rural development without incorporation of useful synergies for climate change adaptation and mitigation into rural development process. In order to address the key question of what practical adaptation strategies need to be implemented, it's important to know the challenges and opportunities for adapting climate change in rural areas.

The study summarizes the results of a workshop organized by the Hanns Seidel Foundation, held on 26 April 2018 in Qingzhou, China. The workshop helped to understand the views of five different professional groups, i.e. academics and researchers, government employees at central level, development organizations (NGOs), government employees at local level and land consolidation practitioners, on climate-responsive rural development.

The workshop recognized that climate change poses a major challenge to rural livelihoods and rural development at different levels. The participants identified that the most devastating impacts of climate change in rural areas include frequent drought, severe floods, storm and heavy rainfall, thereby affecting agricultural production and food security. The participants suggested that climate change adaptation should be considered as the cross-cutting objectives of rural development. Successful application and implementation of approved rural development instruments such as spatial and land use planning, land consolidation, village renewal should take into account new and regionally appropriate adaptation measures. As the scope of integrated rural development goes beyond agricultural development, climate-responsive rural development should not only focus on agriculture, but also on non-agricultural rural development issues (i.e. infrastructure, land rights, water management).

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