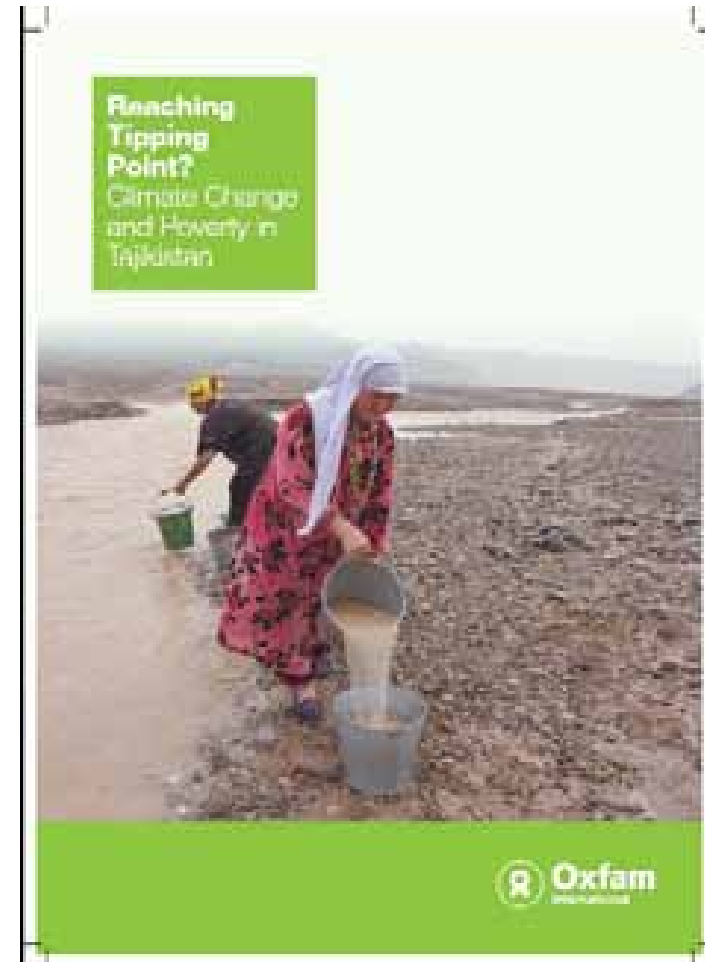


**Current perceptions of
climate change in rural
Tajikistan. What are
farmers already
seeing?
What does that mean for
us?**

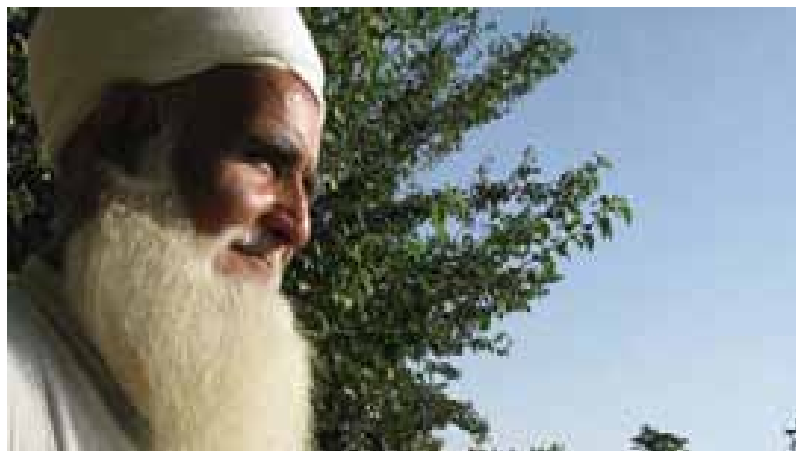


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Introduction

- Scientific data shows change is happening in weather patterns in Tajikistan
- Around the world farmers follow an 'inherited' lore of farming – when to plant and harvest, which crops grow best, how to overcome common pests etc.
- How are climate changes impacting on that traditional knowledge of farming practice?





“Last year was drought – for 3 years we could not grow wheat and barley. Because of 3 years of drought we are not planting wheat in rain-fed lands, people do not want to invest.”

Saidshoev Abdualim, a village elder in Vose District, October 2009.



“I think the weather has become warmer in the last 4 or 5 years and that is affecting our crops. The sickness of our crops is increasing but the pesticides are expensive and we are losing almost 30 percent of our crops to diseases - onion, tomato and cucumber. And the drought was very hard on the wheat crop last year.”

Turaqulov Saidmuzator, a farmer in Temumalik District.

“Last year it was a drought but this year is better. However there is still impact from last year’s drought. Most of the ‘dekhans’ or collective farms are rainfed and still impacted from last year’s drought. If a dekhan farmer is affected, his capacity to get seeds and fertilisers will be affected”

**Aminov Foteh, Deputy Mayor,
Timurmalik District.**

“Drought affected
our irrigation in
these dry periods
and we didn’t get
good harvests as
expected. There is
a natural lake
nearby which had
50 percent less
water than this year”

Zulfia Alimatova, Head
of Women’s Committee,
Togoyak, Spitamen

Oxfam's work on adaptation - livelihoods

- Energy saving approaches – household passive solar heating and insulation, adapted stoves
- Adapted agricultural technology – adapted greenhouses, drip irrigation
- Capacity building on farming techniques – intercropping, composting, making liquid fertiliser
- Making available a wider range of seeds and supporting farmers as producers of seeds

Oxfam's work on adaptation – disaster risk reduction

- Building the capacity of communities to manage risks and respond to disasters
- Community based risk assessments and vulnerability mapping
- Small scale disaster mitigation works
- Capacity building of CoES and other agencies of Government

What should we do at a community level?

- Improve access to water and to food storage
- Insulate houses; Expand use of adapted stoves
- Explore use of Biogas and solar power
- Passive solar greenhouses, drip irrigation
- Community-level disaster risk reduction
- Agricultural training

What should we do at a national level?

- Support farmers to adapt – crop diversity, seeds and livestock breeding
- Joint public awareness campaigns - government and NGOs
- Adaptation and impact research and policy formulation
- Strengthen resilience and disaster risk reduction planning - integrating national plans with community-owned approaches at local level
- Integrate responses and build capacity on adaptation across sectors and into national plans and budgets in each Government Ministry

What can we – as NGOs, donors and Government do about the challenges of adapting to Climate change in Tajikistan?

- Sharing our learning about adaptive approaches and learning from experiences elsewhere with similar contexts – then replicating what works rather than piloting again and again..
- Focusing our support on those most impacted and giving them a voice and a role in response
- Ensuring a lead role for Tajik civil society and Government agencies – building on local expertise

Thank you

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