

CABI Briefing: Climate change

1 Invasive species management: a policy tool for integrated climate adaptation

Key messages:

- Creating stronger links between invasive species management and climate change adaptation policies can lead to improved outcomes for climate resilience and agricultural productivity
- Focusing on sub-national governance levels could lead to more relevant plans, stronger uptake of practices, and clear benefits to local communities
- Integrated policy support for improved women's empowerment and economic opportunities for youth can be underpinned by strong invasive species management policies and practices

Pest and disease threats are increasing and spreading to new areas as climate change creates new niches for them to thrive and attack crops and livestock (FAO/IPPC, 2021). Invasive species management policies and practices can be effective strategies for controlling these threats and for minimizing losses. But they can also be the foundations of improved climate change resilience and can support adaptation in the agriculture sector.

Comparatively, little attention and funding has been given to managing invasive species, despite their impacts costing farmers and African economies an estimated US\$65.6 billion per year (Eschen, et al., 2021). Invasive species also reduce biodiversity. Biodiversity loss is one of the main impacts of climate change, and biodiversity loss contributes to greater greenhouse gas emissions and vulnerability to the impacts of climate change in agriculture (IPBES, 2019). There are now **opportunities for increased integration of policies, practices, and strategies to deal with the dual threats of climate change and increasing pest and disease risks** (Casey, 2021).

In Pakistan, CABI has been supporting the Ministry of Climate Change to develop its new invasive species management plan and to identify opportunities for synergies with existing climate change policies and

commitments. National governments can seek efficiencies, cost savings, and improved outcomes by prioritizing areas of commonality between invasive species management and climate adaptation policies. These involve interlinkages in natural resource management including spatial planning, land management, conservation, and sustainable agro-industry small and medium-size enterprise market development.

Integrated policy support for improved women's empowerment and economic opportunities for youth can also be underpinned by strong invasive species management policies and practices, as a common area of work to **empower women in agriculture and forestry and to enhance economic empowerment for youth** through associated business opportunities.

As countries look to develop new biodiversity action plans and to submit enhanced Nationally Determined Contributions to meet the Paris Agreement goals, there is an opportunity for more coordinated policy approaches and implementation strategies for these two intrinsically linked areas of natural resources management. **Nature-positive agriculture**, building on invasive species management approaches, can address these challenges when developed and implemented at sub-national levels.

To find out more and discuss opportunities to work together, please email us: enquiries@cabi.org