

Mausam hard ho gaya hai

(Seasons are getting harder)

Kashmir Singh Dhiman, 66, a retired schoolteacher and third generation farmer from Muhalkar village, Kangra valley, explains:

'Mausam hard ho gaya hai. Summers are hotter, winters come in intense bursts, this monsoon has been unusual with very less rain till today'



More than 65% of South Asians live in villages and are in some way engaged with farming. The majority rely on monsoon rains for sowing and growing.

The 'hardening weather' is making it harder to farm and affecting health and livelihoods.

Everyday descriptions of climate change give insights into how adaptation needs to be done: By not imposing one-size-fits-all or imported policy and solutions but respecting local knowledge

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Climate change in their own words

Rural residents in the foothills of the Himalayas, in Kangra district, Himachal Pradesh, India, describe cause, effect and adaptation to global warming in their own words.



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Mausam nahi badal raha hai; hum mausam ko badal rahe hain pedhon ko kaat ke

(Is the climate changing or are we changing the climate by cutting trees?)

Reena Kumari, 44, from Rakkar village in Kangra valley says a four-lane highway now being built here is destroying many trees.



Rim-jhim (pitter-patter) rain is gone.

It is late July but the promise of continuous monsoons rains remains unmet still.

Ratan Shahi, 61 a farmer from Rakkar village in Kangra valley laments that the rainfall pattern has changed from a rim-jhim barish – a steady and gentle rain – to widely interspersed and heavy downpours.



Poore din ka kaam abhi subaah hi niptaana padta hai

(The day's work (in the fields) has now become the morning's work.)

Veena Dhiman, 60, from Muhalkar village, has been farming for forty years, spending nearly every day of the week exposed to the weather during planting and harvesting. But how she works has changed.