

21st International Conference of The Coastal Society

Coastal Agriculture of Bangladesh: How to Adapt to Sea Level Rise?

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The coastal area of Bangladesh is highly vulnerable to sea level rise (SLR). A one metre SLR will inundate 17.5% of the total landmass of the country, contributing to increased coastal salinity. Twenty million people will be directly affected. The agricultural practice in the coastal zone of Bangladesh will be affected by the SLR induced inundation and salinity intrusion. The salinity increase caused by 0.3 metres of SLR will cause a net reduction of 0.5 million metric tons of rice production. Bangladesh will fail to achieve food security due to decreased rice production. Adaptation to SLR is an emerging need for the coastal agriculture of Bangladesh. Two potential adaptation options are the development of salinity tolerant species and the practice of floating agriculture. Developing salinity tolerant species demands long-term biotechnological research. Practicing floating agriculture is partially developed using indigenous knowledge. The study analyzes the two adaptation options for the coastal agriculture of the country. Systems Analysis is used to see the big picture of the situation.

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