E-ISSN: 2618-0618
P-ISSN: 2618-060X

NAAS Rating (2025): 5.20
www.agronomyjournals.com
2025; 8(8): 844-846
Received: 19-06-2025
Accepted: 21-07-2025

Carmen Pérez
Department of Climate Change and Agriculture, Andalusia Institute of Science, Seville, Spain

Ana María López
Department of Climate Change and Agriculture, Andalusia Institute of Science, Seville, Spain

Laura Sánchez
Department of Climate Change and Agriculture, Andalusia Institute of Science, Seville, Spain

Corresponding Author:
Carmen Pérez
Department of Climate Change and Agriculture, Andalusia Institute of Science, Seville, Spain

Climate change impact on rice growth and agronomic practices: A comprehensive review

Carmen Pérez, Ana María López and Laura Sánchez

DOI: https://www.doi.org/10.33545/2618060X.2025.v8.i8l.3673

Abstract
Climate change poses significant challenges to global rice production, impacting growth, yield, and agronomic practices. This review synthesizes existing research on the physiological impacts of climate change on rice, including temperature stress, water scarcity, and pest dynamics. The review also examines regional variations in these effects and evaluates agronomic practices that help mitigate these challenges. By analyzing secondary data, this paper provides an overview of climate-related risks faced by rice farming and the strategies that can contribute to global food security. The findings underscore the urgent need for adaptive measures to maintain rice productivity amidst changing climatic conditions.

Keywords: Climate change, *Oryza sativa*, rice growth, agronomic practices, temperature stress

1. Introduction
Rice (*Oryza sativa*) is a staple food for over 3 billion people worldwide, particularly in Asia, where it plays a crucial role in food security. However, rice farming faces increasing challenges due to climate change. Rising temperatures, altered precipitation patterns, and more frequent extreme weather events threaten to destabilize yield and crop quality. Given that rice is highly sensitive to environmental changes, understanding how these climate-related factors affect rice growth and yield is crucial for developing adaptive strategies.

This review synthesizes available research on the impact of climate change on rice farming, focusing on temperature stress, water scarcity, and pest dynamics. It also examines adaptive agronomic practices such as water-saving techniques and the development of climate-resilient rice varieties. The review concludes with recommendations for mitigating the adverse effects of climate change on rice production and ensuring long-term food security.

2. Impact of Climate Change on Rice Growth
2.1 Temperature Stress
Temperature is a critical factor in rice growth, especially during the flowering and reproductive stages. Studies consistently show that even a modest increase in temperature during these stages can severely reduce yield. For instance, temperatures above 30 °C during flowering can significantly impair rice pollination, leading to reduced spikelet fertility.

A study by Peng *et al.* (2004) [1] found that a 1°C increase in temperature during the flowering period could result in a 10% reduction in yield, particularly in tropical and subtropical regions. Similarly, Yoshida (1981) observed that night temperatures above 22 °C during the reproductive phase lead to fertility loss, affecting grain formation.

2.2 Water Scarcity and Flooding
Rice cultivation relies heavily on water, and climate change's impact on water availability is a significant concern. On one hand, drought during critical growth stages like flowering and grain filling can lower yield by reducing grain weight and impairing the overall growth process. On the other hand, excessive rainfall leads to waterlogging, which hampers root development and increases the risk of disease.

A study by Hasegawa *et al.* (2013) [2] found that water scarcity during the vegetative phase can reduce rice yield by up to 15% in areas with insufficient rainfall. Additionally, waterlogging during the grain-filling stage, as shown by Lal (2014), can lead to a 20% reduction in yield due to impaired grain development.

2.3 Increased Pest and Disease Incidence

Warmer temperatures and altered precipitation patterns are increasing the prevalence of pests and diseases in rice. For example, the brown plant hopper, a significant rice pest, thrives in warmer conditions. Furthermore, diseases like rice blast and sheath blight are becoming more common, exacerbating yield losses. Zhai *et al*. (2016) [3] reported a 25% increase in rice blast outbreaks as temperatures and humidity levels rise.

3. Regional Variations in Climate Change Impacts on Rice

The effects of climate change on rice production vary significantly across different regions. In Asia, where rice is a key crop, many countries are experiencing distinct climatic shifts that impact rice farming. The following table summarizes the impact of temperature rise on rice yields in different countries.

Table 1: Impact of Temperature on Rice Yield in Various Countries

Country	Temperature Rise (°C)	Yield Reduction (%)	Climate Impact	Key Findings
India	+1.5	10-15	High temperatures during flowering	Increased heat stress reduces fertility during critical stages
China	+1.2	8-10	Elevated temperatures	12% decline in late rice yields
Vietnam	+0.9	6-8	Temperature and rainfall variability	Reduced grain formation due to increased temperature
Philippines	+2.0	12-18	Rising nighttime temperatures	Negative effect on spikelet fertility

This data highlights the varying degree of impact in different regions. India and the Philippines, for example, are seeing significant reductions in rice yields, particularly during the reproductive phase, which is critical for grain formation.

4. Adaptive Agronomic Practices

While climate change presents challenges to rice farming, there are several agronomic practices that can help mitigate its impacts. These practices are designed to optimize resource use, improve water efficiency, and enhance the resilience of rice to environmental stresses.

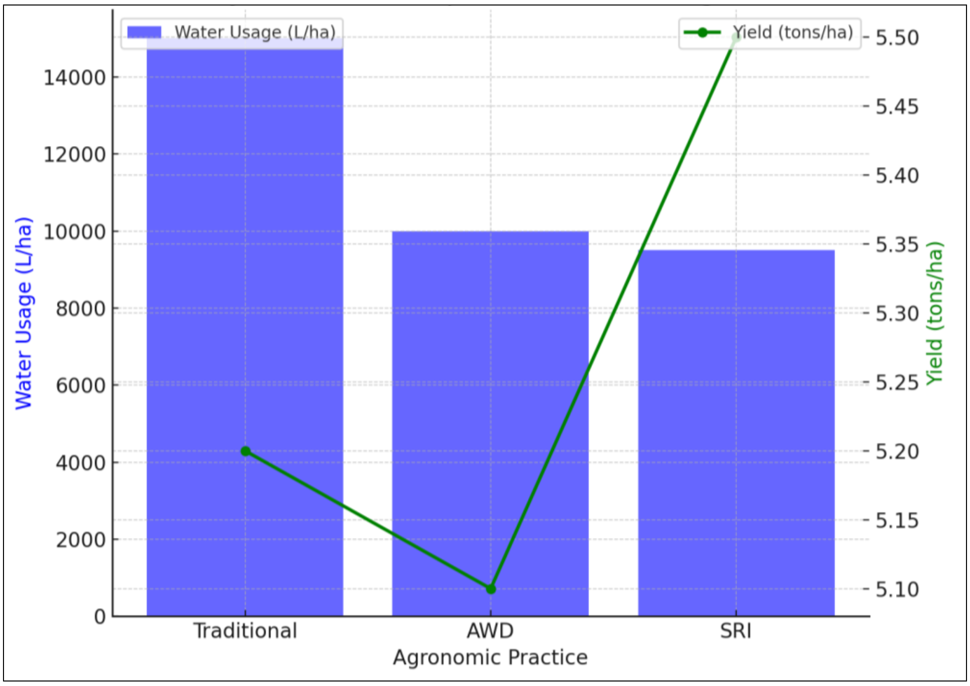
4.1 System of Rice Intensification (SRI)

The System of Rice Intensification (SRI) is an innovative method that involves using younger seedlings, wider plant spacing, and organic amendments to improve soil health. These practices help increase rice yields, reduce water use, and enhance resilience to climate stresses like drought and heat. Research has shown that farmers using SRI can achieve up to 30% higher yields compared to conventional methods while using less water.

4.2 Alternate Wetting and Drying (AWD)

Alternate Wetting and Drying (AWD) is a water-saving technique that involves periodically draining rice fields and then reflooding them. This method has been proven to reduce water usage by 30% and also reduces methane emissions by up to 40%, all while maintaining or even improving yields. AWD helps mitigate water scarcity issues and enhances soil aeration, promoting healthier plant growth.

To better illustrate the efficiency of these techniques, Graph 1 compares the water usage (in liters per hectare) and yield (in tons per hectare) for traditional rice cultivation practices, AWD, and the System of Rice Intensification (SRI). The graph shows how SRI and AWD methods not only use less water but also maintain or improve rice yields compared to traditional practices.



Graph 1: Water efficiency and yield comparison between agronomic practices

This graph visually highlights the water efficiency and yield performance of AWD and SRI practices, showcasing their benefits in water-scarce regions.

Image 1: Alternate Wetting and Drying (AWD) in Practice

4.3 Climate-Resilient Rice Varieties

The development of climate-resilient rice varieties is critical for maintaining stable yields under extreme conditions. Varieties such as Swarna Sub1, which is tolerant to flooding, and heat-resistant strains developed in India, have shown promise in maintaining yields despite climate extremes. These varieties allow farmers in flood-prone and heat-affected areas to maintain production.

5. Conclusion

Climate change presents a serious challenge to rice production globally. Rising temperatures, unpredictable rainfall, and increased pest and disease incidences threaten to reduce yields and disrupt food security. However, by adopting innovative agronomic practices such as SRI, AWD, and developing climate-resilient rice varieties, these challenges can be mitigated. The findings from this review underscore the need for continued research into adaptive strategies and the development of resilient farming practices to ensure the long-term sustainability of rice farming in a changing climate.

Regional variations in the impact of climate change highlight the need for tailored solutions in different geographic areas. As the agricultural community continues to innovate, the integration of these adaptive practices can help secure rice production and contribute to global food security in the face of climate change.

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