

Oral Presentations

Tackling Food insecurity in drought-hit areas of District Tharparkar, Sindh, Pakistan: implications for Agricultural Extension

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Food insecurity remains a pressing global challenge affecting millions of people worldwide. Climate change, natural disasters, conflict, poverty, and inadequate infrastructure contribute to the problem. Pakistan is among the countries grappling with food insecurity, where a significant percentage of the population depends on agriculture for sustenance. This study was conducted in Sindh, province of Pakistan. Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS) was used to analyze quantitative data while qualitative data were presented as personal key informants' interviews to validate the collected quantitative data and to reach reasonable conclusions. Results of descriptive statistical analysis showed that among various factors global warming and climate change were the major factors affecting food security in the study area with high mean score of 4.49 which lies between high affect and very high affect but inclined towards high affect. Other factors include lack of irrigation facilities, shrinking arable land due to drought, and unavailability of Government jobs with the mean scores of 4.40, 4.34 and, 4.33 respectively. Majority of respondents as well as key informants suggested that water pumps, ponds and small reservoirs should be constructed to combat water scarcity. The Public Extension department should introduce collaborative projects with private NGOs to tackle the continuously worsening situation. Area specific targeted approaches should be launched to create awareness to tackle food insecurity.