



Towards adaptation of agriculture to climate change in the Mediterranean

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Climate, water and agriculture and society are closely interlinked in Mediterranean countries and shape the social development in many rural areas. Societies, cultures and economies have evolved adapting to mean climatic conditions. The success of adaptation depends on the strategy, and it is determined by the economic, social, and environmental vulnerability. In this region, it is likely that the stress imposed by climate change to agriculture is by means of reducing water availability. Adaptation is a key factor that will shape the future severity of climate change impacts on agricultural production but prioritizing adaptation needs is complex, and, at least, requires information on: (1) water scarcity pressures, being water availability the main determinant of agriculture in the region; (2) a measure of the potential impacts; and (3) a measure of the potential limits (social and physical) to adaptation. Here we evaluate these three aspects discussing the adaptation priorities for agriculture in the Mediterranean region.