



Vulnerability of Moldovan agriculture to drought: adaptation strategies in view of changes in climate and society

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Climate change in Moldova is already a reality that is resulting in increased drought in all agro-climatic regions. Moldova needs a consolidated strategy and action plan to meet the climate challenges facing its agriculture, forestry and livestock sectors since agriculture and related activities account for 30% of GDP and 40% employment. Moldova is a pioneer country in the development of adaptation strategies to climate change and leader in the Clean Development Mechanism (CDM) Mitigation Projects. In addition Moldova is developing a National Strategy of Natural Hazards Mitigation and Climate Change: the results presented here are part of the World Bank study on climate change impacts and contribute to the development of adaptation strategies to drought and climate change for agriculture in Moldova. The study was conducted in three agro-ecological zones. Our results suggest that for all crops, irrigation increases yields and reduces yield variability. In general under climate change, water availability initially increases, then falls; irrigation water demand is higher and peaks earlier. We evaluate the cost effectiveness of increasing irrigation and reservoir storage and explore the management, institutional and policy measures for decreasing drought damage.