

# Climate Change and Rice-Wheat System: Impacts, Adaptation and Mitigation



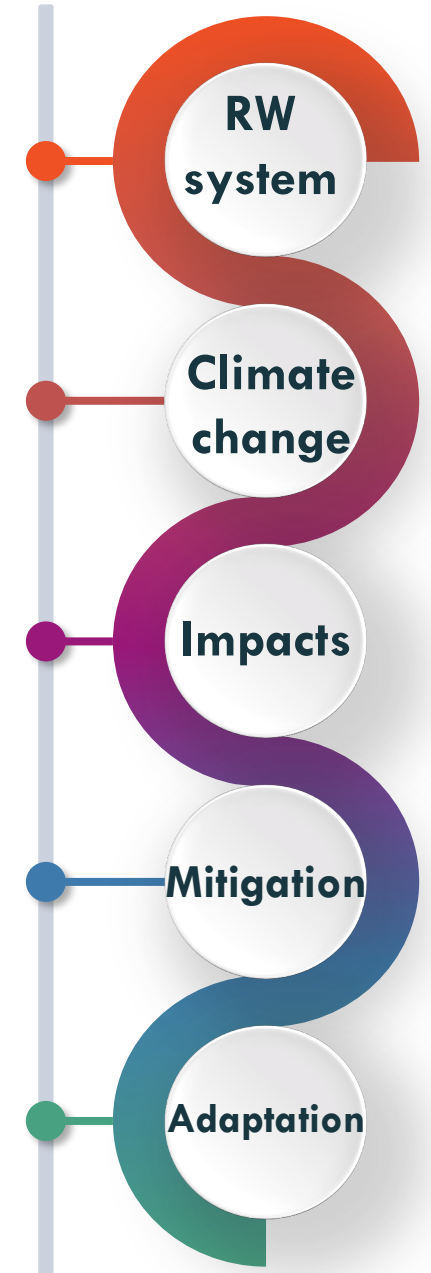
**H. Pathak**

FNA, FNASc, FNAAS, FAvH

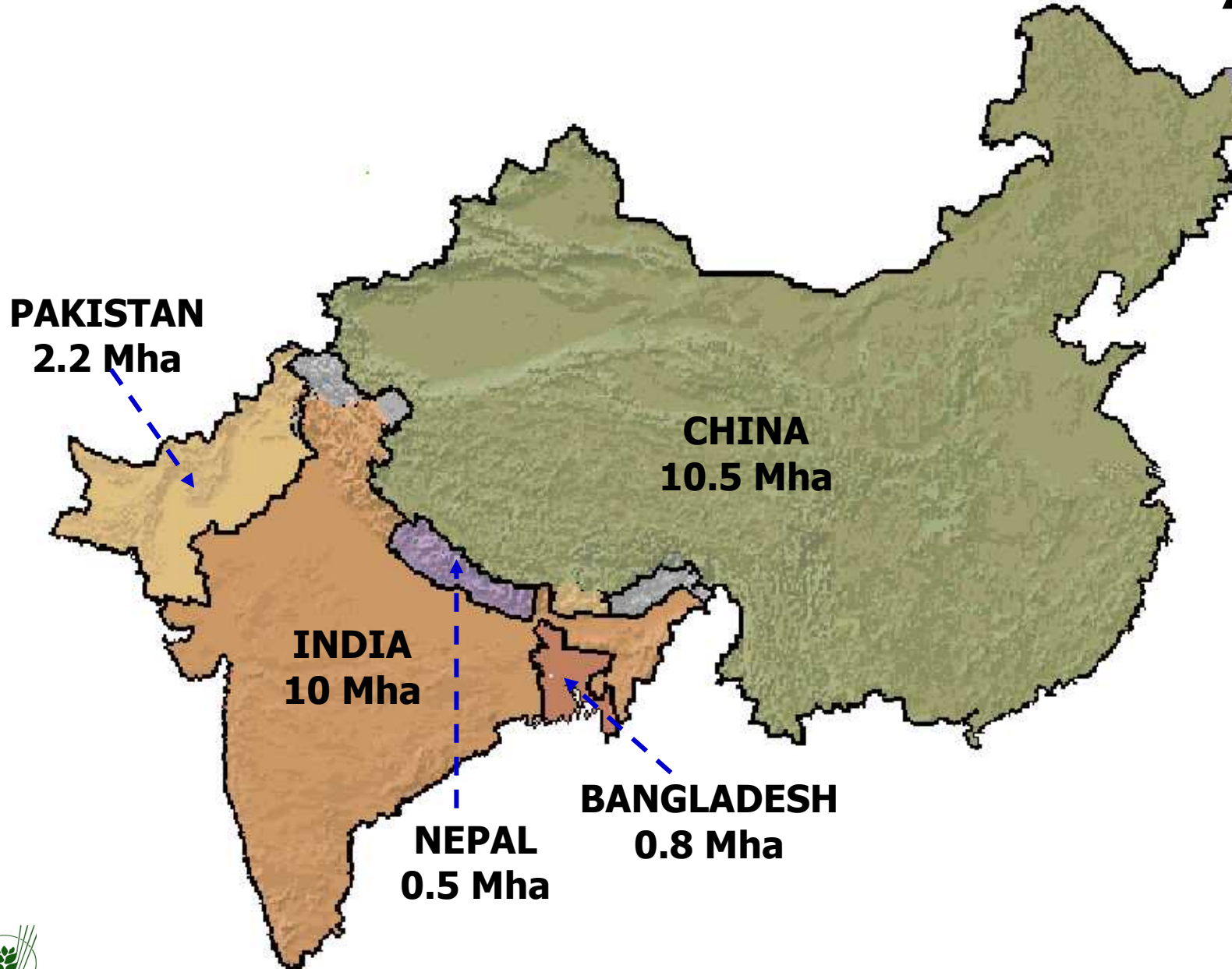
**Director**

ICAR-National Institute of Abiotic Stress Management  
Baramati, Pune, Maharashtra

January 19, 2022, IIWBR, Karnal, Haryana

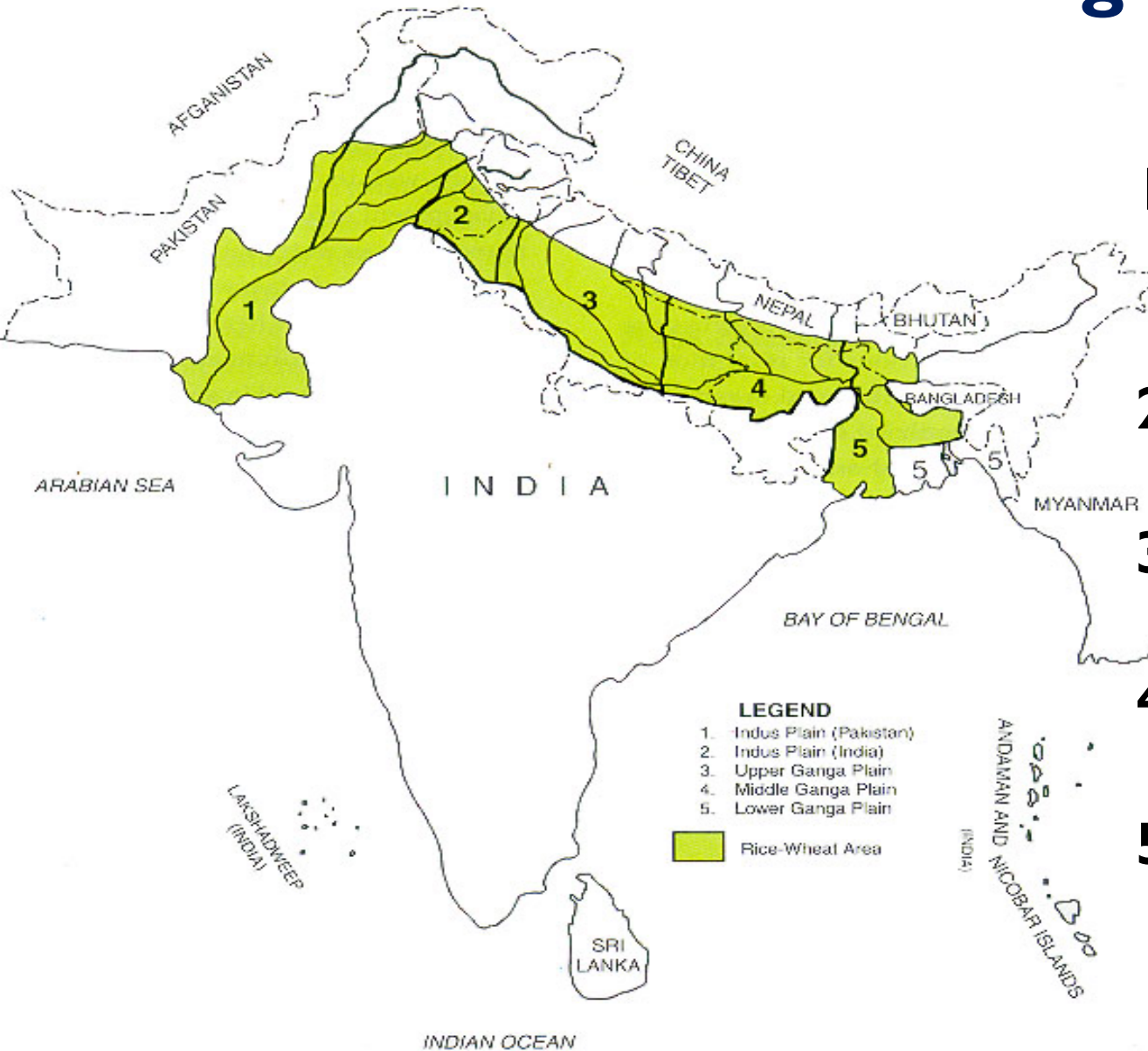


# Global Rice-Wheat Systems



1. **Single largest cropping system on the Earth.**
2. **Occupies 24 Mha in Asia.**
3. **Covers 28% of rice and 35% of wheat area.**
4. **These 2 crops make up more than 70% of the people's diet in Asia.**
5. **Crucial for achieving SDGs and net zero emission targets.**

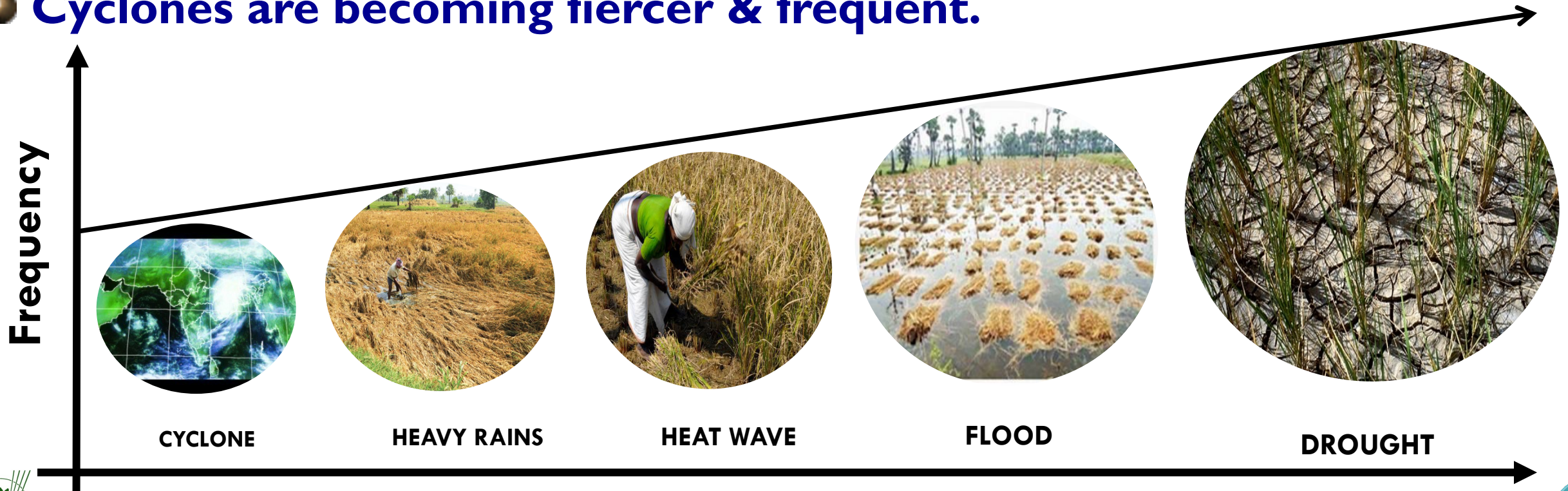
# Indo-Gangetic Plains



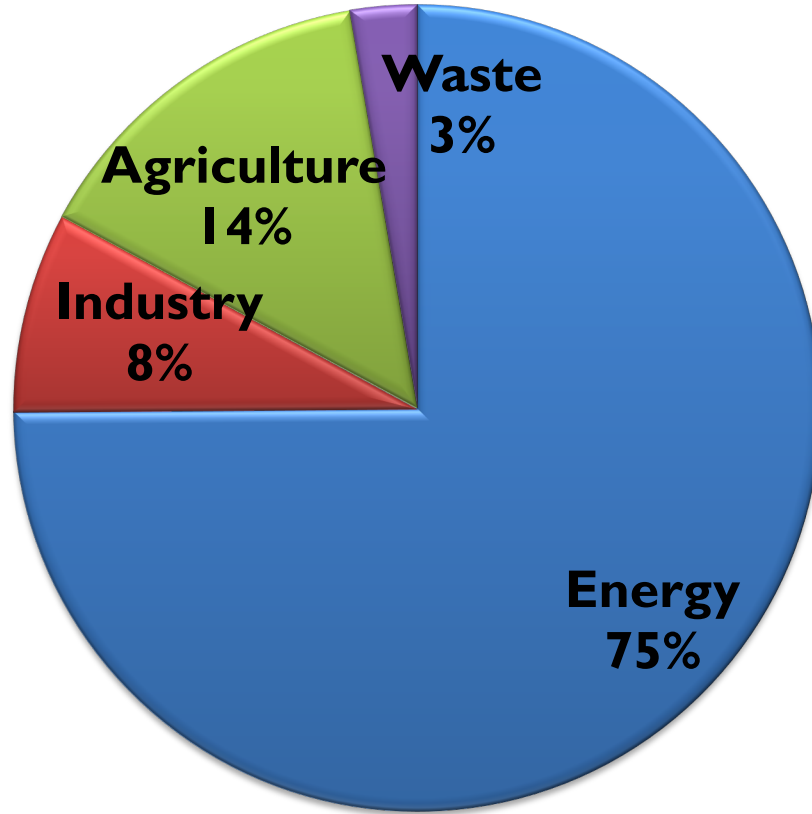
- 1. Occupy 1/6<sup>th</sup> of total geographical area of the sub-continent.**
- 2. Hold ~45% of total population.**
- 3. Produce >45% of total food.**
- 4. Hold ~50% of total canal irrigation.**
- 5. Consume ~30% fertilizer.**

# Climate Change is Aggravating

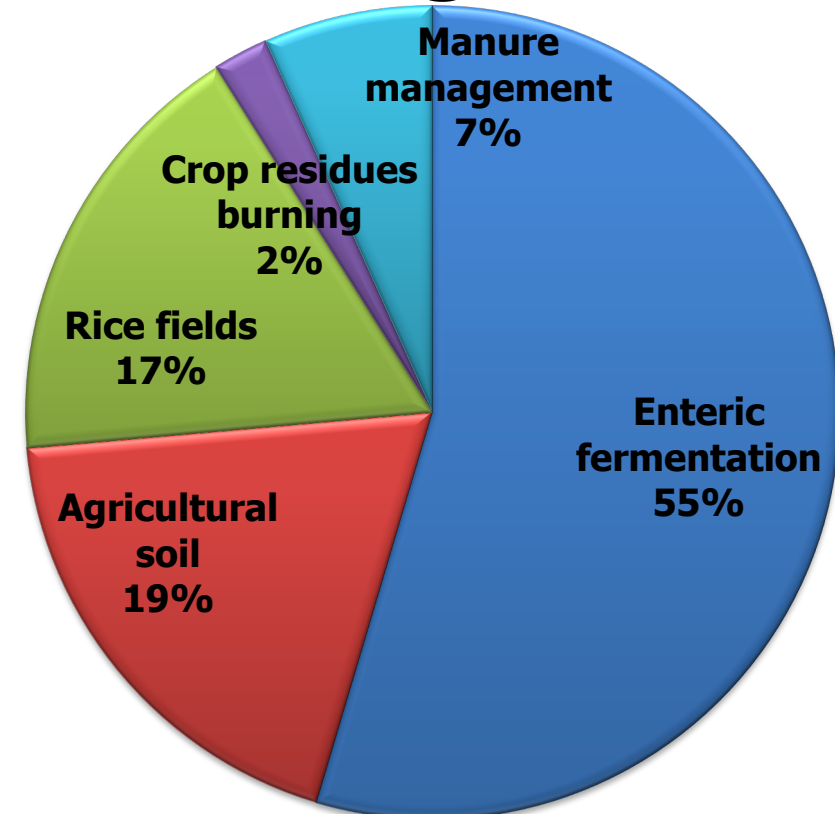
- Global mean temperature increased by 1.1 °C.
- To increase by 3.5 °C by 2100. Last 6 years warmest.
- Seasons are shifting.
- Rainfall variability and intensity increasing.
- Sea level rising.
- Cyclones are becoming fiercer & frequent.



# Emission of GHGs from Indian Agriculture



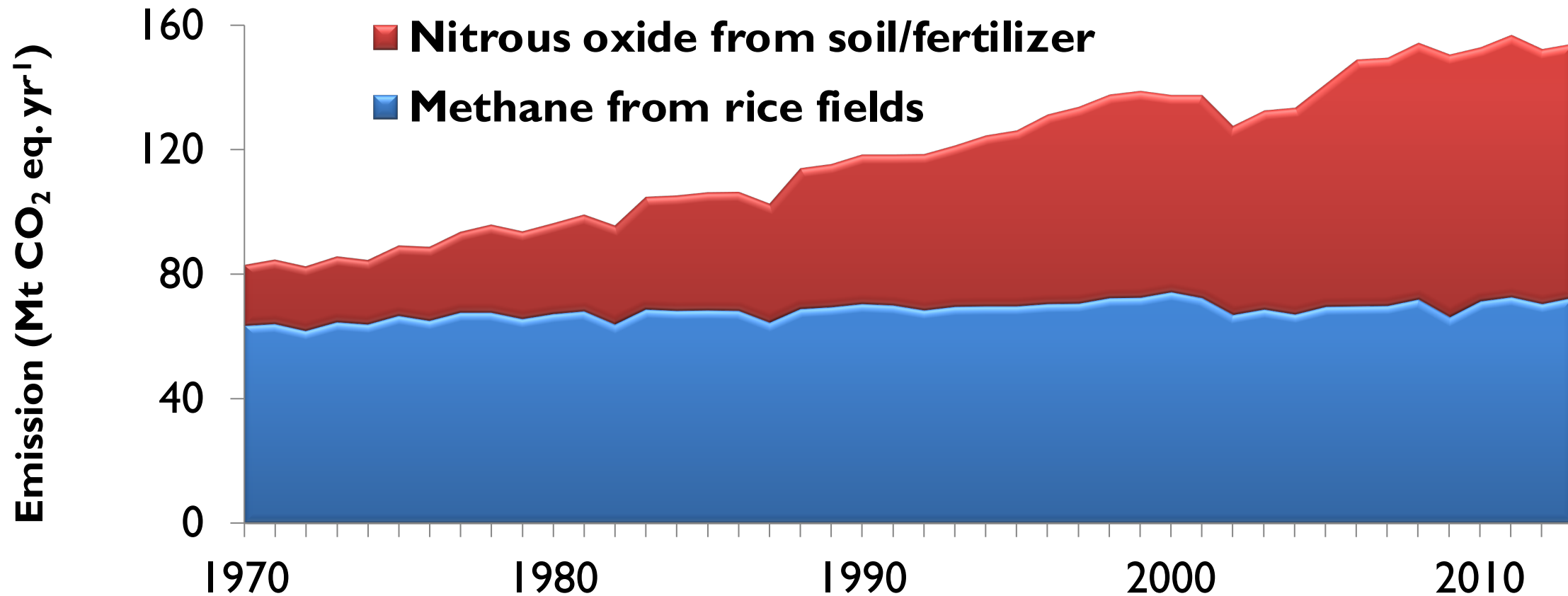
**Different Economic Sectors**



**Different Sub-sectors of Agriculture**

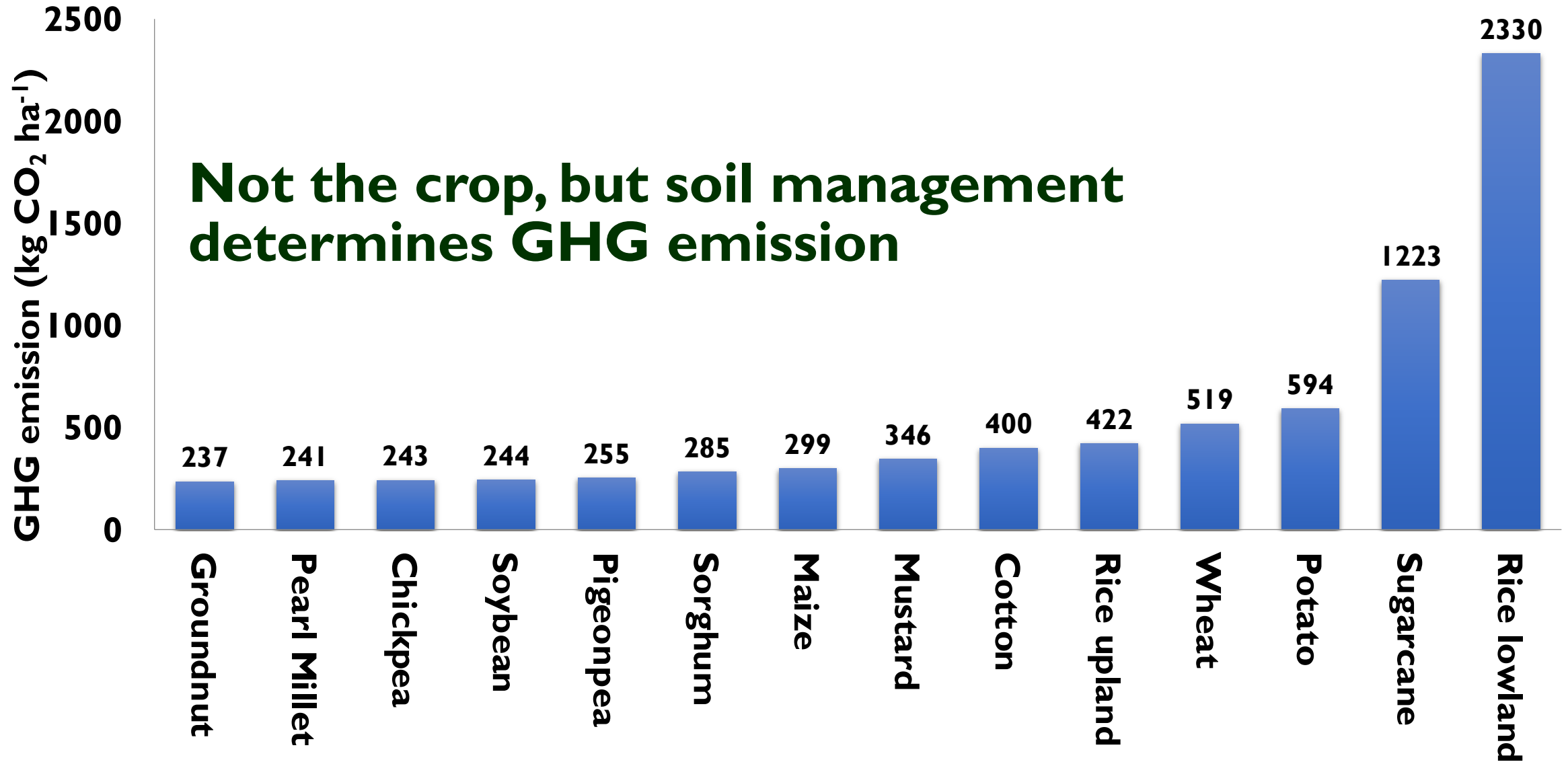
- **Total Emission: 2.82 Bt CO<sub>2</sub> eq.**
- **Emission from agriculture: 408 Mt CO<sub>2</sub> eq.**

# GHGs Emissions from Indian Agriculture

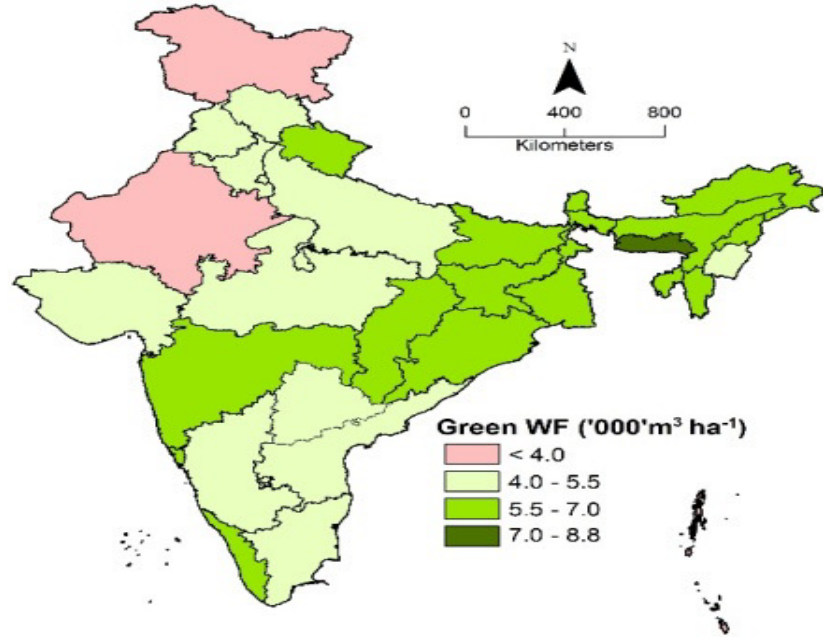


- Since 1970, the GHGs emission has doubled.
- Currently N<sub>2</sub>O from soil and fertilizer is the largest source and increasing.

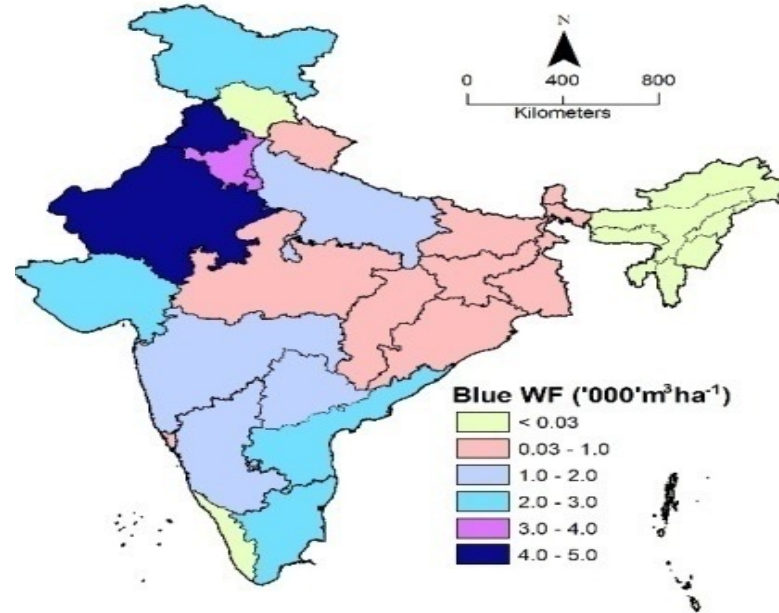
# Greenhouse Gas Emission in Different Crops



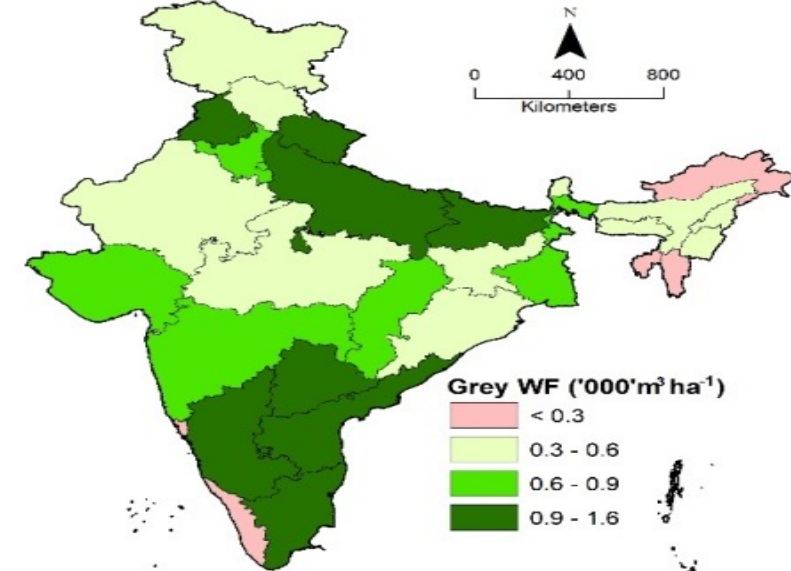
# Large Water Footprints of Rice Production



**Green water:  
Rainwater and soil  
moisture**



**Blue water:  
Irrigation water**



**Grey water:  
Water to assimilate  
pollutant load**

**Rice receives 200 km<sup>3</sup> irrigation water per  
year (30% of total in India)**

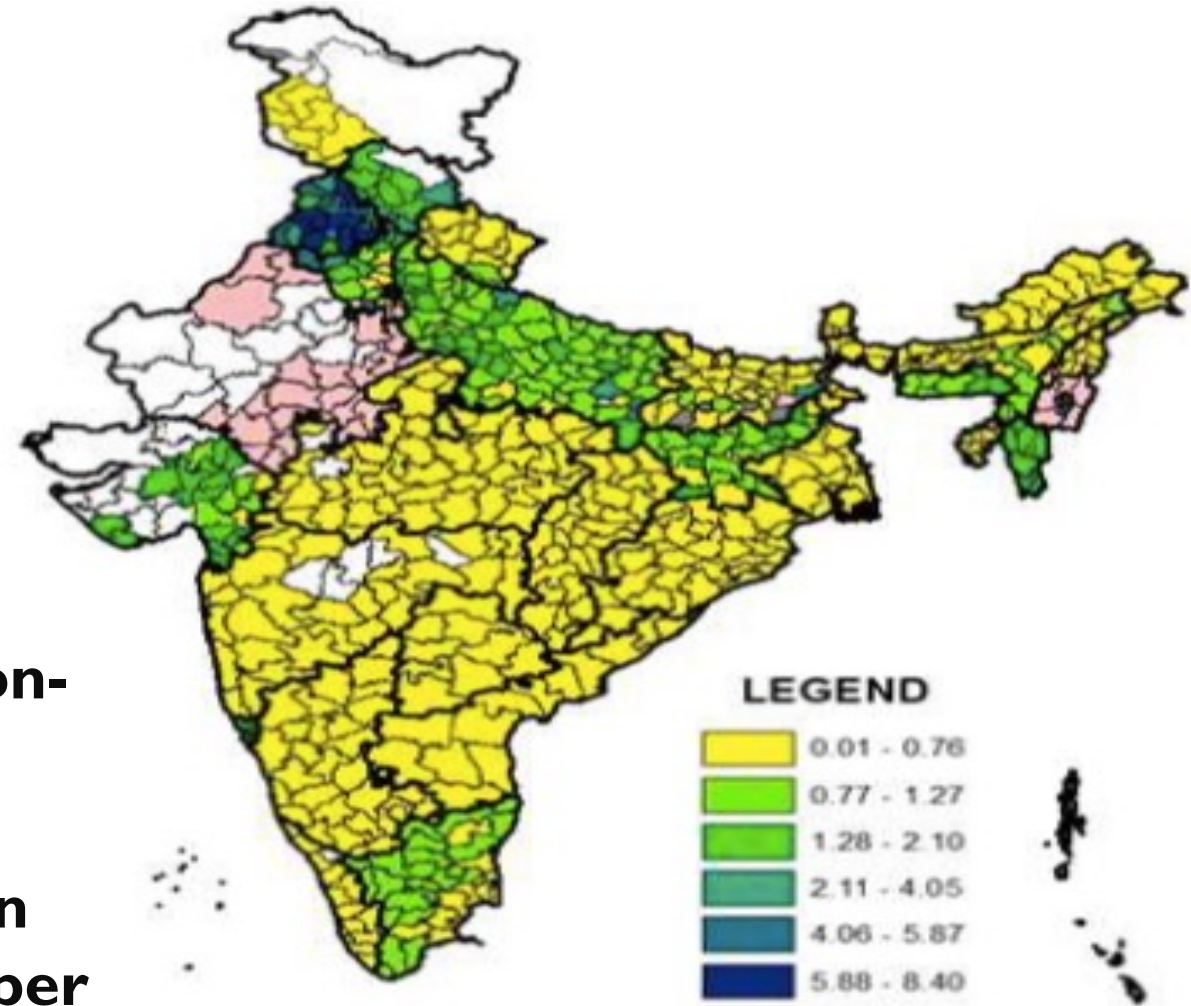
**Nayak et al. (2018)**



# On-Farm Burning of Rice Stubble



- About 60 Mt of rice residues are burned on-farm.
- Economic cost of exposure to air pollution from stubble burning is Rs. 2 lakh crores per year in Punjab, Haryana and Delhi (IFPRI, 2019).



Rice Residue Surplus ( $t\ ha^{-1}$ )

Jain, Pathak et al. (2018)

# Impacts of Climate Change on Various Crops

Crop	Change in yield (%)
Wheat	-9
Irrigated rice	-12
Maize (kharif)	-18
Mustard	-12
Potato	-13
Sorghum	-3
Maize (rabi)	13

1. Yields of wheat and rice would decline by 9 and 12% by 2040 under RCP 4.5 scenario.
2. Suitability for rainfed rice area to decline by 15-40% by 2050.
3. Grain protein to reduce by 1% in wheat.
4. Zn and Fe content in many crops to reduce.

# Impacts of Climate Change on Crop Productivity and Price

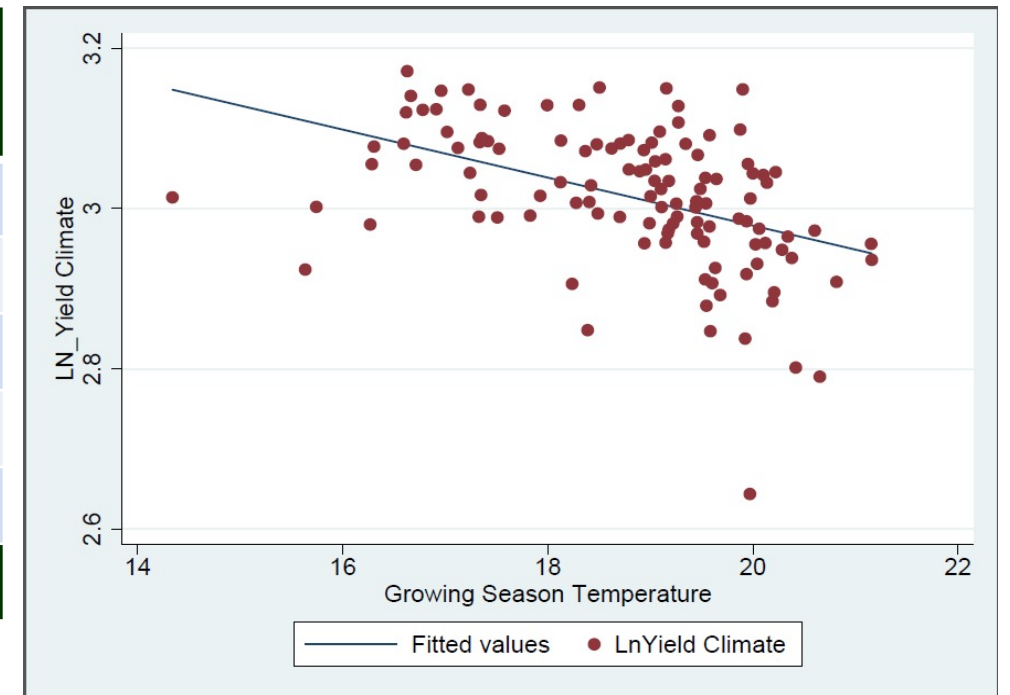


- ◆ By 2030-40, nine out of ten major crops will experience reduced growth rate (8-23%) and increased prices (75-90%) due to climate change (CIMMYT 2015).
- ◆ IFPRI projects increased prices of wheat, rice and maize by ~150% by 2050 due to climate change.

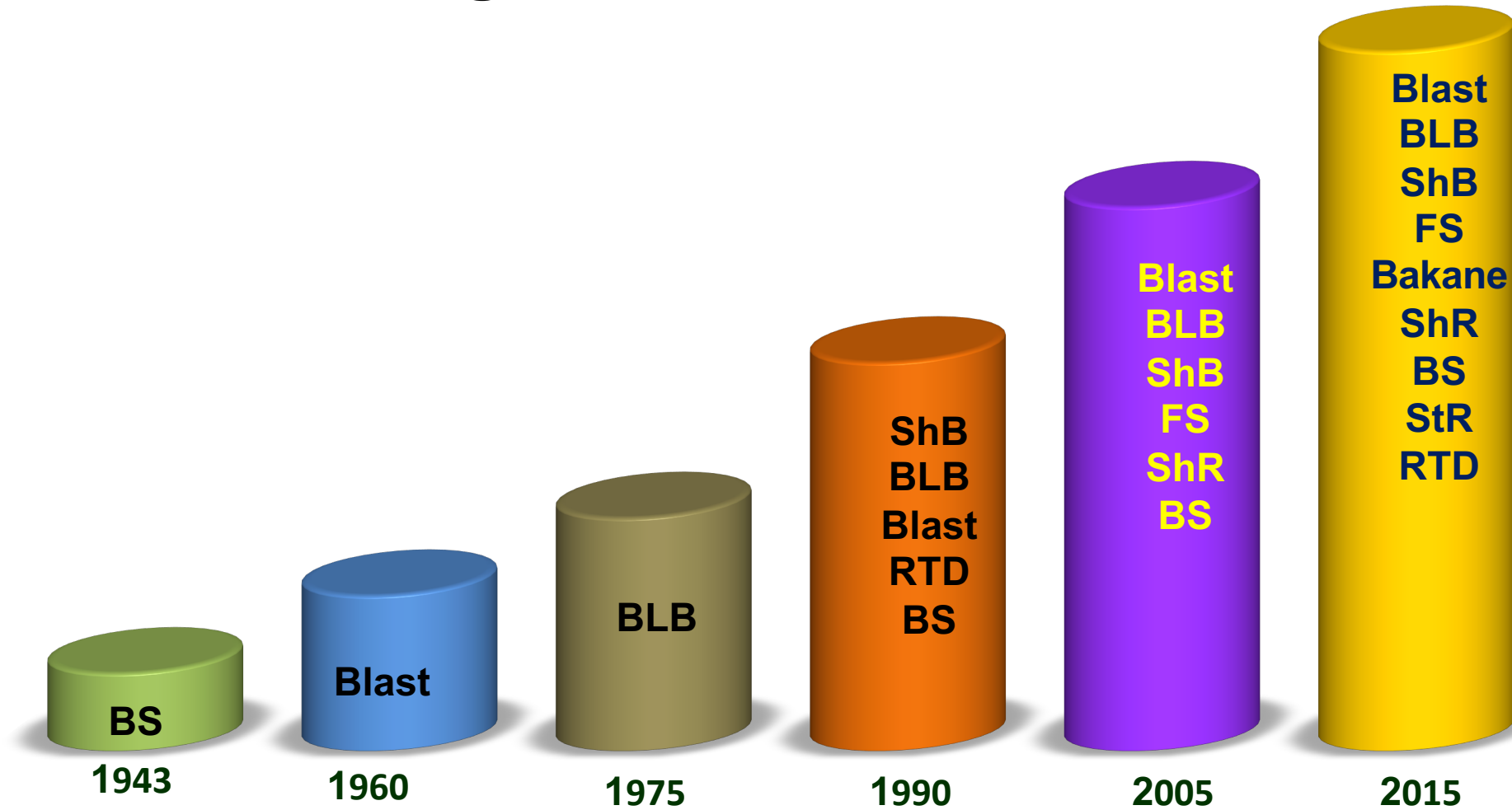
# Contributions of Various Factors to Growth in Wheat Yield during the last 30 years (1981-83 to 2008-10).

Variable	Change variable (%)	Contribution to growth (%)
1. Increased temp.	7.2	-10
2. Human labour	23.8	7
3. Machine labour	109.1	22
4. Fertilizer	98.3	50
5. Variety	-	31
<b>Yield</b>	<b>61.1</b>	<b>100</b>

## Relation between temperature and wheat yield

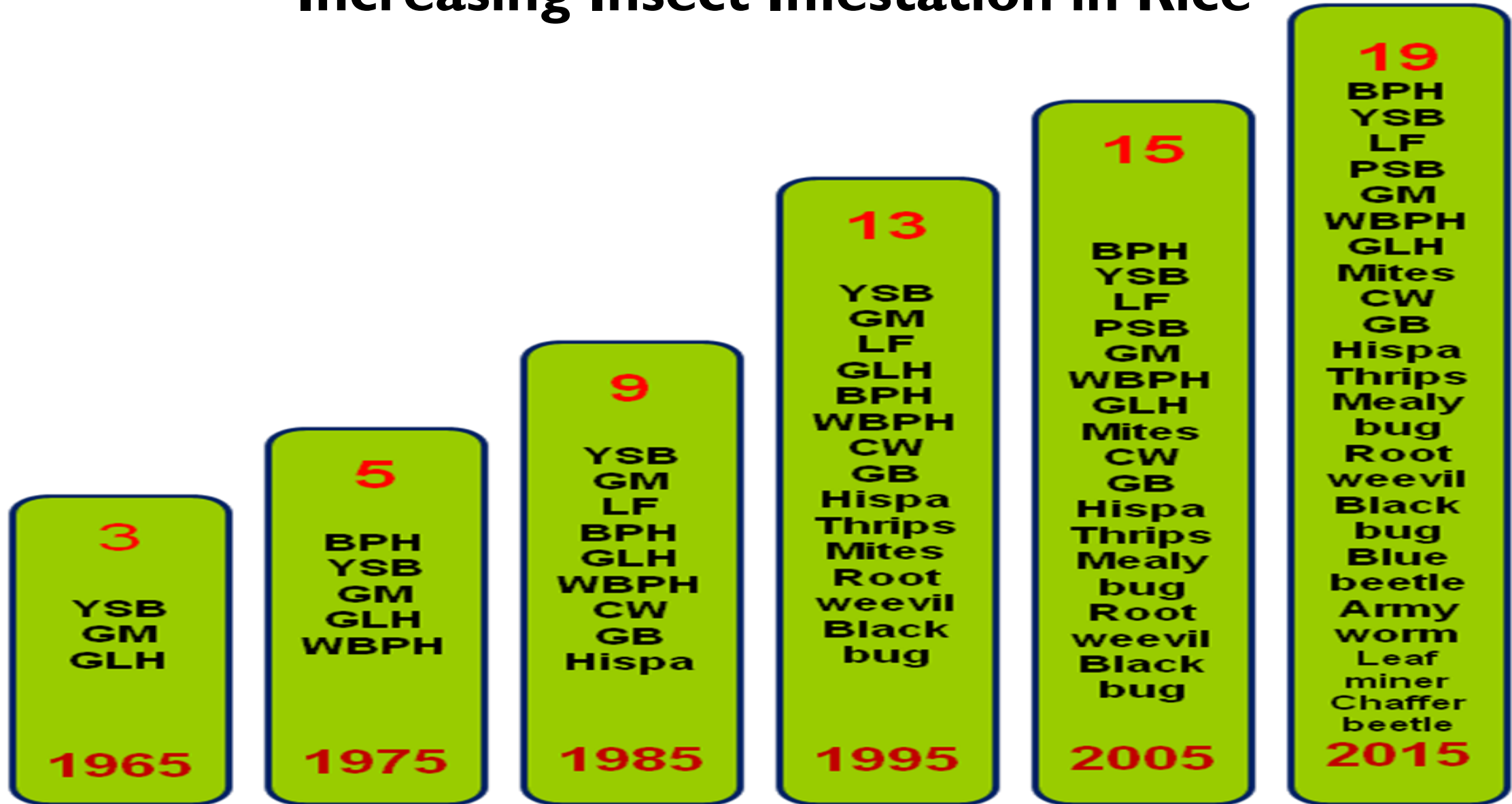


# Increasing Disease Infestation in Rice



**BS-Brown spot; BLB-Bacterial leaf bight; FS-False smut; GD- Grain discoloration; RTD-Rice tungro disease; ShB- Sheath blight; ShR-Sheath rot; StR-stem rot**

# Increasing Insect Infestation in Rice



# Steps of Managing Climatic Risks

- 1. Foresee the stress (Forecasting)**
- 2. Adapt the stress (Adapting)**
- 3. Respond to the stress (Responding)**
- 4. Mitigate the stress (Mitigating)**
- 5. Build capacity to manage the stress (Capacity building)**

**FARM-Building**

# Climate-Smart Management Options in Rice-Wheat System

1. **Smart variety (Abiotic stress tolerant)**
2. **Smart tillage (Conservation tillage)**
3. **Smart fertilization (Demand-driven, sensor-based)**
4. **Smart irrigation (Micro, sensor-based, solar)**
5. **Smart processing and recycling (residue recycling, solar energy)**

**SMART-VTFIP**



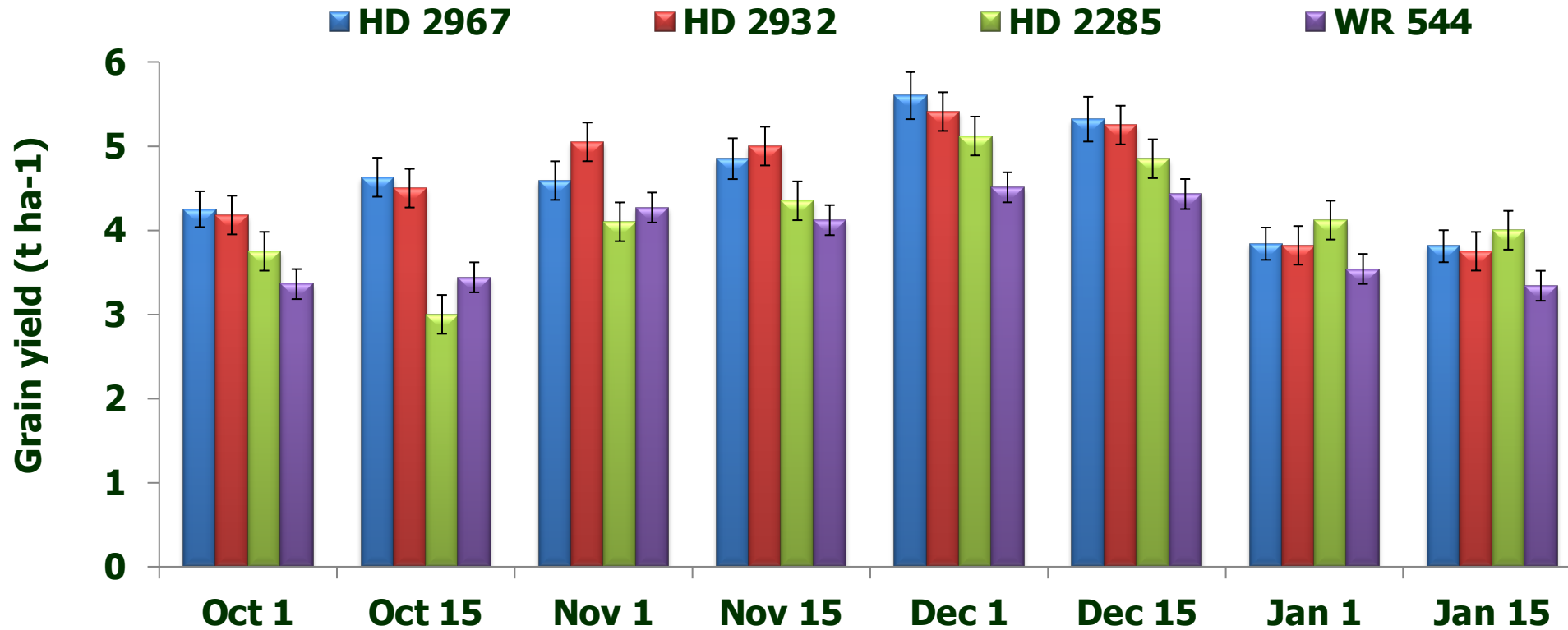
# Climate-smart Crop Varieties

## Varieties tolerant to:

- **Submergence**
- **Drought**
- **Salinity**
- **Biotic stresses**



# Yield of Wheat Cultivars with Heat Stress



- Long duration cultivars (HD 2932 and HD 2967) gave higher yield under initial and terminal heat stress conditions.
- Medium duration cultivar (HD2285) gave higher yield under very late sown condition.

# Advantages of Direct-seeded Rice

1. DSR saves resources
  - 1) Irrigation water 25-30%
  - 2) Energy 40-85%
  - 3) Labour 25-30%
  - 4) Time (early maturity) 8-10 days
2. Reduces GHG emission 60-70%
3. Grain yield 90-100%

**DSR is a cost saving, labour saving, water saving, time saving, climate-smart rice farming**



Observations from IARI, NRRI, CSSRI

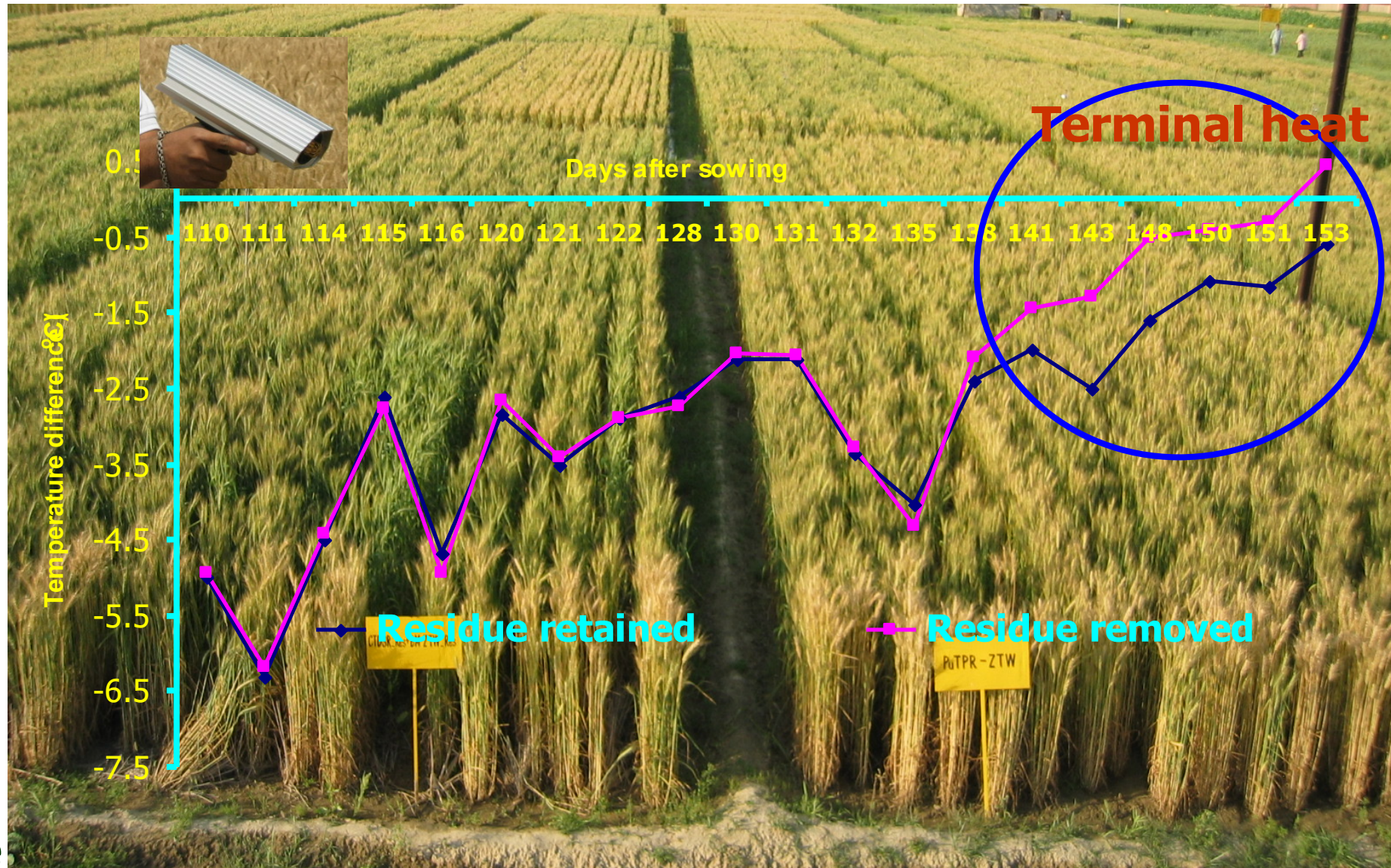
# Conservation Agriculture Minimizes Yield Loss due to Climatic Extremes



Conventional



Conservation agriculture



# Yield, Income, Water and Climate Benefits of Conservation Agriculture

Technology	Productivity gain (t ha <sup>-1</sup> )	Profitability gain (Rs. ha <sup>-1</sup> )	Water saving (%)	GHG mitigation (t CO <sub>2</sub> eq. ha <sup>-1</sup> )
1. Laser land leveling	0.5	14000	15	0.5
2. Zero till	0.4	9450	5	1.3
3. ZT + Residue	0.5	13300	8	1.8
4. DSR	0.0	9450	15	1.6
5. Permanent bed	0.8	21000	25	0.9
6. SSNM	0.5	13300	0	0.8
7. Sub-surface drip	0.4	12950	45	1.0
8. Crop diversification	0.7	24500	15	0.5
9. CSA package	1.0	15400	20	2.9

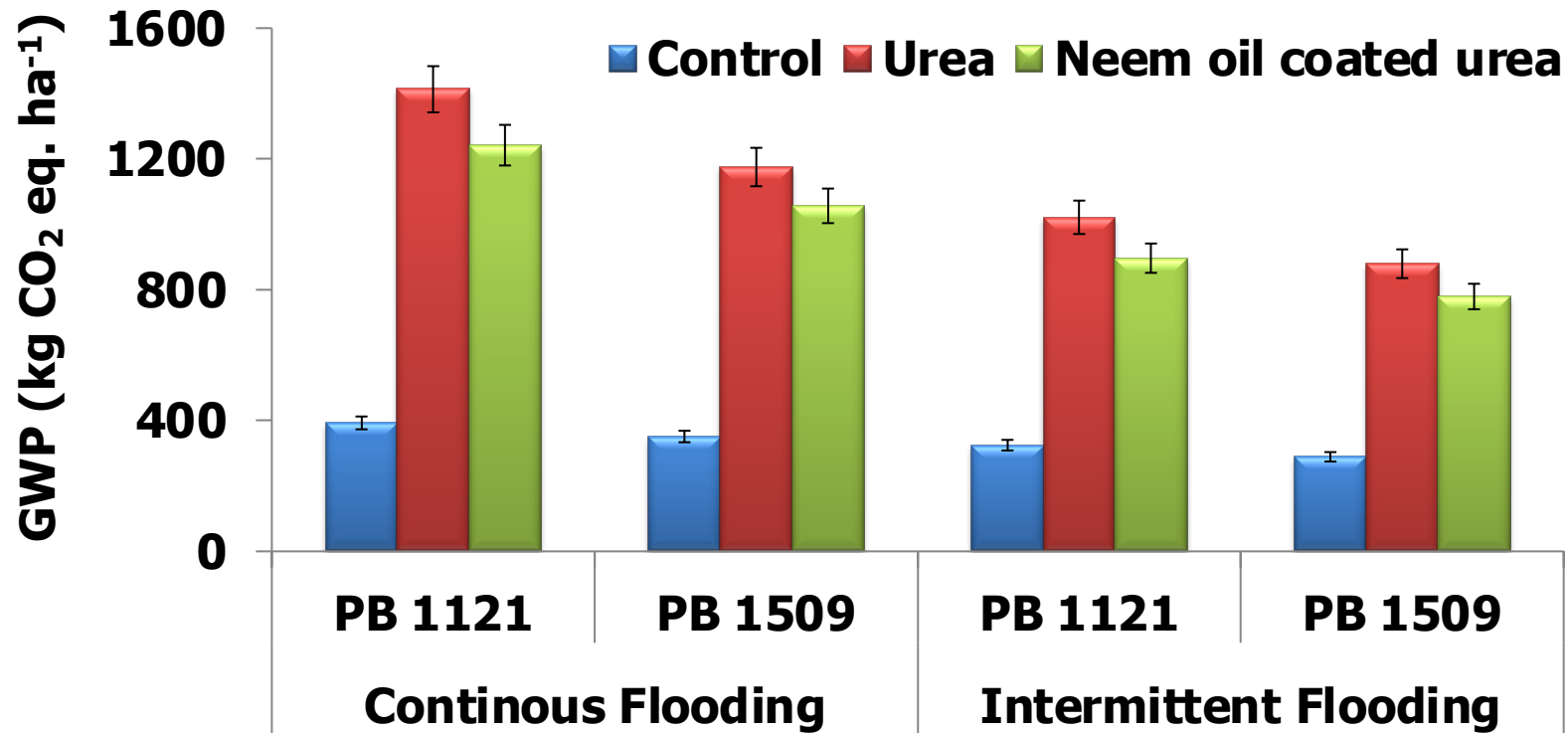
**In conservation agriculture land preparation needs 80% less energy**

**Source: Jat et al. (2020), Pathak et al. (2021)**

# Productivity, Energy Use and GHG Emission in Punjab

System	Productivity (t/ha)	Energy use in ground water pumping (kWh)	GWP (kg CO <sub>2</sub> eq./ha)
Rice-wheat, flood irrigation	11.7	3702	3680
Rice-wheat, Drip + Solar	12.1	3723	0
Maize-wheat, flood irrigation	12.4	1181	1174
Maize-wheat, Drip + Solar	12.9	1189	0

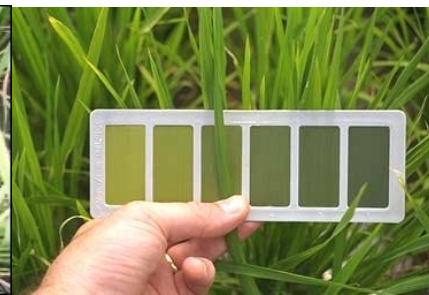
# Greenhouse Gas Mitigation from Rice Fields



- Intermittent flooding in rice reduced **GWP** by 25-30% over continuous flooding.
- Pusa Basmati 1509 reduced **GWP** by 15-20% compared to Pusa Basmati 1121.
- Neem coated urea decreased **GWP** by 10-12% compared to prilled urea.

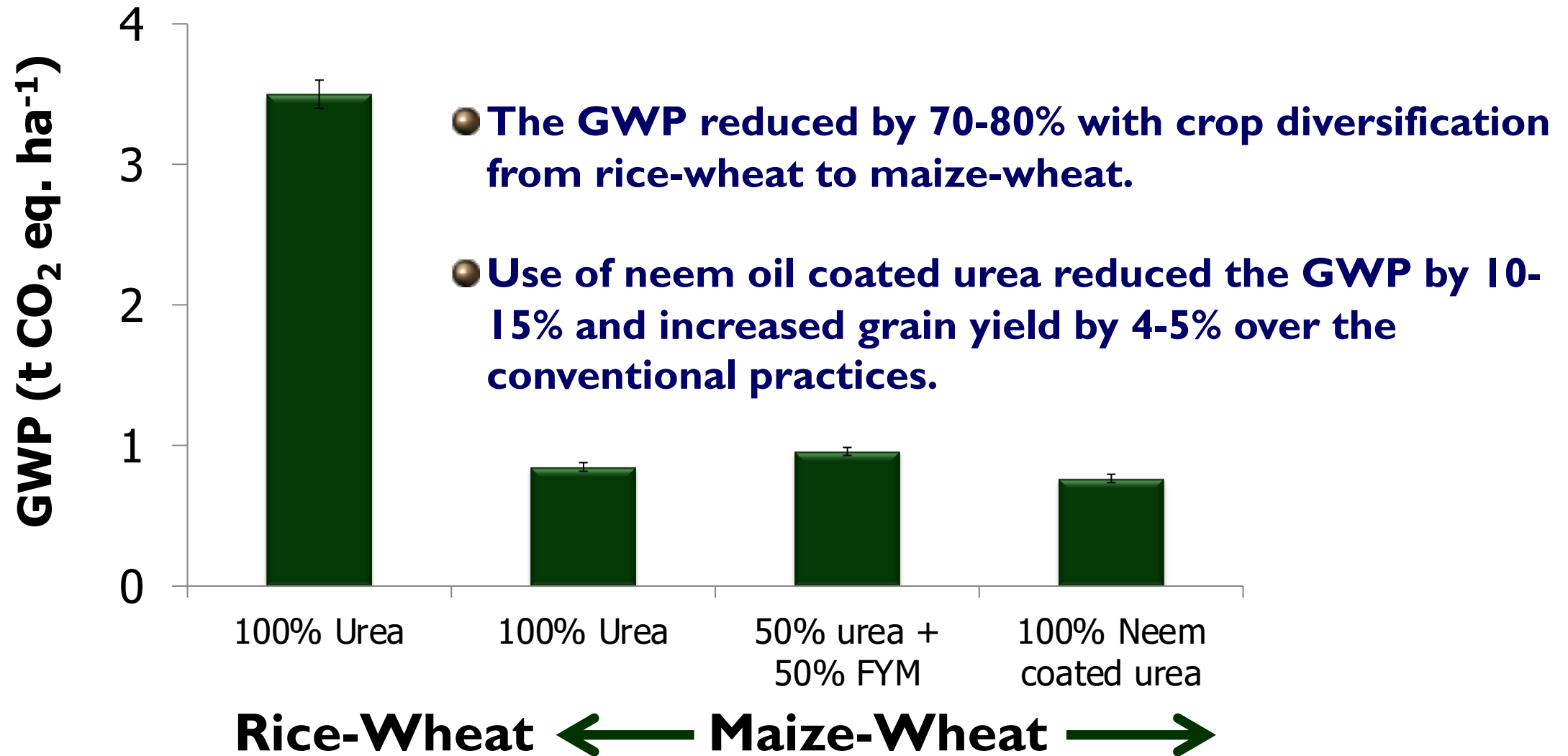
# Improved Soil, Water and Nutrient Management

1. Soil health card and site-specific nutrient management
2. Neem-coated urea
3. Leaf Colour Chart for N management
4. Microbial formulations nutrient supplementation
5. Integrated nutrient management
6. Efficient water management
7. Conservation agriculture

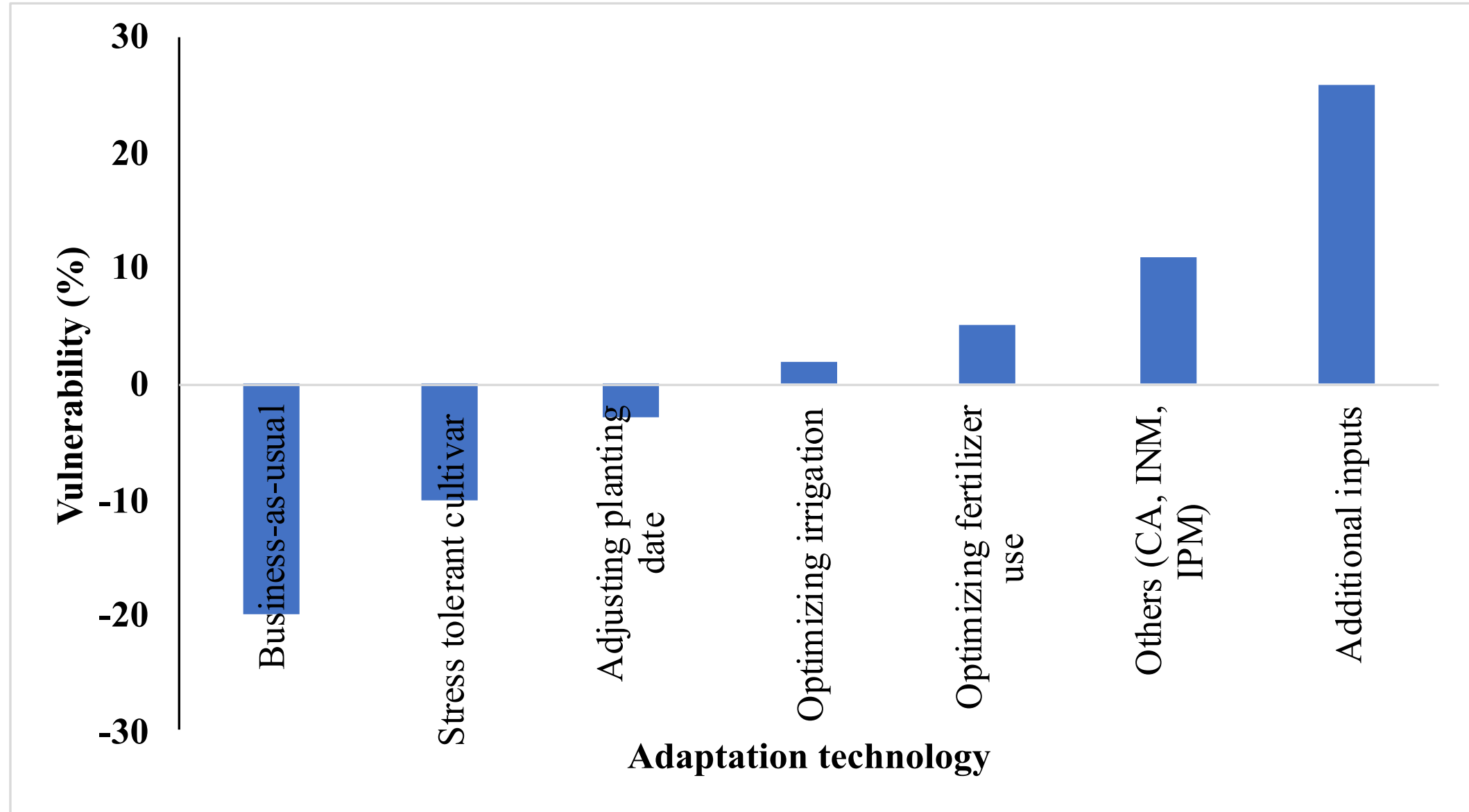




# Mitigating GHG emission in rice-wheat system with crop diversification



# Adaptation technologies to compensate the vulnerability to climate change

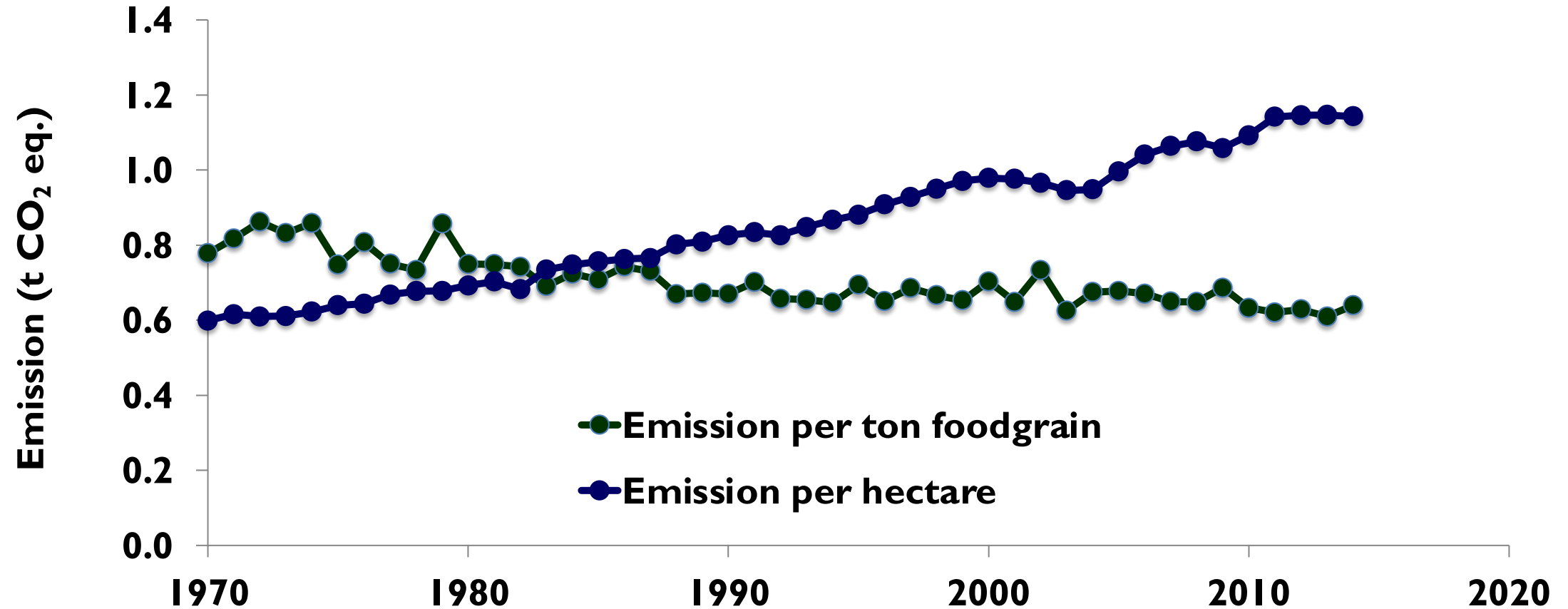


# Technologies for GHGs Mitigation in Indian Agriculture: Potentials and Constraints

Technology	Mitigation (%)*	Yield (%)*	Constraints
<b>Methane from rice field</b>			
● Intermittent drying	25-30	90-100	Assured irrigation
● Direct-seeded rice	30-50	90-100	Machine, herbicide
● Short duration variety	15-20	95-115	-
<b>Nitrous oxide from soil</b>			
● Demand-driven N use	10-15	105-110	Knowledge, tool
● Nitrification inhibitor	10-15	105-110	Cost, incentive
<b>Carbon sequestration in soil</b>			
● Conservation agric.	5-10	95-110	Continuity
● Integ. nutr. manage.	5-10	95-110	Manure avail., cost

\*Compared to the conventional practices

# Trends in GHGs Emission from Indian Agriculture



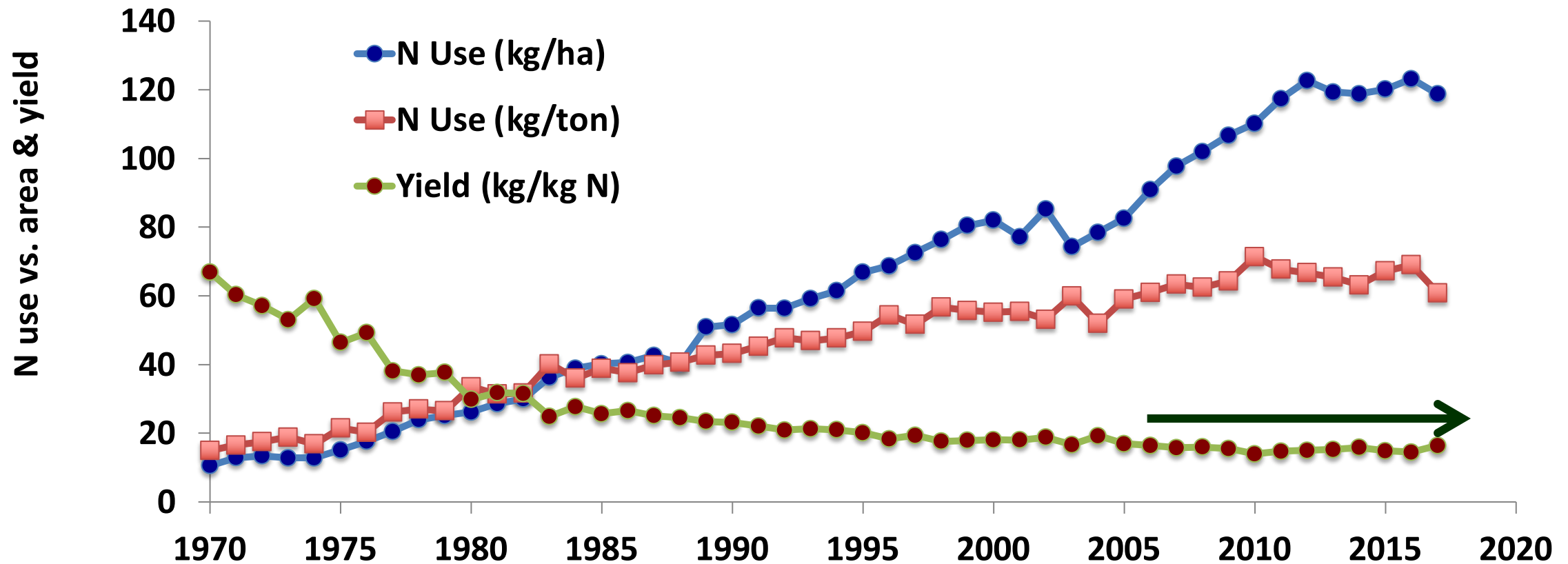
Since 1970, GHGs emission per ha has almost doubled, but per ton food grain production decreased by 20%.

# Impacts of Mitigation Technologies: Potential, Adoption and Mitigation

Greenhouse gas	Technology	Mitigation Potential (%)	Adoption (Mha)	Mitigation (Mt CO <sub>2</sub> eq)	Yield Impact (%)*
Methane	AWD	30	7.5	4.7	95
	DSR	40	4.0	3.4	90
	SRI	30	3.5	2.2	105
Nitrous oxide	LCC	15	40.0	1.9	110
	NCU	15	120.0	5.6	105
Carbon dioxide	RCT	10	3.5	0.7	105
	INM	10	25.0	5.0	110
<b>Total/Average</b>		<b>21</b>	<b>203.5</b>	<b>23.4</b>	<b>103</b>

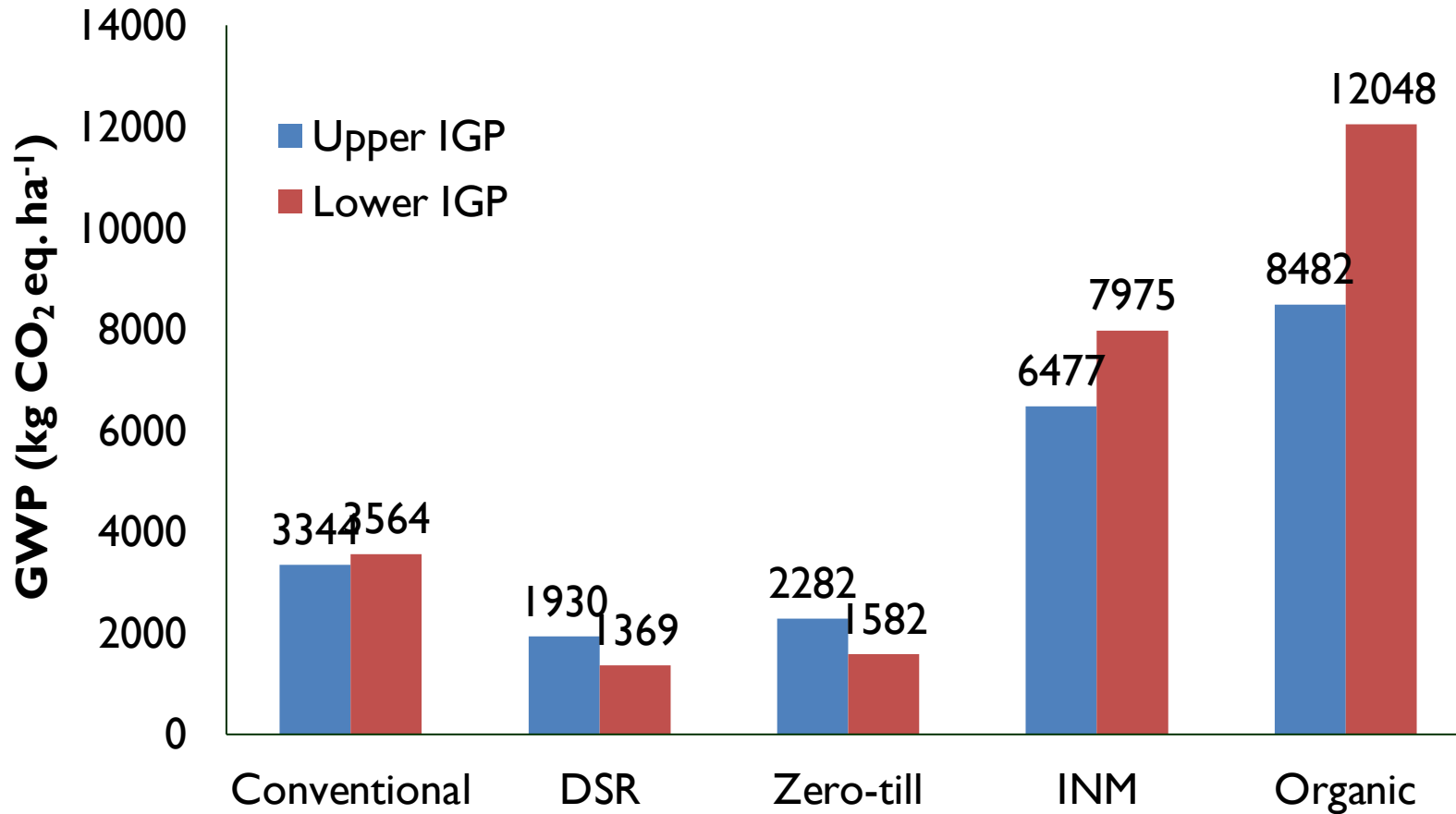
- Total emission (Mt): 161.4
- Mitigation (Mt): 23.4
- Mitigation (%): 14.0

# Trends in N Use in Relation to Area, Production and Productivity in Indian Agriculture



- Since 1970, N use per ha has increased by 11 times but per ton food grain production, it increased by 4 times.
- Since 1970, N response has decreased from 67 to 15 kg grain/kg N but since 1998, the response has remained 15-17 kg/kg N.

# Global Warming Potential in Rice with Alternative Practices



**Organic farming  
has higher GWP**

# Conservation agriculture should implemented completely



## Happy seeder in wheat

- No residue burning
- Zero tillage
- Less GHG emission
- **But extra N? more N<sub>2</sub>O**

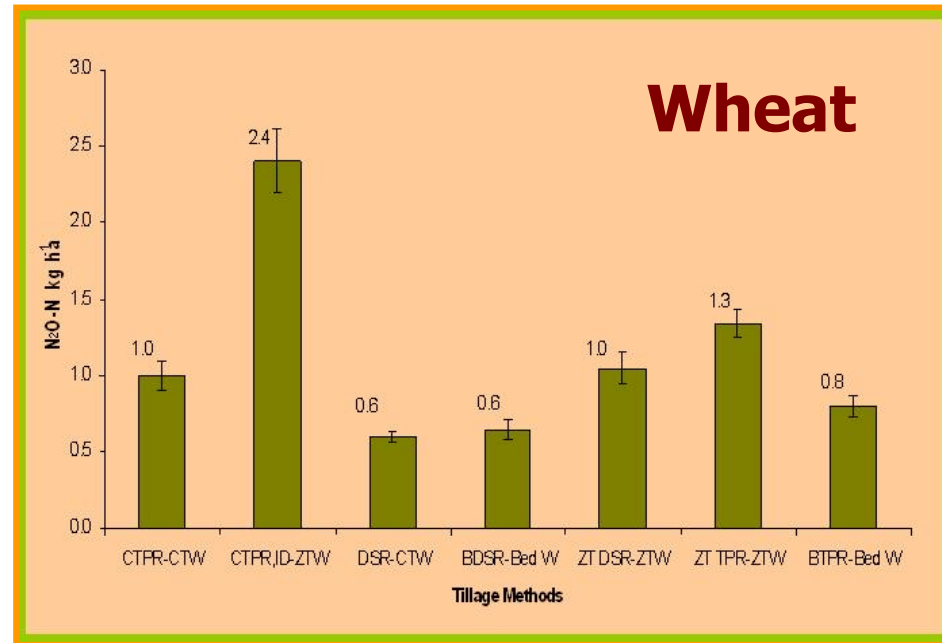
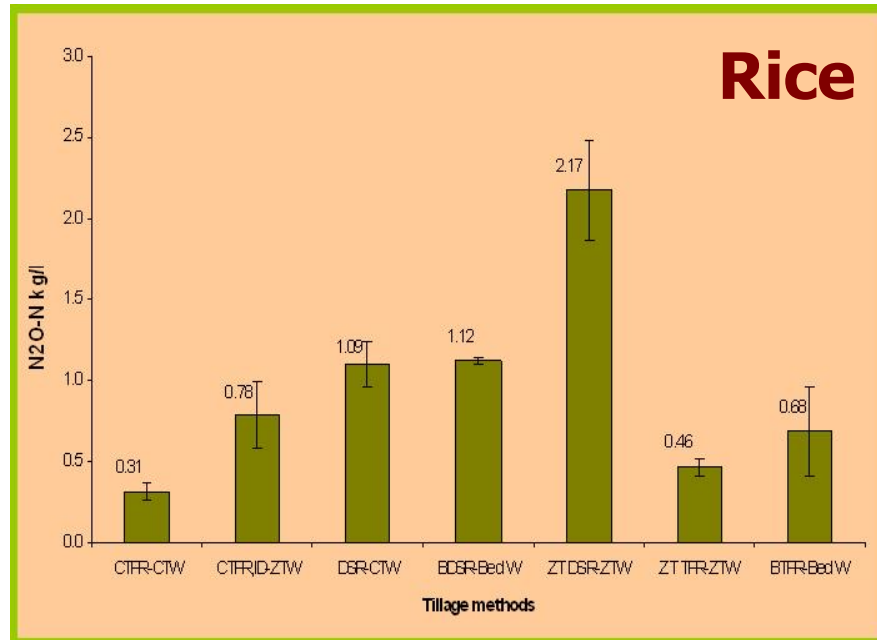
## Puddling/submergence of C & N rich soil in rice

- More methane
- More nitrous oxide



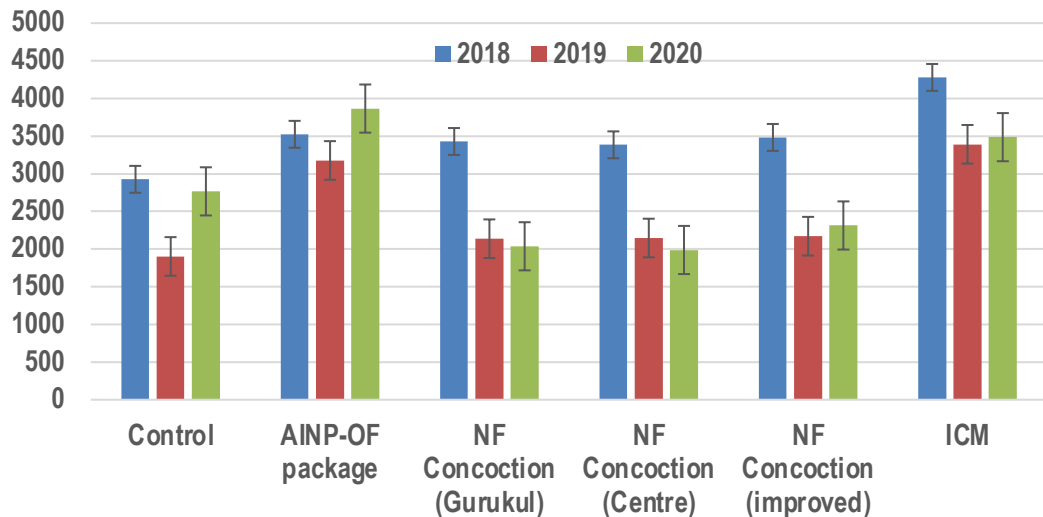
# Conservation agriculture should implemented rightly or continued

1. Residue incorporation and puddling.
2. More water and N use in direct-seeded rice.
3. More N use in bed planted rice.
4. More  $N_2O$  emission in ZT-DSR.
5. Tillage after 3-4 years of ZT, losses the C gains.

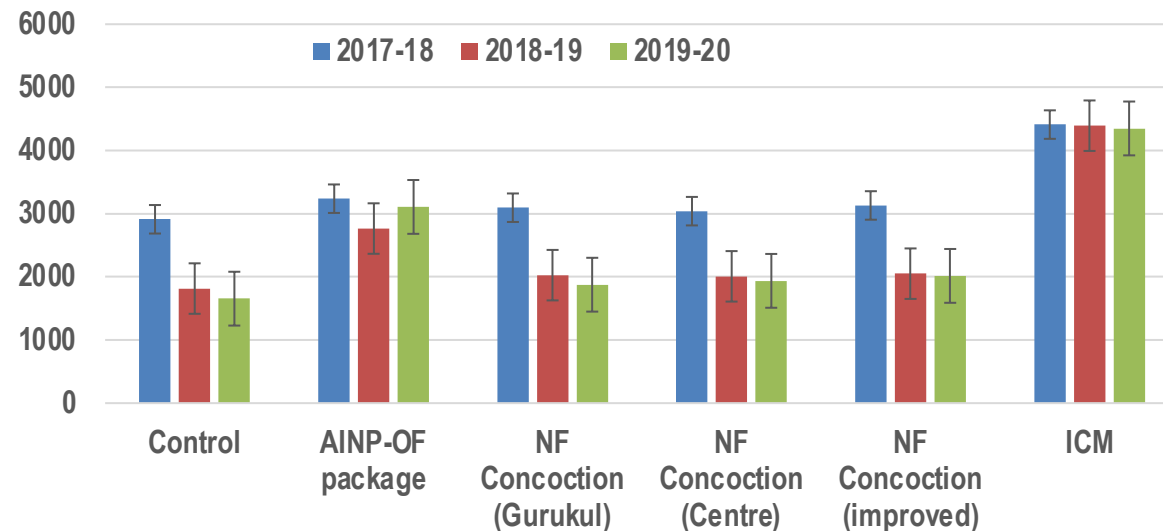


# Organic, Natural and Integrated Farming in Rice-Wheat System (Kurukshetra, Ludhiana, Modipuram and Pantnagar)

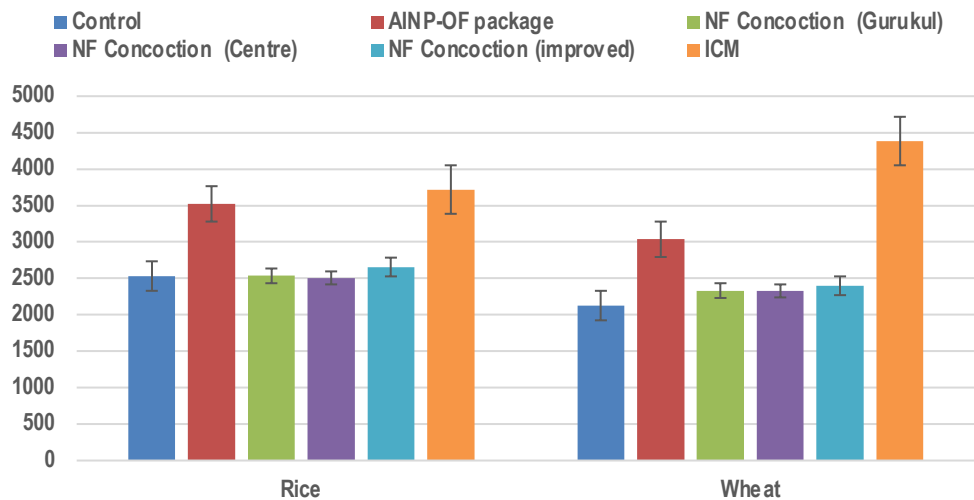
Rice Yield (kg/ha)



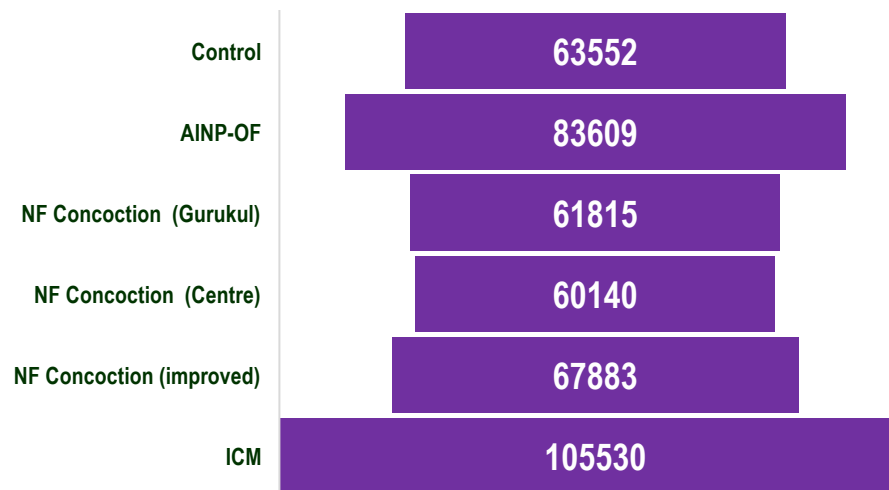
Wheat Yield (kg/ha)



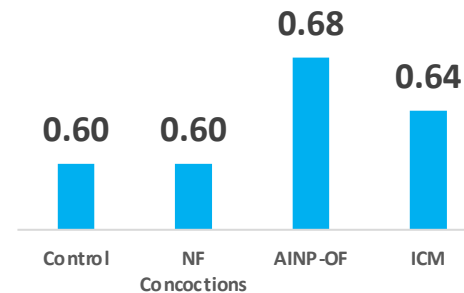
Mean Yield of 3 seasons trials in 4 locations



System Net returns (Rs/ha), Mean 3 years, 4 locations



Soil Organic Carbon (%), 4 locations



# Way Forward

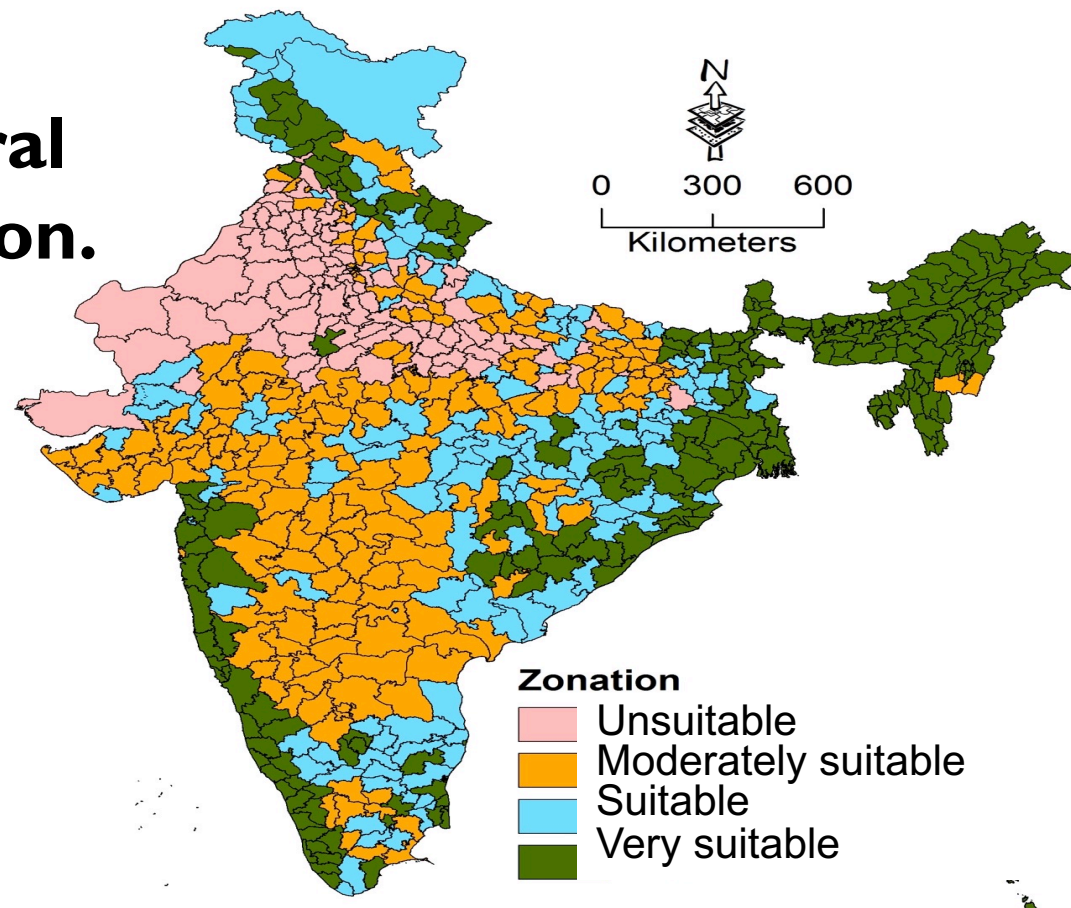
1

# Eco-regional Crop Planning

● Growing crop without degrading natural resources, with minimum GHG emission.

● Growing crop in suitable eco-regions:

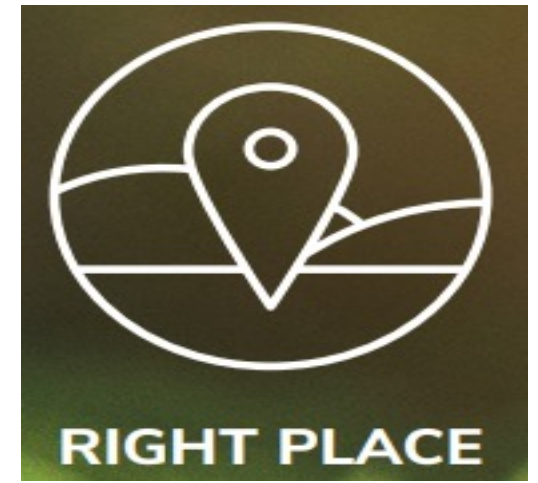
- ◆ Adequate rainfall: > 1000 mm
- ◆ Fertile soil: Clay > 25%
- ◆ Congenial temp.: Av. < 27 °C



**Suitable eco-regions for rice**

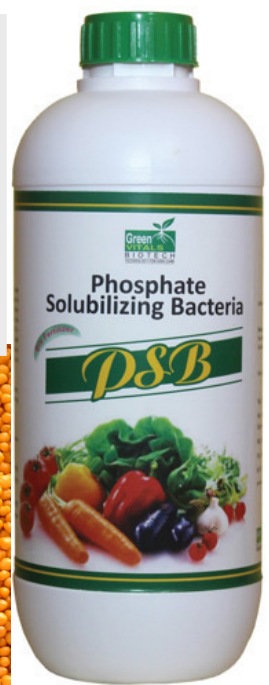
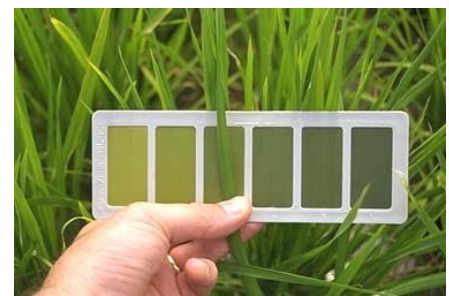
2

# Judicious Use of Fertilizers using the 4R Approach



## Balance the 4Rs

1. Neem-coated urea
2. Leaf colour chart
3. Urea deep placement
4. Soil health card
5. Nano-fertilizer

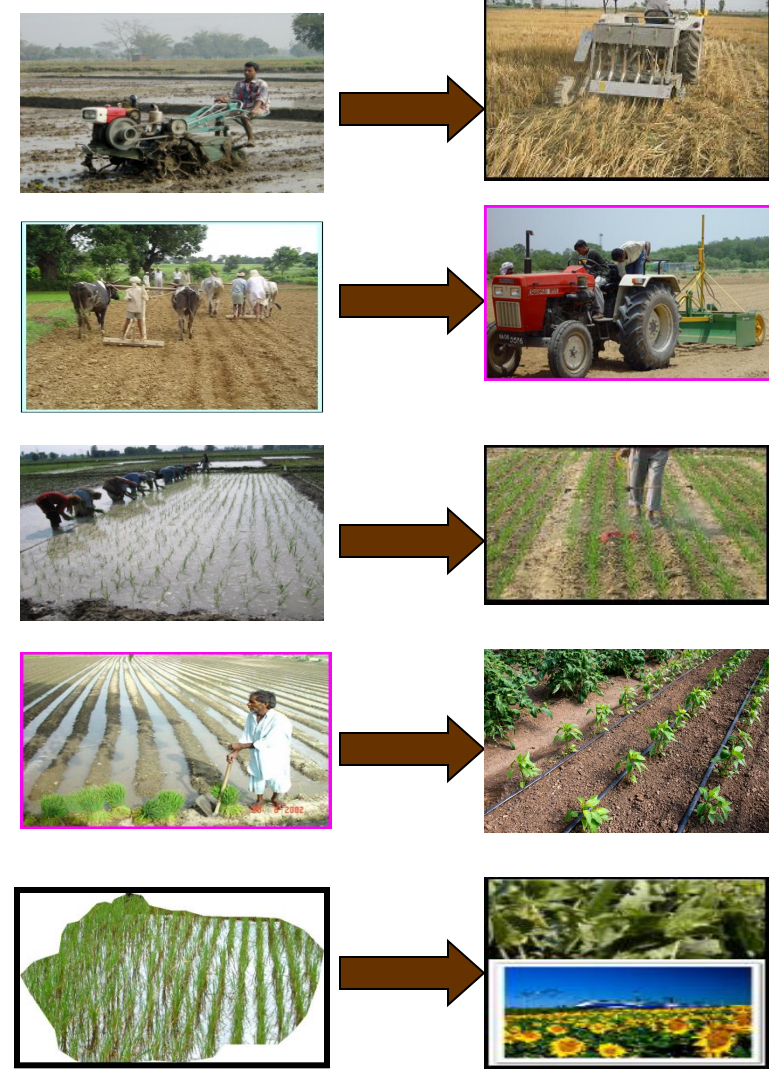


# 3

## Upscaling Resource Conserving Technologies (RCTs)

- 1. No-tillage
- 2. Laser land leveling
- 3. Direct seeding of rice
- 4. Micro-irrigation
- 5. Crop diversification

Conventional      RCTs



# 4

## Use of Renewable Sources of Energy

1. Most farm machines are driven by fossil fuels, which contribute to GHG emissions.
2. Renewable resources such as solar, wind, biomass, tidal, geo-thermal, small-scale hydro, biofuels and wave-generated power can mitigate GHG emission.
3. This will minimize use of non-renewable resources, such as natural gas for fertilizer production or fossil fuel used in diesel generators for water pumping.
4. Solar photovoltaic water pumps and electricity, greenhouse technologies, solar dryers for post-harvest processing, and solar hot water heaters are economically viable and an climate-friendly options.

# Policy for Climate-smart Agriculture



## 5 Ms for Climate-smart Agriculture



# Conclusion



**1. Climate change aggravates the problems of sustainability of rice-wheat system.**



**2. Rice-wheat system is the source and sufferer of climate change. But it can be a solution as well.**



**3. Climate-smart technologies are available. They need reorientation and upscaling.**

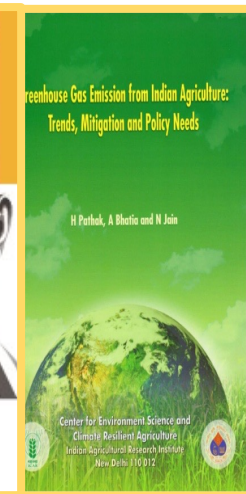
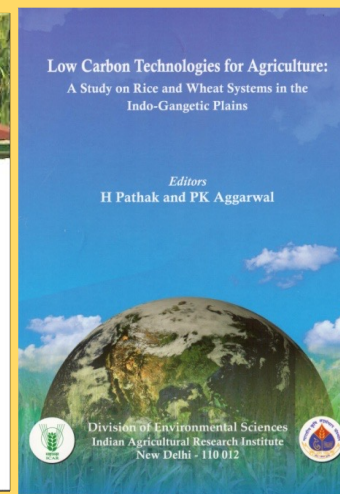
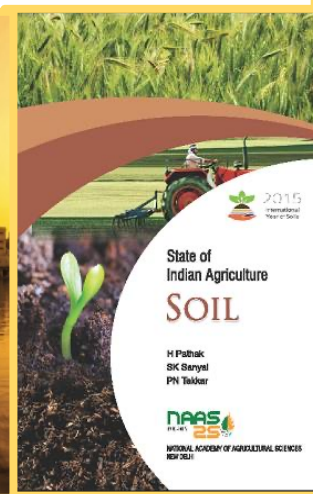
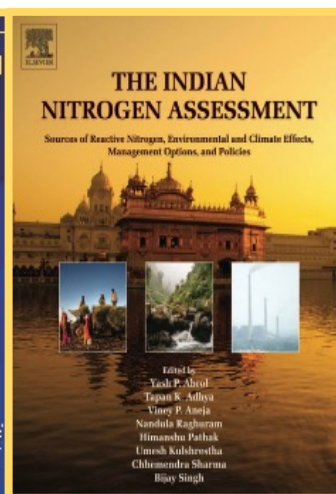
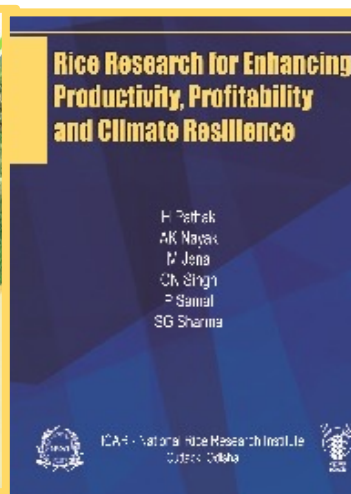
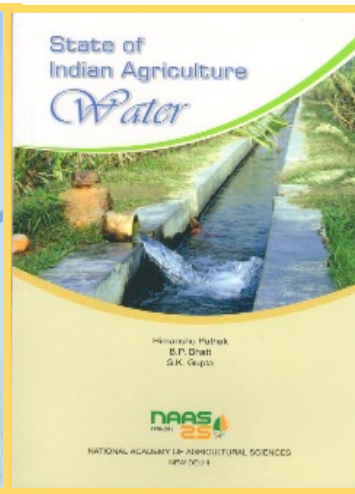
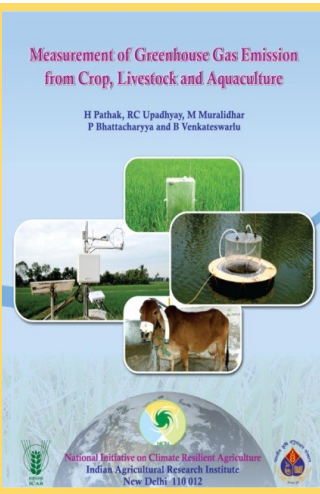


**4. Water, C and N budgeting should be integral parts of agricultural experiments and demonstrations.**



**5. Farmers'-friendly policy support is required to make it more resilient and diversified.**





Thank you

