

Crop production in the Andes – Facing climate variability and change

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In spite of emerging trends toward a market-oriented production, Andean agriculture is still mostly practiced at a subsistence level, relying on traditional cultivation techniques. Farmers have often to cope with losses caused by abnormal climatic conditions, in particular a late onset of the rains, seasonal droughts, frosts and late season warm weather spells. Crop production is further threatened by pests and diseases.

Challenges faced by farmers are expected to increase as a consequence of global warming, implying that options for adaptation has to be developed to secure food production. Partially drawing from experiences gained in the project PACC Peru (Programa de Adaptación al Cambio Climático en el Perú), in this presentation I'll discuss some of the research aspects that need to be addressed with priority to support the adaptation process.